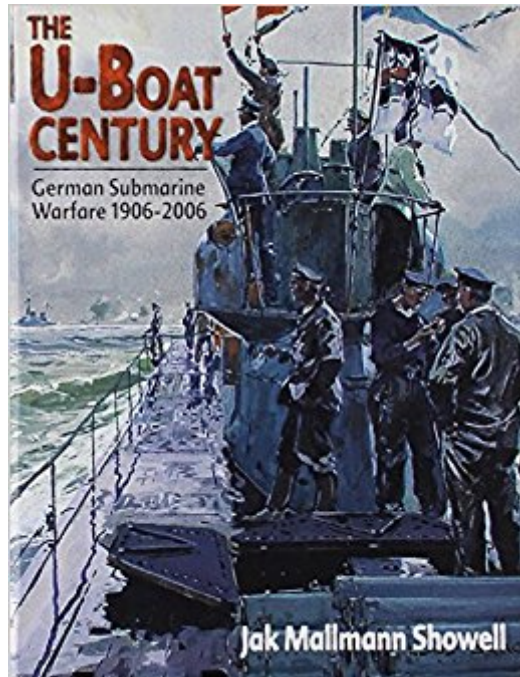




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U-Boat Century: German Submarine Warfare, 1906-2006



Synopsis

The U-boat was one of the most potent weapons of the twentieth century, and in this book one of the world's leading U-boat historians explains how the German submarine was developed and designed and then deployed to wreak havoc in European waters and further afield in the Atlantic and Far East. This is not a dry technical study but a work that looks behind the scenes at the men who built and fought in them. While the boats themselves are described, Mallmann Showell paints a broader picture of life in the U-boat arm. Weapons systems, operational areas, bases, builders and fleet organization are covered, and as well as dealing with the world wars, the author covers today's German navy and brings the story up to date with a full description of the third, latest generation of U-boats. The text is augmented by some 400 photographs, many never before published. The book's publication coincides with the centenary of the launch of Germany's first U-boat in August 1906. It is an essential addition to the library of every modern naval historian and enthusiast.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jak P. Mallmann Showell is the author of more than twenty books on the German navy and U-boat operations and is regarded as one of the world's leading authorities in the field.

The U-Boat Century; Submarine Warfare 1906 - 2006 was a big disappointment for me. First, the text size was too small to read comfortably. Then the subject matter was obviously just a bunch of copies from existing books that have been written over the past 40 plus years. There were many

pictures that had never been published before and that is a credit to author Showell. Tragically, the captions were even smaller than the text and were an ordeal to read. I think the US Naval Institute Press should certainly take the blame for the print size. I felt the subject matter has been beaten to death, and this book demonstrates that. Author Showell has come out with some very good earlier books on the U-Boat subject, and I purchased this book mainly from his great reputation for quality. Please try again, Jak!
David G Davenport
Cape Elizabeth, Maine

The German word for submarine is Unterseeboot (undersea boat) or U Boat for short and the very first German U Boat (U1) was launched at Kiel in 1906. Today, U Boats are still launched at Kiel where they are built to the finest, most modern specifications for navies around the world. In the interim, Germany has fought two world wars during which her U Boats almost brought defeat to the British cause. Not only was the submarine one of the most deadly weapons of the 20th Century, the German version was for most of that time the most advanced in the world. Perhaps it still is. In a book which is extremely well laid out, Jak Mallmann Showell takes the reader through those one hundred years in splendid detail. Beginning with a few very important explanatory notes, we then move quickly onto the opening chapter headed "The Dawn of Submarine Warfare" - a title which explains the content perfectly. This is followed by further sections on pioneering work, attitudes before and during both world wars, the changes which were dictated by the defeat of Germany in 1945 and what has happened to the U Boat since that time and so forth. All that said, instead of being a technical work destined for the bookshelves of those who require such books purely for their own research, this is a book you can sit down and read. It is also a book from which any reader is bound to learn something - not matter how advanced their own knowledge. Lavishly illustrated throughout with the most useful selection of historic and modern (black and white) photographs plus the occasional schematic drawing, this book is an essential addition to the bookshelf of any person with an interest in the subject. Altogether a fine work from a publishing company who are a leading authority on ships and related subjects. NM

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