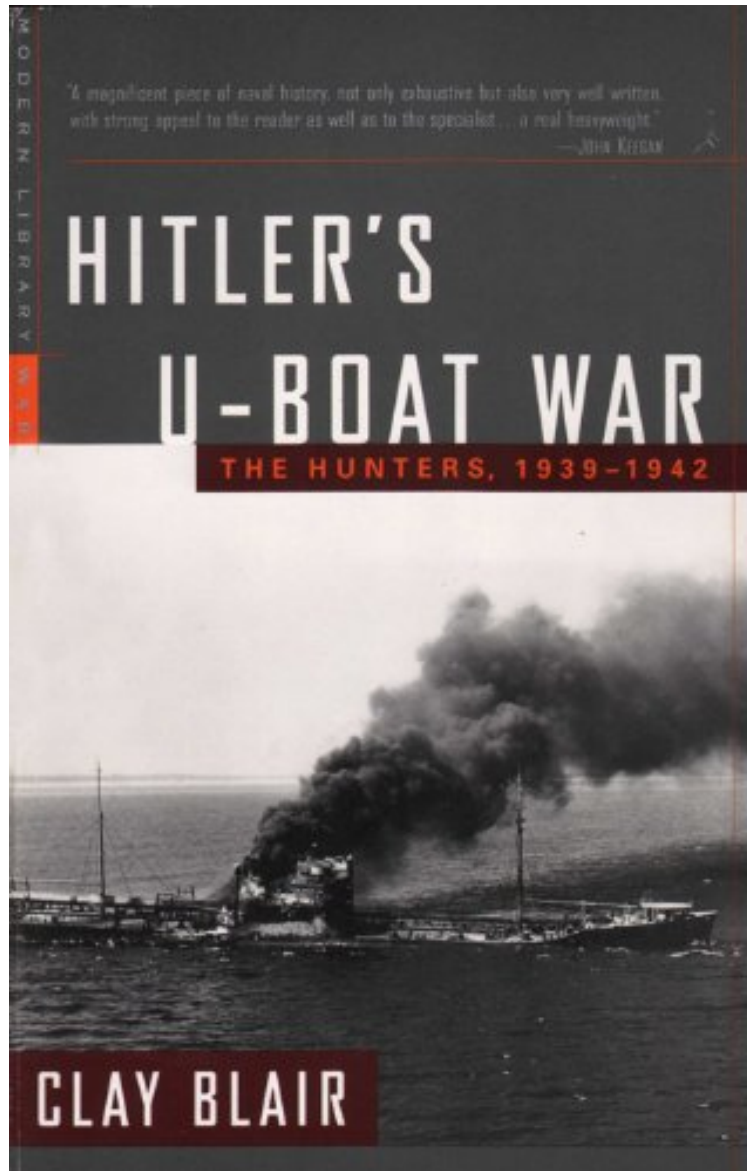


[Get free] Hitler's U-Boat War: The Hunters, 1939-1942 (Modern Library War)

Hitler's U-Boat War: The Hunters, 1939-1942 (Modern Library War)

Von Clay Blair

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Von Clay Blair : Hitler's U-Boat War: The Hunters, 1939-1942 (Modern Library War) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hitler's U-Boat War: The Hunters, 1939-1942 (Modern Library War):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. This will

be the definitive history of U-Boat War. Von Ein Kunde For readers of Das Boot and viewers of 1940's submarine movies, this is probably not the book for you. For those who want the "real story," however, this work provides the definitive history of the terrible period in history where men went down to the sea in little boats and fought to the death. This book starts with a general summary of the beginnings of submarine warfare. It traces the earliest submarine experiments up to the start of World War II. The central core of the book, however, is a detailed, well researched history of the German U-Boat fleet during World War II. The author has read and reviewed the extensive files and records of U-Boat activity. The story then describes the missions of the U-Boats for each month between 1939 and 1942. A second volume is promised that will cover from 1942 until the end of the war. The work is sufficiently detailed to allow the reader to trace the history of individual U-Boats and their captains from the first sailings until they are "lost with all crew." The quality of the book is found in the way it is written. There is little emotion revealed in the passages, but there is honest reporting of the events that occurred. Such a clear writing style speaks better of the horror that must have been a part of the life of those in the U-Boats and the crews of the ships that they hunted. A second feature of value of the work is that it offers something of a fresh view of the events of the Battle of the Atlantic. Many of the histories of that period have been written by Europeans. Their view of that scene and the American role in it is somewhat tempered by their own backgrounds. A good representative sample of such a writing can be found in "The Price of Admiralty" by John Keegan. His chapter on the Battle of the Atlantic reports the war from the view of one of England's foremost military historians. Mr. Blair is an American who served in the U.S. submarine service during World War II and his views have a decidedly "American" flavor. He presents the American effort during the Battle of the Atlantic with some concern over the U.S. broader involvement world wide. In short, the first volume of this extensive work is a wonderful history. The second volume is anxiously awaited.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. AN AMERICAN VIEW OF U-BOAT OPERATIONS Von Ein Kunde This is a very comprehensive work! The author is not only meticulous in describing practically each u-boat sailing during this period, but he tends to keep the reader's interest in what could be a dull assignment, by explaining pertinent background information and providing in-depth detail on various crew members, making many of them "come to life" in the words on the page. At the same time, he keeps the reader informed on what is going on in other parts of the war that could affect u-boat and ASW (anti-submarine warfare) operations and practices, such as code breaking, Hitler's rash decision-making, Operation Torch, dropping off of secret agents, saboteurs, and/or commandos into enemy territory, development of radar and sonar and HF direction finding, u-boat activity on the U.S. coast, military officials involved, etc. This book is important historically since it not only provides an extremely detailed account of operations, but it reviews it from an American standpoint based on the author's incredible current research and his reading of British historians, and then commenting on divergences of viewpoint or, in some cases, the lack of British commentary on certain embarrassing happenings. - As some reviewers have noted, Blair tends to "stick with the facts" instead of sensationalising, and in the process gains the reader's trust. Excellent u-boat history, engrossing reading.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Exhaustive and complete, but a bit much for the lay reader Von Matthew D. Carr Clay Blair has written a masterful account of the German submarine war in WWII. While it is extremely thorough, the level of detail can become cumbersome to the amateur historian. Mr. Blair outlines every mission undertaken by a German submarine during the entire war; a blessing for other researchers in naval history but a curse to the lay reader. The author does a commendable job outlining the major campaigns and summarizing the effects of the submarine war. He even comes to the conclusion that the feared "wolf packs" and the submarine war in general never posed the serious threat that the Allies believed it did. Perhaps the most interesting portion of the book is the chapters devoted to describing the development of submarine/ASW technology and the encryption/decoding efforts of both sides. The author does an average job as far as the "characters" are concerned. For most people he simply describes their military careers and follows their progression through various commands and notes the awards they receive. Very few players get the background coverage that makes them come alive and seem like real people. I highly recommend this book for any reader of history interested the German submarine war. However, the casual or amateur reader will do well to skim through the endless details.

