

# The Battle of the Atlantic in World War II: A Clash of Titans on the High Seas

The Battle of the Atlantic was the longest and one of the most important campaigns of World War II. It was a struggle for control of the Atlantic Ocean, which was vital for both the Allies and the Axis powers. The battle lasted from September 1939 to May 1945, and saw some of the most intense naval warfare in history.



## Battle of the Atlantic - World War II: A History from Beginning to End (World War 2 Battles) by Hourly History

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

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Screen Reader : Supported



The Allies, led by Great Britain and the United States, relied on the Atlantic Ocean to transport troops and supplies to Europe. The Axis powers, led by Germany, sought to disrupt these shipments by using U-boats (submarines) to attack Allied convoys.

The Battle of the Atlantic was a critical turning point in World War II. The Allies' victory in the battle ensured that the United States and Great Britain

could continue to supply their troops in Europe, and helped to pave the way for the Allied victory in the war.

## **The Early Years of the Battle of the Atlantic**

The Battle of the Atlantic began on September 3, 1939, when Germany invaded Poland, marking the beginning of World War II. The British Royal Navy immediately began escorting convoys of merchant ships across the Atlantic Ocean to protect them from German U-boats.

The early years of the battle were marked by a series of German successes. German U-boats sank a large number of Allied ships, and the Allies were forced to adopt a defensive posture.

In 1941, the United States entered the war on the side of the Allies. The US Navy began escorting convoys in the Atlantic, and the tide of the battle began to turn.

## **The Turning Point of the Battle of the Atlantic**

The turning point of the Battle of the Atlantic came in May 1943, when the Allies introduced a new technology called sonar. Sonar allowed Allied ships to detect U-boats underwater, and this made it much more difficult for the Germans to attack convoys.

In addition to sonar, the Allies also developed new tactics to combat the U-boat threat. These tactics included the use of aircraft carriers to provide air cover for convoys, and the use of destroyers to hunt down U-boats.

As a result of these new technologies and tactics, the Allies were able to gain the upper hand in the Battle of the Atlantic. By the end of 1943, the

German U-boat fleet had been decimated, and the Allies had won the battle.

## **The Legacy of the Battle of the Atlantic**

The Battle of the Atlantic was one of the most important campaigns of World War II. It was a struggle for control of the Atlantic Ocean, which was vital for both the Allies and the Axis powers. The battle lasted from September 1939 to May 1945, and saw some of the most intense naval warfare in history.

The Allies' victory in the Battle of the Atlantic ensured that the United States and Great Britain could continue to supply their troops in Europe, and helped to pave the way for the Allied victory in the war.

The Battle of the Atlantic also had a lasting impact on the development of naval warfare. The new technologies and tactics that were developed during the battle continue to be used by navies around the world today.

## **Image Gallery**



A German U-boat





A Royal Navy destroyer

### Further Reading

- [The Battle of the Atlantic - National World War II Museum](#)
- [The Battle of the Atlantic - Imperial War Museum](#)
- [Battle of the Atlantic - Naval History and Heritage Command](#)



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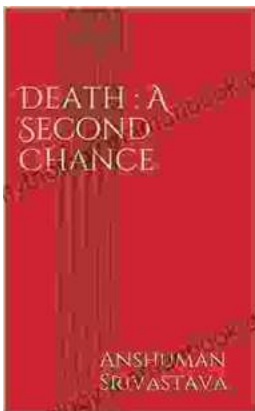
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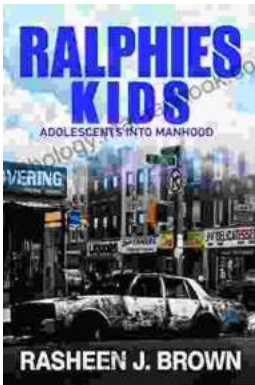
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