

# Contents

Preface	ix
Abbreviations	xxvii

## PART I

### NORMANDY

#### (OPERATION NEPTUNE-OVERLORD)

I	Grand Strategy and High Politics, 1941-1943	3
	1. Strategic Concepts	3
	2. SLEDGEHAMMER and ROUNDUP	7
	3. TORCH Substituted	14
II	Plans and Preparations, March 1943-May 1944	18
	1. The "Cossac" Planning Group	18
	2. Choice of a Supreme Commander	22
	3. "Mulberry," "Pluto" and "Buco"	24
	4. Cossac Plan BECOMES NEPTUNE-OVERLORD	27
	5. Preliminary Operations	34
III	German Plans to Meet the Invasion, 1942-1944	39
IV	Coiling the Spring, January 1942-May 1944	50
	1. The Americans in Britain	50
	2. The Battle of the Beaching Craft	52
	3. United States Naval Bases in Britain	57
	4. Final Training and Rehearsal	64
	5. The "Fast-anchored Isle"	67
	6. Misleading the Enemy	74
V	Crossing the Channel, 3-6 June 1944	77
	1. First Starters	77
	2. Weather and the Great Decision	79
	3. The Crossing	83
	4. The Air Drop	88



VI	Utah Beach, 6 June 1944	93
	1. Before H-hour	93
	2. The Landings	97
	3. Naval Gunfire Support	104
	4. Situation at End of D-day	107
VII	Approach to Omaha, 6 June 1944	110
	1. Terrain and Defenses	110
	2. The Approach	116
	3. Break of Day	120
	4. The Rangers at Pointe du Hoc	125
VIII	Landings at Omaha, 6 June 1944	130
	1. Bloody Morning	130
	2. Naval Gunfire Support	142
	3. D-day Afternoon	149
IX	Supporting the American Beachhead, 7-18 June 1944	155
	1. Events in the American Sector, 7-9 June	155
	2. Follow-up and Unloading	162
	3. Naval Gunfire Support, 10-18 June	166
X	Counterattacks by Air, Sea and Weather, 8-22 June 1944	170
	1. Mines and Air Raids	170
	2. E-boats and Destroyers	174
	3. The Great Storm	176
XI	The British Sector, 6 June-8 September 1944	180
	1. D-day on Gold, Juno, and Sword	180
	2. The Build-up	187
	3. Small Craft and Secret Weapons	190
XII	Cherbourg, June-September 1944	195
	1. The Bombardment Is Laid On	195
	2. Duel with Battery "Hamburg," 25 June	205

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 3. Cherbourg Liberated, 26 June–1 July | 212 |
| 4. Cherbourg Cleared, July–September   | 216 |

PART II

SOUTHERN FRANCE  
(OPERATION DRAGOON)

- |      |   |     |
|------|---|-----|
| XIII | High-level Wrangling, <i>October 1943–August 1944</i> | 221 |
| XIV  | Planning and Training, <i>January–August 1944</i>     | 233 |
|      | 1. The Plan, Forces and Defenses                      | 233 |
|      | 2. Training and Rehearsal                             | 240 |
|      | 3. Aërial Bombing; Mounting and Approach              | 243 |
| XV   | Night Landings in Provence, <i>14–15 August 1944</i>  | 248 |
| XVI  | The Main Landings, <i>15–17 August 1944</i>           | 255 |
|      | 1. Minesweeping, Bombing and Bombardment              | 255 |
|      | 2. Alpha Area   | 258 |
|      | 3. Delta Area   | 264 |
|      | 4. Camel Area   | 267 |
| XVII | Objectives Won, <i>16 August–15 September 1944</i>    | 275 |
|      | 1. Follow-up Convoys                                  | 275 |
|      | 2. Eastern Flank and Escort Carriers                  | 276 |
|      | 3. Toulon, Port de Bouc and Marseilles                | 281 |

PART III

THE NAVY'S PART IN THE FINAL CAMPAIGNS

August 1944–May 1945

- |       |  |     |
|-------|--|-----|
| XVIII | The French Out-ports, <i>September 1944–May 1945</i> | 295 |
|       | 1. The War Continues                                 | 295 |
|       | 2. Liberation of Brittany, August–September 1944     | 297 |

	3. Collier Convoys and Granville Raids, December 1944–May 1945	303
XIX	Mop-up in the Mediterranean, <i>September 1944–April 1945</i>	310
XX	Plunging into Germany, <i>October 1944–May 1945</i>	317
	1. Crossing the Rhine, March 1945	317
	2. The Navy in Germany	323
	Abbreviations in Appendices	332
	Appendix I The Western Naval Task Force in the Invasion of Normandy	333
	Appendix II Naval Forces Engaged in Operation DRAGOON	338
	Appendix III Number of Lend-Lease Naval Vessels and Craft Built for the Royal Navy in the United States During World War II	344
	Index	347