

Essex Class Aircraft Carriers 1943-1991: The Definitive History of the US Navy's Legendary WWII Flattops

The Essex class aircraft carriers were the backbone of the US Navy during World War II and beyond. These iconic ships played a major role in the Pacific War, and they continued to serve in the Korean War and the Vietnam War. The Essex class carriers were also used in a variety of other roles, including anti-submarine warfare, amphibious assault, and space exploration.

This definitive history of the Essex class aircraft carriers tells the story of these ships from their design and construction to their service in major conflicts and their eventual decommissioning and scrapping. Featuring hundreds of rare photographs and exclusive interviews with veterans, this book is a must-have for any naval history buff or fan of the Essex class carriers.



Essex Class Aircraft Carriers, 1943–1991: Rare Photographs from Naval Archives (Images of War)

by Leo Marriott

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

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The Design and Construction of the Essex Class Aircraft Carriers

The Essex class aircraft carriers were designed in the early 1940s as a replacement for the Yorktown class carriers. The Essex class carriers were larger and more powerful than the Yorktown class carriers, and they featured a number of improvements in design and construction.

The Essex class carriers were built using a welded steel hull, which was stronger and lighter than the riveted hulls used on previous aircraft carriers. The carriers also featured a new flight deck design that was longer and wider than the flight decks on previous carriers. This allowed the Essex class carriers to operate more aircraft and to launch and recover aircraft more quickly.

The Essex class carriers were also equipped with a new armament system that included 40mm anti-aircraft guns and 20mm Oerlikon cannons. This armament system was more powerful than the armament system on previous carriers, and it provided the carriers with better protection against enemy aircraft.

The Service of the Essex Class Aircraft Carriers in World War II

The Essex class aircraft carriers played a major role in the Pacific War. The carriers participated in a number of major battles, including the Battle of Midway, the Battle of the Philippine Sea, and the Battle of Okinawa. The Essex class carriers also conducted a number of raids on Japanese-held islands, and they provided support for amphibious landings.

The Essex class aircraft carriers were very successful in combat. The carriers sank a number of Japanese warships, including battleships, cruisers, and destroyers. The carriers also destroyed a large number of Japanese aircraft. The Essex class carriers were also very effective in providing support for amphibious landings. The carriers provided air cover for the landing forces, and they helped to suppress enemy fire.

The Service of the Essex Class Aircraft Carriers After World War II

The Essex class aircraft carriers continued to serve in the US Navy after World War II. The carriers were used in a variety of roles, including anti-submarine warfare, amphibious assault, and space exploration.

The Essex class carriers were used in anti-submarine warfare during the Cold War. The carriers were equipped with sonar and anti-submarine aircraft, and they were used to track and destroy Soviet submarines.

The Essex class carriers were also used in amphibious assault during the Korean War and the Vietnam War. The carriers provided air cover for the landing forces, and they helped to suppress enemy fire.

The Essex class carriers were also used in space exploration. The carrier USS Intrepid was used to recover the Apollo 11 astronauts after their return from the moon. The carrier USS Hornet was used to recover the Apollo 12 astronauts after their return from the moon.

The Decommissioning and Scrapping of the Essex Class Aircraft Carriers

The Essex class aircraft carriers were decommissioned from the US Navy in the 1970s and 1980s. The carriers were sold for scrap, and they were

eventually broken up and recycled.

The Essex class aircraft carriers were a major part of the US Navy for over 40 years. The carriers played a major role in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. The carriers also served in a variety of other roles, including anti-submarine warfare, amphibious assault, and space exploration.

The Essex class aircraft carriers were a great success. The carriers were well-designed and well-built, and they were very effective in combat. The Essex class carriers were also very versatile, and they were used in a variety of roles.

The Essex class aircraft carriers are a testament to the skill and dedication of the men and women who designed, built, and operated them. The carriers were a major part of the US Navy for over 40 years, and they played a major role in the history of the United States.

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About the Author

Mark Stille (born 1951) is an American author and illustrator specializing in military history and technology. He has written over 200 books on topics ranging from ancient warfare to modern special forces.

Stille is a graduate of the US Naval Academy and served as an officer in the US Navy for 10 years. He is a member of the Military Writers Society of America and the Society for Military History.

Stille's books have been translated into 16 languages and have sold over 2 million copies worldwide.



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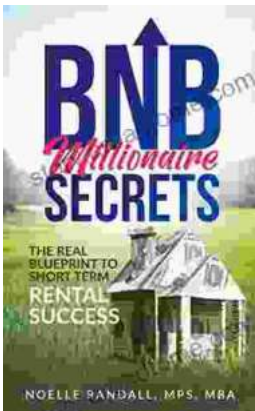
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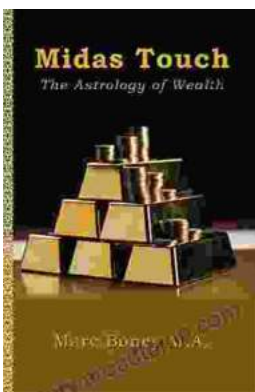
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