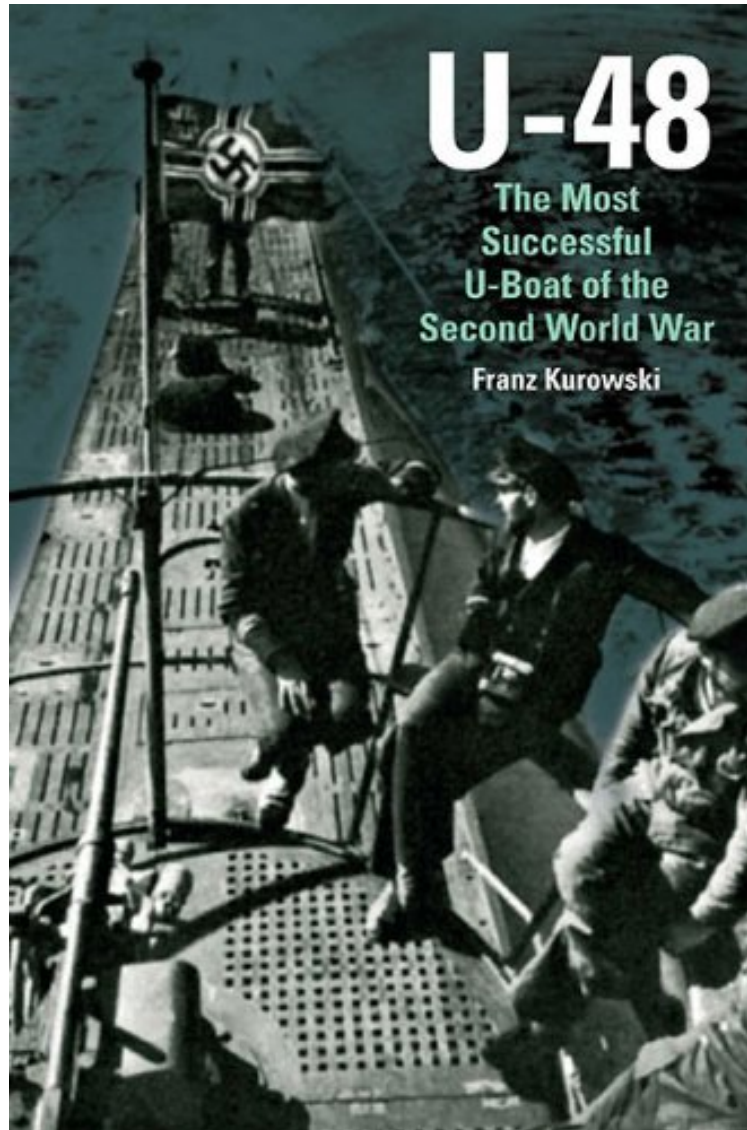


[Library ebook] U-48: The Most Successful U-Boat of the Second World War

## U-48: The Most Successful U-Boat of the Second World War

*Franz Kurowski*

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**Franz Kurowski : U-48: The Most Successful U-Boat of the Second World War** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised U-48: The Most Successful U-Boat of the Second World War:

15 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Get 'Em While The Getting's Good!By Thomas M. Russell IIITo me, this was an excellent example of a well-commanded and well-sailed German submarine in the early years of WW II when large convoys of merchant vessels were sent to sea with minimal and simple protective coverage. The

numbers alone tell the story of cut and slash from September 1939 to the beginning of 1943. The book contains much detail in the business of submarine warfare, but in equal measure are the descriptions of submarine actions on patrol. Being a 20 year submariner from 1948 to 1967, I could see myself on board U-48 and being a part of it all. The detail part of the book can get long, but the action part makes up for it. U-48 had incredible good fortune and she caught my heart. 10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Great Adventure Story By Greg Claydon Found this book well written and easy to read. It was good to get the perspective from the German side. I found the facts and information very detailed, a lot of work has gone into producing this book. This book also dispels some of the myths surrounding the U-Boats and their treatment of Allied shipping crew who ended up in lifeboats. For those interested in War History it is well worth reading. 13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Good story about the history off boat warfare By Viv Roberts A good combination of u boat logs and allied records to list the sinkings. The reader becomes embroiled in the day today fighting under the seas. Many people are unaware of how a mechanical failure on the torpedoes prevented more allied sinkings than anything else!

Following the signing of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919, Germany was not permitted to build or operate submarines. However clandestine training onboard Finnish and Spanish submarines took place and U-boats were still built to German designs in Dutch yards. At the outset of the Second World War, Dönitz argued for a 300-strong U-boat fleet, since his force of 57 U-boats 'could only inflict pin-pricks against British seaborne trade'. In August 1939, U-48 left Germany, commanded by 'Vaddi' Schultze, to take up a waiting position around England. It scored its first success on 5 September, when it torpedoed the British freighter Royal Sceptre, then the Winkleigh on 8 September. On both occasions – the first of many – Schultze showed himself to be a notable humanitarian: he addressed signals to Churchill giving positions of the sinkings so that crews could be saved. By 1 August 1941, U-48, the most successful boat of the Second World War, had sunk 56 merchant ships of 322,478 gross tons and one corvette. She was then transferred to the Baltic as a training boat. Schultze became commander of operation 3 U-Flotilla and later was appointed commander, II/Naval College Schleswig. He died in 1987 at the age of 78. U-48 was scuttled on 3 May 1945.

About the Author Franz Kurowski is an author and historian.