

Naval War College Review

Volume 72
Number 3 Summer 2019

Article 14

2019

Tidal Wave: From Leyte Gulf to Tokyo Bay

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Recommended Citation

McGrath, James P. III and Cleaver, Thomas McKelvey (2019) "Tidal Wave: From Leyte Gulf to Tokyo Bay," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 72 : No. 3 , Article 14.

Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol72/iss3/14>

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times, the Atlantic twenty-four times, the Pacific twice, been shipwrecked and stranded, conveyed a first-of-its-type diplomatic mission, served in the Caribbean, East Indies, and China, three times in the Mediterranean and Newfoundland, numerous times off the French, Portuguese, and Spanish coasts. Add to this, inclusion amongst those more widely celebrated naval officers for cutting out expeditions under heavy fire, being wounded in battle, receiving the thanks of both houses of Parliament, [and] sharing in the capture of more than fifty ships” (p. 1). Bates provides a highly detailed narrative description, with extensive quotations from original documents, describing Erasmus Gower’s naval career. The volume has twenty-five chapters, with five appendices, which include a handy section of short biographical sketches of people closely associated with Gower and an annotated list of all the ships that Gower served in, commanded, or captured.

The book offers much detail of great interest to specialists in naval history. General readers are likely to be interested in the chapters on Gower’s experiences with Carteret’s voyage (1766–69), his subsequent shipwreck in HM sloop *Swift*, and the two chapters that describe the naval aspects of Earl Macartney’s voyage to China as Britain’s ambassador in 1792–94. During the voyage to China, Sir Erasmus Gower commanded the flagship, the sixty-four-gun HMS *Lion*, which, along with two accompanying vessels, carried the embassy to and from China. In telling this story, Bates has used Gower’s previously unpublished manuscript journal now held at Cornell University Library. The final chapters of the book discuss Gower’s final

active-duty assignment as commodore and governor of Newfoundland. Some prominent naval officers held the post of commodore-governor of Newfoundland between 1729 and 1825, but in most naval histories and biographies, historians typically summarize their roles in only a few lines. Additionally, the battle of Trafalgar dominates most naval history for the years 1804–1806. It is beneficial to find in this volume a detailed account of Erasmus Gower’s work in civil, military, and naval administration as well as fishery protection during these same years.

All in all, Bates’s volume on Admiral Gower sheds light on the life and career of a very interesting and highly accomplished naval officer whose experiences scholars have overlooked for too long. The volume makes a valuable addition to the extensive literature on the age of Nelson and a useful reference volume for any library collection in that area of naval history.

JOHN B. HATTENDORF



Tidal Wave: From Leyte Gulf to Tokyo Bay, by Thomas McKelvey Cleaver. New York: Osprey, 2018. 320 pages. \$32.

Tidal Wave covers well-trodden ground, looking at the final nine months of World War II. With so much previously written, finding a new angle is challenging, and Cleaver sets up to focus on the epic battle between the Japanese special-attack units—the *kamikaze*—and the U.S. Third/Fifth Fleet. Unfortunately, *Tidal Wave* fails to deliver new analysis. Insightful in spots, the book wanders to earlier battles to trace the lineage of aviation squadrons and

individual pilots. The book's staccato, sometimes frenetic, pace is challenging also, and it leaves readers wondering where they are in time and space.

The book begins with the end: the final operations of the American fast-carrier task forces over the skies of the Japanese home islands. Jumping back in time, Cleaver provides an interesting description of the birth of the Japanese *tokubetsu kogeiki tai* (special-attack units), commonly called kamikaze by the Americans. Envisioned before the American invasion of the Philippines (where they were first introduced into combat), the kamikaze grew into Japan's primary offensive weapon after the destruction of the Combined Fleet at Leyte Gulf. This growth, while illogical to the Americans, is rational within the Japanese Bushido warrior code.

The chapter showing the most promise to address the struggle between the two forces is entitled "Big Blue Blanket." American naval ace and air theorist Commander (later Admiral) John S. Thach Jr. addressed the new Japanese tactics, recommending significant changes to American carrier air wings aimed at defeating this new threat. Cleaver covers Thach's plan and explains why it was not implemented immediately, but then abandons this discussion for several chapters. Instead of fully exploring the evolution of American defenses against the kamikaze and the Japanese response, the narrative returns to accounts of individual battles, with limited analysis of their contribution to the overall war effort. Cleaver ultimately fails to connect Thach's initial proposal to the eventual implementation of the ideas he championed—a missed opportunity

to investigate the operational-level duel between the two belligerents.

