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Michael L. Hadley, ***U-Boats against Canada-German Submarines in Canadian Waters***, McGill-Queen's University Press, 1985

Michael L. Hadley's "U-boats against Canada" first published in 1985 by McGill-Queen's University Press, is a seminal work that remains relevant today. It is a multifaceted work, one of intrigue, history, fact and legend. Hadley covers it all expertly and in an interesting way that exposes the Second World War on the Homefront too many Canadians who so sadly do not recognize its importance either in scope or significance.

Hadley's draws our attention to the combined operations that were required in the Gulf of St Lawrence in 1942. Those operations involved all of Canada's military services. Hadley quite rightly focuses first on the naval operations for it was the naval operations of the belligerents that precipitated the consequent flows and outcomes over the course of the Battle. But there was more to it than that. Hadley investigates government policy, its inaction, preparations and the resources first at hand to deal with that threat. The U-boat advanced well into the Gulf of St Lawrence in 1942 that eventually saw their approach deep into the waters of the Canadian Heartland. It was both a cause for concern and a reason for panic.

Beyond that, Hadley's work also highlights how close the enemy approached Canadian waters outside the Gulf of St. Lawrence. U-boats lay all along Canada's east coast, often within a stone's throw of our very shores. This was a well-hidden fact, oblivious to many Canadians because of wartime censorship and security. And yet, despite the enemy's proximity, Canada took few precautions to either abet or to limit aids that assisted the enemy. Canada failed to impose dark out regulations or limiting navigation aids our eastern shores which more often as not were beacons used by the enemy. In fact, the enemy rightly perceived that Canada was still on a peacetime footing when protecting its approaches. It was not a matter to complain about for it what was to their advantage both in attack and to fixing positions.

Hadley's work is now over 30 years old. It is one of those rare volumes that matures with age and that has proven its worth. It is a robust volume in which researchers and scholars can build upon and expand upon Hadley's original work on the Second World War in Atlantic Canada. It is a work that I highly recommended without reservation as a valued addition to one's personal library.