

Table of Contents

FOREWORD	v
AUTHOR'S PREFACE TO THE AMERICAN EDITION	ix
CHAPTER	
I. THE ITALIAN NAVY ON THE EVE OF THE WAR	3
State of Preparation—The Navy's Opposition to the War and Its Initial Plans—The Crucial Factor of Air Sup- port—Supermarina	
II. THE BEGINNINGS	15
First Operations—The Failure to Occupy Tunisia and Malta —The Sacrifice of the <i>Espero</i> —Limitations of Italian Air Reconnaissance—The Exploit of the <i>Torricelli</i> —The En- counters off Punta Stilo and Cape Spada—Air Activity and Increased Maritime Traffic—Naval Activity in Late Summer, 1940	
III. THE STRUGGLE GROWS MORE BITTER	38
The Encounters of 12 and 21 October 1940—The Beginning of the War Against Greece—Failures of Air Reconnaissance —The "Taranto Night"—The Encounter off Cape Teulada—A Period of Reorganization—The Epic of the <i>San Giorgio</i> and the Evacuation of Cyrenaica—The Exploit of the Destroyer Escort <i>Vega</i> —The Naval Bombardment of Genoa—Transporting the Afrika Korps—The Encounter off Kerkenah—The End of the Navy in the Red Sea	
IV. THE ITALIAN NAVY IN THE WAR WITH GREECE	78
Maritime Supply and Naval Activity—The Meeting at Merano—The Actions Off Gavdos and Matapan—Secrecy of Naval Operations—The Occupation of Dalmatia and Greece—The Exploits of the Destroyer Escorts <i>Lupo</i> and <i>Sagittario</i>	
V. VARIOUS OPERATIONS DURING THE SECOND HALF OF 1941	114
Maritime Supply Activity—Submarine Warfare—Meas- ures Against Enemy Operations	

VI. THE FIRST BATTLE OF THE CONVOYS	126
The X CAT Departs—The Beginning of the Battle of the Convoys—The Destruction of the <i>Duisburg</i> Convoy—The Toll Grows Worse—The Crisis—The First Naval Battle of Sirte—The Alexandria Exploit—The Route to Libya Reopens	
VII. THE BLOCKADE OF MALTA	156
The Island Under Siege—The Second Naval Battle of Sirte Gulf—Malta in Agony—The Fatal Error	
VIII. THE BATTLE OF MID-JUNE	172
The Repulse of the Convoy from Alexandria—The Battle of Pantelleria	
IX. THE SECOND BATTLE OF THE CONVOYS	188
The Fuel Tragedy—The Mirage of the Pyramids—Malta Again Unsheathes Its "Flaming Sword"	
X. THE BATTLE OF MID-AUGUST	204
The Battleships Cannot Participate—The Brilliant Victory of the Italian Minor Units	
XI. THE ROAD DOWN	215
Malta Strangles Libya—Failure of the British Landing at Tobruk—The Noose Tightens—Corsica and Toulon— The End of the Libyan Supply Line	
XII. THE THIRD BATTLE OF THE CONVOYS	237
The "Death Route"—The Sacrifice of the Minor Units	
XIII. THE INVASION OF SICILY	251
The "Pistol" Pointed at Sicily—The Fall of Pantelleria— Awaiting the Allied Landing—The Fall of Syracuse and Augusta—The Defense at Sea—The Sicilian Dunkirk	
XIV. THE DEEDS OF THE NAVAL ASSAULT TEAMS	274
Preparations and the First Missions—The Success at Suda and the "Glorious Failure" at Malta—The Attack Against Gibraltar and the Victory at Alexandria—Mediterranean and Black Sea Operations in 1942—A Base for Assault Units Inside the Roadstead of Gibraltar—The Last Deeds	
XV. THE NAVY ON THE OCEANS AND ON THE RUSSIAN FRONT	297
Submarines in the Oceans—The Navy Against Russia— The Blockade Runners	

CONTENTS

xiii

XVI. THE NAVY AND THE ARMISTICE	307
Ready for the Extreme Sacrifice—Faced by a <i>Fait Accompli</i> —Beyond the Tempest	
XVII. AN EVALUATION OF THIRTY-NINE MONTHS OF WAR	323
XVIII. FROM THE ARMISTICE TO THE PEACE	328
The "Keystone"—The Battle of Leros—Activities on the Maritime Front—Activities on the Land Fronts and Clan- destine Operations	

APPENDIX

THE STATISTICS SPEAK	354
I. Activity of the Italian Fleet	354
II. Escorted Maritime Traffic	354
III. Miscellaneous Activities of the Navy	358
IV. Losses of the Italian Fleet	359
V. German Navy Losses in the Mediterranean	361
VI. British Navy Losses in the Mediterranean	361
VII. Losses of Other Allied Navies	361
VIII. Comparison of the Losses on Both Sides	362
IX. Availability and Losses of Merchant Shipping	364
X. Italian Ships Built During the War	366
XI. Casualties	367
INDEX	369