Kurzbeschreibung Clay Blair's best-selling naval classic *Silent Victory: The U.S. Submarine War Against Japan*, is regarded as the definitive account of that decisive phase of the war in the Pacific. Nine years in the making, Hitler's U-boat War is destined to become the definitive account of the German submarine war against the Allies, or "The Battle of the Atlantic." It is an epic sea story, the most arduous and prolonged naval battle in all history. For a period of nearly six years, the German U-boat force attempted to blockade and isolate the British Isles, in hopes of forcing the British out of the war, thereby thwarting the Allied strategic air assault on German cities as well as Overlord, the Allied invasion of Occupied France. Fortunately for the Allies, the U-boat force failed to achieve either of these objectives, but in the attempt they sank 2,800 Allied merchant ships, while the Allies sank nearly 800 U-boats. On both sides, tens of thousands of sailors perished. The top secret Allied penetration of German naval codes, and, conversely, the top

secret German penetration of Allied naval codes played important roles in the Atlantic naval battle. In order to safeguard the secrets of codebreaking in the postwar years, London and Washington agreed to withhold all official codebreaking and U-boat records. Thus for decade upon decade an authoritative and definitive history of the Battle of the Atlantic could not be attempted. The accounts that did appear were incomplete and full of errors of fact and false interpretations and conclusions, often leaving the entirely wrong impression that the German U-boats came within a whisker of defeating the Allies, a myth that persists. When London and Washington finally began to release the official records in the 1980s, Clay Blair and his wife, Joan, commenced work on this history in Washington, London, and Germany. They relied on the official records as well as the work of German, British, American, and Canadian naval scholars who published studies of bits and pieces of the story. The end result is this magnificent and monumental work, crammed with vivid and dramatic scenes of naval actions and dispassionate but startling new revelations and interpretations and conclusions about all aspects of the Battle of the Atlantic. The Blair history will be published in two volumes. This first volume, *The Hunters*, covers the first three years of the war, August 1939 to August 1942. Told chronologically, it is subdivided into two major sections, the War Against the British Empire, and the War Against the Americas. Volume II, *The Hunted*, to follow a year later, will cover the last years of the naval war in Europe, August 1942 to May 1945, when the Allies finally overcame the U-boat threat. Never before has Hitler's U-boat war been chronicled with such authority, fidelity, objectivity, and detail. Nothing is omitted. Even those who fought the Battle of the Atlantic will find no end of surprises. Later generations will benefit by having at hand an account of this important phase of World War II, free of bias and mythology.

From the Hardcover edition..deA former infantryman, Adolf Hitler had little use for the German navy, which he considered inept and politically suspect. Still, through the skillful maneuverings of a young, up-and-coming naval officer named Karl Dnitz, Hitler eventually endorsed a costly program of shipbuilding. As a result, Dnitz was able to field a vast fleet of U-boats when Germany went to war against France and England in 1939. Although his enemies were initially better equipped, Dnitz was the craftier fighter, launching daring raids on shipping convoys and Allied harbors, and for a time, controlling the chief Atlantic sealanes. In this monumental history, Clay Blair analyzes the German U-boat campaigns from 1939 to 1942 (a companion volume continues his narrative to 1945), which, he writes, fall into three phases: one against England alone, another against the newly arrived American navy, and a furious third against the combined Allied forces. Blair argues, against other historians, that the "U-boat peril" has been overestimated. He holds that the American submarine campaign against Japan in the Pacific was far more effective, and observes that 99 percent of Allied merchant ships on transatlantic convoys reached their destinations. Even so, the U-boats introduced a powerful element of terror into an already horrific war, diverting Allied effort into antisubmarine campaigns and delaying the transport of much-needed materiel. Blair's outstanding work adds much to the naval history of World War II. Packed with detail, it is sure to become a standard work on the Battle of the Atlantic. --Gregory McNamee.com

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