

MIDWAY ROUNDTABLE UPDATE #1
(Sent by email to all registered subscribers)

24 November 2025

To fans and followers of the Battle of Midway Roundtable,
www.midway42.org:

1. Improved Newsletter Index Pages:

When our *Roundtable Forum* newsletter was recently retired, we promised that you'd receive an occasional email bulletin when we had something important to announce. Here's our first one: a new and greatly improved newsletter index that should significantly aid anyone doing research on the battle, its veterans, or related topics.

The new index consists of two volumes. The first one is a total rebuild of the original index that covered the *Roundtable Forum* newsletter from its inception in 2004 through 2011. This new version of that old index is formatted much better and brings major improvements in readability and especially in ease in finding a desired subject.

The second volume is entirely new, a full index of all issues after 2011 when we changed webmasters and the newsletter's format.

To view the new index pages, click this link....

http://midway42.org/Backissues/Forum_Index.aspx

....or just go to our home page at www.midway42.org and click "The Newsletter Index" at the bottom of the main menu on the left.

Your comments on our new two-volume index or anything else regarding the website or the Battle of Midway are welcome, and anything you send will get a response. Just click *Reply* on this message or compose a new one to midwayroundtable@gmail.com.

2. New Book Review: *A Documentary History of the Battle of Midway*
(Red and Black Publishers, 2020)

I spotted the above title while searching Amazon for something else. It looked interesting: purportedly, it's the principal after-action reports from the BOM, all assembled into one handy book. Those reports have long been

available individually online (many on the Roundtable website), but having them all at hand in a single reference seemed convenient, and it is.

First about the book itself: it's 6x9 inches with 303 pages; pretty much identical to *No Right to Win* if you have that one on your bookshelf. The author is stated as "The United States Defense Department," which struck me a little odd--not even an editor taking credit for compiling it all into a single book. The publisher is "Red and Black Publications," which appears to provide a print-and-ship-on-demand service for books held in digital form. That's evident from my copy, ordered on October 30, 2025. The last page indicates it was printed in Las Vegas, Nevada the next day, October 31st, and I received it 3 days later. Well, so be it; the publishing business is just a bit different than we old timers recall from an earlier era.

Oddly, there's no table of contents. If it had one, this would be it:

1. Introduction
2. Combat Narratives
3. Adm. Nimitz after-action report
4. Radm. Spruance a.a.r.
5. USS *Hornet* a.a.r.
6. USS *Enterprise* a.a.r.
7. USS *Yorktown* a.a.r.
8. CTG 17.4 a.a.r. (TF 17 destroyers)
9. USS *Hammann* a.a.r.
10. The Japanese Story of the BOM ("The Nagumo Report")
11. Japanese POW interrogation

Overall, the book's content is quite good, with a couple of exceptions--more about those later. It starts with a 7-page introduction that summarizes the BOM well enough. Next there's a 60-page chapter of "combat narratives," said to be confidential ONI documents from 1942-43, intended as source documents for subsequent official reports. Those narratives are very detailed and interesting, although there are known inaccuracies due to their vintage, written very soon after the battle. The rest of the book's content is as indicated above.

The book has two disappointing omissions: there are no reports from the any of the air groups on Midway, and the *Hornet* report only includes Captain Mitscher's cover letter--all of its enumerated attachments are missing, leaving the "Hornet" report much less than we know it to be.

On the plus side, the presence of the Nagumo report is particularly useful, and the bonus at the end--interrogation notes from a very cooperative Japanese sailor recovered from the *Mikuma*--is fascinating.

In summary, the book is interesting and useful, just be aware of its pros and cons, especially the omissions mentioned above. You can find it online easily enough by searching its title on Amazon or elsewhere, or click the URL inserted below. The print version, as of this writing, sells for about \$16 and Amazon has a Kindle version for \$10.

--Ron Russell
November 8, 2025

https://www.amazon.com/Documentary-History-Battle-Midway-Official/dp/1610011287/ref=sr_1_1?crid=30R8LQ9EWLAL0&dib=eyJ2ljoiMSJ9.s7tRDxN-TbduoQ4RDvsQOqXIMu0HfwCpVL8KWAAnExxHZpA7i6khWEzq-dcNHNxqTpqaCx-BgAaBPNZV9SSJJHXe-KtAq1f9ZrcBVd0aPc651CXCSadQ0N3x9FrLImSPvqu3t62JIndXpWDOWUKVLROVfzVfPR8LyynRRIPCwWa8hJgX6bW1bE_A4lgbd4mfXHH0MFU5SrD9Ju5x06-hs5r2DzVIY8F6yxAfkEJhikol.Fvq3hwF71EsX4Vm971PpyGjkKlyZ_gzvSbj7adOq2q&dib_taq=se&keywords=A+Documentary+History+of+the+Battle+of+Midway&qid=1762622141&s=books&sprefix=a+documentary+history+of+the+battle+of+midway%2Cstripbooks%2C174&sr=1-1-catcorr

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Best regards,
--Thom Walla, webmaster
--Ron Russell, contributing editor

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