

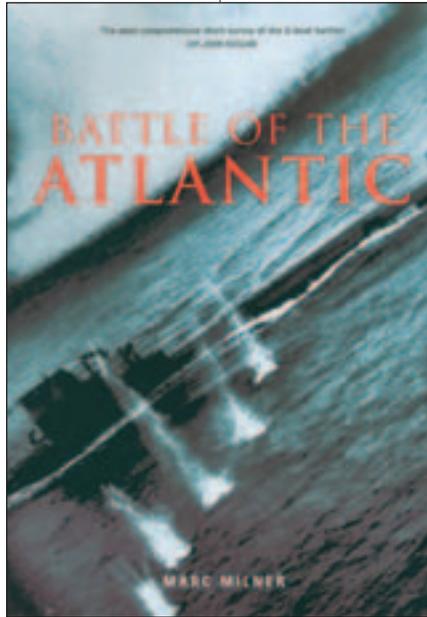
## THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC by Marc Milner

St. Catharines: Vanwell Publishing Limited. 255 pages, \$39.95

Reviewed by  
Lieutenant-Commander Greg Hannah

Why yet another book on the Battle of the Atlantic? Marc Milner answers this question in the section: “Afterword and Acknowledgements,” which really should be read first. There, Milner indicates that the only new, but as yet largely unknown, body of professional scholarship is Canadian. He contends this work, to which he has contributed, has probed most aspects of the campaign for at least the past two decades, while British and American literature has been Anglo-centric and moribund. Milner, citing several convincing examples, illustrates that much work remains to be done to develop a “modern paradigm” for the Atlantic battle. For Milner, the new paradigm requires examination and analysis of “the efforts of the contending forces at the critical points and the strategies and, operations, tactics, equipment and doctrines employed by both sides to achieve their desired goals.”

The framework of *The Battle of the Atlantic* is the shooting war between the two main protagonists, the British and the Germans, in the primary theatre of the broad North Atlantic. There is nothing surprising or new here. However, drawing on modern Canadian scholarship, Milner has taken a more “mid-Atlantic”



approach, and is able to provide new insights about Canadian and American contributions to the campaign. The real focus of the book, however, is an analysis of the impact of technology on the course of the war in the Atlantic. It has always been generally understood that technology was a key ‘enabler’ that permitted the Allies to prevail in this theatre. The book shows that, from the outset of the war, the Allies clearly saw the battle of the Atlantic in terms of technology, while the Germans did not. *The Battle of the Atlantic* is innovative, however, in that the broad details of the Atlantic campaign are juxtaposed with the specific details of technological changes. As a result, Milner is able to show the process of how technology, throughout the ebb and flow of the campaign, precipitated changes in strategy, and developments in tactics and doctrine. The reader will find the pictures and diagrams useful in gaining an appreciation of some of the more technical aspects of these discussions.

*The Battle of the Atlantic* is a highly readable, general overview of the war in the Atlantic that is not choked with the minutiae of convoy battles. It is not, however, just another book on the battle of the Atlantic; Milner’s work is concerned with developing a modern paradigm for understanding the war in this theatre. By choosing to focus on the impact of technology in what was arguably the longest, most geographically diverse, and most complex campaign of the Second World War, he has increased the breadth and depth of our understanding of it.

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## SHAKE HANDS WITH THE DEVIL: THE FAILURE OF HUMANITY IN RWANDA

by Lieutenant-General Roméo Dallaire

Toronto: Random House Canada. 522 pages, \$39.95

Reviewed by Judy Kennedy

Is the use of force justified in the protection of human rights? If so, what kind of force? General Roméo Dallaire goes a long way in answering these questions with his gripping account of the United Nations’ Rwanda mission of 1993-4. He answers, too, the question: “Whose human rights?” Echoing the famous words of Zola to the French military in the Dreyfus affair, his “j’accuse” is aimed at the UN member states who contribute to such campaigns only if it’s safe, i.e., if international

public opinion is supportive, if risking their soldiers’ lives is worth it, and if it is in their national interest to do so. Yet, if the United Nations stands for anything, it is that human lives are equally sacred.

The book gives a detailed account of the UN response to the Rwandan crisis, which was initially designed as a small, classic peacekeeping mission to observe the implementation of the Arusha Peace Agreement along the borders of a demilitarized zone. The parties signing the accord, after two and a half years of civil war, were the rebel Rwandese Patriotic Front (Dallaire is silent on who supported them) and the Rwandese Government Forces, supported mainly by France. During a reconnaissance mission as Chief Military Observer, Dallaire realized that more troops would be needed; that the challenges to be confronted required military force. He lobbied for an