Tidal Wave explores one area that might be new to the American audience: the contribution of the Royal Navy (RN) in the Pacific War. In a chapter entitled "The Forgotten Fleet," Cleaver summarizes how the British Far Eastern Fleet was manned, equipped, and operated as it joined the fight in the Pacific. There were limited examples of RN carriers integrating with American task groups; instead, the majority of RN operations occurred under a separate task force within the American Third/Fifth Fleet, assigned unique missions independent of American task groups.

Oddly, the penultimate chapter is entitled "Finale," and while it recounts the closing days of naval combat in the Pacific it does not include the final battles, the dropping of the atomic bombs, nor the end of the war. One action covered is the foray of nine American submarines ("Hydeman's Hellcats") into the Sea of Japan, demonstrating the vulnerability of this previously safe haven for Japanese logistics shipping. The bombardment of Japanese coastal industry by American battleships and cruisers—a subject often not included in other narratives—is discussed as well.

The final chapter is titled "Gyokusen"—or "dancing fan," in Japanese. Thinking *gyokusen* might have some significance pertaining to the end of the war, I asked several Japan experts. The best we could determine is that the chapter should have been titled *gyokusai*, meaning "shattered or crushed jewels," a term used in Japan to describe the hopeless defeats and massacres of

Japanese soldiers and sailors on distant battlefields. *Gyokusai* objectifies fighting to the last while giving and accepting no quarter, and is sometimes used to describe the national annihilation many Japanese leaders advocated at the end of the war, which is the focus of the final chapter of Cleaver's book. (For more information on *gyokusai*, see Rodney James Szas, "Gyokusai" *Shattered like a Jewel: Last Stands of the Japanese Soldier in Their Own Words*, shatteredjewels.wordpress.com/.) Like most of the book, this last chapter ranges across time and space from sixteenth-century Nagasaki to an American pilot buzzing USS *Missouri* (BB 63) in Tokyo Bay. Analysis of war-ending decisions is limited and, in several cases, carries forward a singular view about the role of Russian entry into the war and its impact on American and Japanese decision-making without acknowledging counterviews on the subject.

Cleaver is an experienced author with over forty years of publishing experience and has written extensively on American naval air combat in the Pacific. The intended audience for this book is, however, hard to gauge. With a bibliography of only twenty secondary sources—Cleaver apparently consulted no primary sources—there is little revealing information or original analysis that might interest scholars and academics. At the same time, the choppy narrative and lack of connective tissue might well turn off casual readers. Naval air combat enthusiasts might find interest in the extensive air battle accounts, but, given the sources cited, these tales likely are presented in other fora.

JAMES P. MCGRATH III



One Nation under Drones: Legality, Morality, and Utility of Unmanned Combat Systems, ed. John E. Jackson. Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 2018. 256 pages. \$29.95.

"Something for everyone" are words that come to mind after reading *One Nation under Drones*. Americans have developed an avid interest in drones and unmanned aerial vehicles and their myriad potential uses. Scientists, historians, ethicists, and others are trying to determine not only the proper roles for this new technology but how to address the ethical, privacy, and related challenges this technology presents. *One Nation under Drones* takes all these factors into account while focusing on "how these revolutionary systems are reshaping the legal, ethical, and operational nature of both war and peace" (p. 21).

In addition to his introductory and concluding chapters, Jackson has compiled eleven chapters written by other experts in various aspects of the drone field. Taken together, they provide a truly comprehensive overview of, as the subtitle implies, the legality, morality, and utility of unmanned combat systems. Noted techno-strategist P. W. Singer joins his New America Foundation colleague Konstantin Kakaes in an early chapter that addresses how the proliferation of drone technology has led to new questions in relation to military tactics, privacy laws, and airspace accident potential. Singer and Kakaes provide a useful backdrop for subsequent chapters.

For example, Dan Gettinger traces the growth of the existence of drones from home garage prototypes to the role drones now play in disaster response and border security—and, most importantly,