

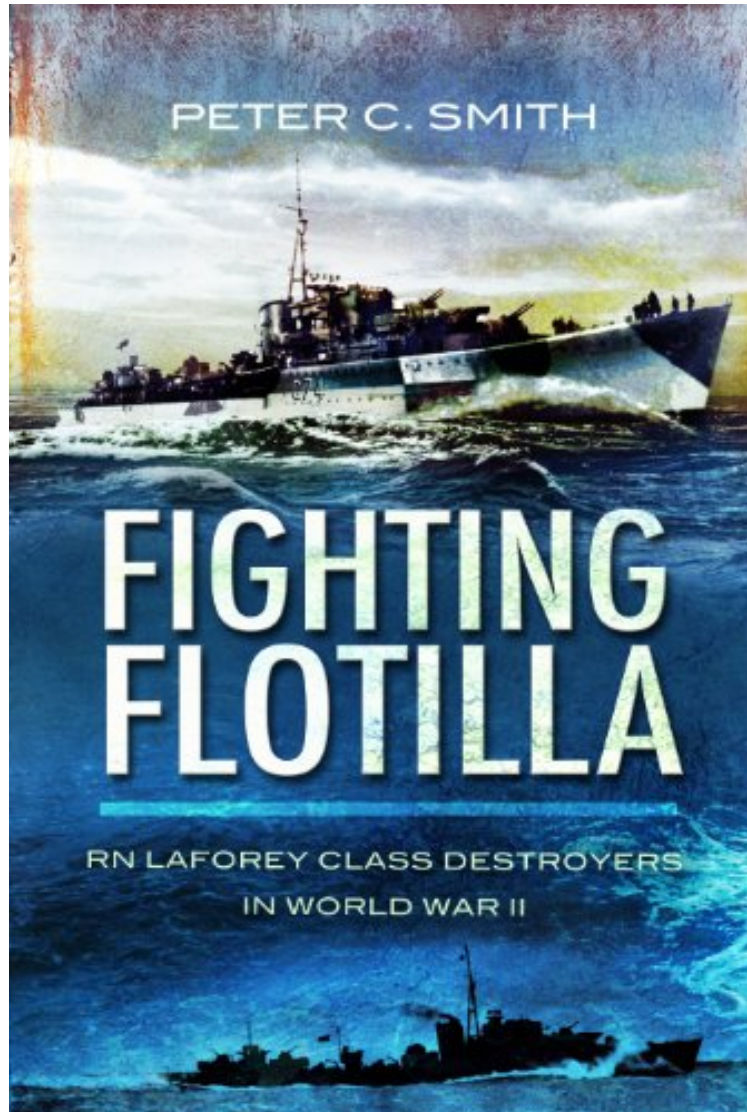
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Peter C. Smith

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Fighting Flotilla: RN Laforey Class Destroyers in World War II

Peter C. Smith : Fighting Flotilla: RN Laforey Class Destroyers in World War II before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised [Fighting Flotilla: RN Laforey Class Destroyers in World War II](#):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent story of RN DD's in WWII.By GrantVery thorough telling of the story of the L Class destroyers of WWII. These were, perhaps, the most powerful and best looking DD's of the Royal Navy during that period. They sailed in dangerous waters on dangerous missions and suffered accordingly.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Some salvo's hit whilst others fell shortBy Andy HillFighting Flotilla-RN Laforey Class Destroyers in World War 2 by Peter C SmithPublished by Pen Sword (2012) ISBN1848842731This

book is about what in their final incarnation were to become the most powerful British Destroyers to see action in WW2. Though they were to be armed with 6 4.7" the problems in supply saw 4 of the first 6 ships armed with the reliable yet unremarkable 4" guns. The 8 ships of the Laforey were worked hard during the war, mainly seeing service in the Mediterranean where their powerful armament against aircraft came in for heavy usage. Equally in the later years of the war, especially along the coast of Italy, saw many instances of the ships engaging and being engaged by Axis ground artillery and armour. The book is split into 8 chapters, dealing with the ships concept/origins, through to its planning and building, before finally moving on to the actions the ships were involved in. These first two chapters are by far the most interesting and detailed. Both in a narrative and technical sense. Anything you could ever want to know about these ships workings etc is encompassed in these two first chapters. They are worth the price of admission as it were themselves. Sadly it is then followed by two chapters that could or should have been excluded in my opinion, without any detriment to the book overall. Chapter 3 deals with the broader history of the ships that bore the names of the Laforey class before them. This information has no real bearing on the thrust of the book. Equally Chapter 4, though only 10 pages covers the personnel careers of the Flotilla commanders. The final 4 chapters trace and record the service history of the ships with vigour and passion, that draws the reader in and leaves you with a true sense of what these ships and their crews went through in WW2. The 4 Appendices are very interesting in their own right, with the first one on the Weapon Systems dovetailing nicely with Chapter 2's contents. The book is well catered for in terms of photographs and line drawings, though some of the line drawings are poorly reproduced making them near impossible to read. Overall this is a very good book and but for the rather poor second and third chapters I would have given this book 5 out of 5, but alas only 4 because of them. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Wasted Book. By Tony Marquise Jr. Peter C. Smith has probably written more books about World War II naval events than anyone. His books are almost always good history with facts not commonly found anywhere else. However, this book on The "L" class flotilla is a major disappointment. It contains very little history about the combat that the ships these ships faced. It concentrates on the building of these ships, with a very brief description of the sinking of seven of the eight ships of this flotilla. I cannot recommend this book.

The Laforays were the largest, most powerfully armed and successful ships of this type to see frontline action with the Royal Navy in WWII. They were also the handsomest warships to see service and presented a perfect combination of power and speed. They were assigned to the most dangerous theaters of war including Force H, sailing between Gibraltar and Malta, from where they operated against the German supply lines to North Africa. They escorted minelayers into the German backyard in the North Sea and their convoy escort work in the North Atlantic proved them to be highly effective hunter killers of the U-Boat packs that threatened every cargo ship carrying vital supplies to the UK. Such was the pace of their war, that out of the eight ships of the class only one survived the war. The book also includes chapters on their origin, planning and building, wartime operations and indices cover weapon systems, general fittings and complements and battle honors for each ship in the class.

About the Author Peter C. Smith is well-known to aviation and maritime history readers. He has written over 67 previously published books. Amongst these are Skua, Destroyer Leader, Into the Minefields and Naval Warfare in the English Channel 1939-1945, all published by Pen Sword.