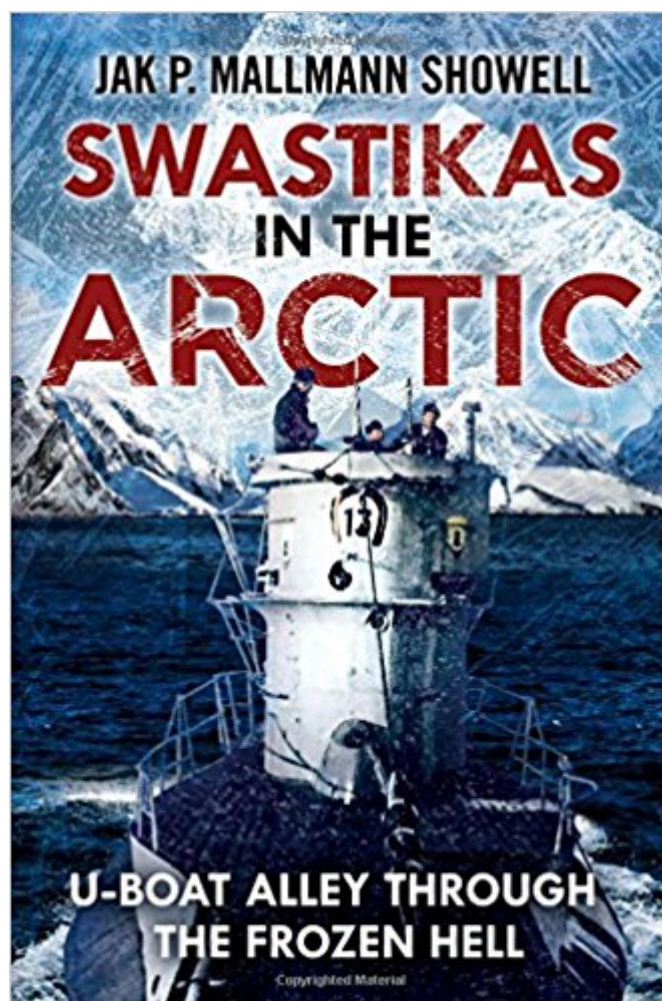


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Swastikas In The Arctic: U-boat Alley Through The Frozen Hell



Synopsis

During the Second World War, the Arctic saw an unusually high intensity of action, adventure, excitement and tragedy, and *Swastikas in the Arctic: U-boat Alley Through the Frozen Hell* describes the German military activities in that harsh frozen hell. Based mainly on original logs, the bare facts have been fleshed out with help from veterans and researchers from the United States, Iceland, Britain, Norway, Germany and Russia. This has made it possible to describe some of the now forgotten battles, the secret U-boat activities, the German struggle to broadcast essential weather data to Berlin and the incredible surface ship activity that forced Britain to launch major offensives against heavy odds. The Arctic also saw intense British efforts to help with the cracking of the highly complicated Enigma radio code. Many studies of the Second World War give scant attention to activity in this ice-studded ocean. However, as becomes apparent reading this book, those who fought, suffered and died there were shot at and bombed more heavily than in any other theater of war and the contribution they made influenced military actions far away in warmer regions. Gloriously illustrated with many unpublished photographs, *Swastikas in the Arctic: U-boat Alley Through the Frozen Hell* is a thrilling account of a war fought in very difficult circumstances.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jak P. Mallmann Showell's first book (*U-boats Under the Swastika*) is one of the longest selling naval books in Germany and his second (*The German Navy in World War Two*) was named as one of the outstanding books of the year by the United States Naval Institute. His research is based exclusively on original documents such as logs, personal accounts written shortly after the events

and interviews. His reviewers have named him as being 'the respected authority'. Jak has been awarded the Silver U-boat Badge by the German Submariners' Association in Munich. He has also presented lectures at special Battle of the Atlantic weekends and has helped with the production of TV and radio programmes.

The subtitle of u-boat alley through the frozen hell seems somewhat misleading. Instead seems to be a good book about seldom covered issues regarding the German operations in the arctic. I was pleasantly surprised to see them cover non u boat issues. For example they cover the surface raider traveling to the Pacific and the surface ships raiding east of murmansk. And even the coverage of the German attempts at weather stations, radio relays, and other bases are items rarely mentioned other places and covered in a fairly detailed and interesting way. It's always enjoyable to read books about quirky topics rarely covered in other places.

Hi, book is hardback, semi gloss paper, 282 pages with 17 chapters. 191 b/w with photos of good quality, 7 maps 2 profiles and lots of charts of facts and figs. Book covers about all activity conducted in the far north. Weather stations, aviation naval ops., exploration etc. This covers a topic not well covered yet. Hope this helps. Cap

This is a well researched book with lots of interesting stories about wartime in the Arctic.

The book was very comprehensive and I thought authentic. It motivated me to get a book dealing specifically with PQ-17.

Very poorly written, with typos on every page, strange terminology, and extremely dry, we finally put the book up before finishing it. The main irritation for me was the "teasers" in which the author would briefly relate that a ship was sunk, then the next sentence would be another subject entirely, without explaining where the ship came from, who sunk it and why, and what consequences came of the sinking, as if it didn't matter. We would like to have learned more about the sinking. And at one point, the U-boat had to sink one of their own flying boats, taking the air crew on board the U-boat. A few paragraphs later, the author talks about the flying boat being right next to them -- a different flying boat perhaps? Who knows. By this time, however, I didn't care enough to re-read it in the hopes of finding out more. I no longer cared.

Like Showell's work. His thorough research brings new facts and his interest in u-boats in unmatched.

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