



# The Destroyers

*Douglas Reeman*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

# The Destroyers

*Douglas Reeman*

## The Destroyers Douglas Reeman

In 25 years of continuous service, the eight destroyers had seen every kind of action at sea. Now they were going to be used on raids that would open the way for an invasion of Occupied Europe. Keith Drummond, captain of the destroyer Warlock, realized his men would be tested to the limit.

## The Destroyers Details

Date : Published January 1st 1974 by Hutchinson Radius

ISBN : 9780091199401

Author : Douglas Reeman

Format : Unknown Binding 318 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, War, Military Fiction, Fiction, World War II

 [Download The Destroyers ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Destroyers ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online The Destroyers Douglas Reeman**

---

## From Reader Review The Destroyers for online ebook

### Adrian Trenerry says

I enjoyed it and found it difficult to put down towards the end. I would have liked some reference to the actual events that it was loosely based on.

---

### George says

They called them the Scrapyard Flotilla. . . In a quarter-century of continuous service the eight destroyers had seen every kind of action at sea. Now they were going to be used on hard-hitting raids that would open the way for an invasion of Occupied Europe. Were the ships chosen for their battle-worthiness -or because they were expendable? As the operations got underway Keith Drummond, captain of the destroyer Warlock, realised that his men would be tested to the limit-and beyond.

---

### Gary says

I haven't read this book since I was a teenager (a very long time ago!) but I remember liking everything I have read by Douglas Reeman. Re-reading this novel has reminded me why.

As a young man, Reeman served in the Royal Navy during World War II, and it shows. I was captivated by this book; only two missions are described in this book but he manages to infuse the whole story with the barely-suppressed feelings of fear, tension, anxiousness and anticipation felt by his characters, for whom injury and death are constant companions.

The story concerns a flotilla of eight old destroyers of First World War vintage – ships that have served the nation well but which are out-classed and out-gunned by more modern and less expendable ships. Their captains and crews sometimes hate their ships but for the most part they love them; this is just as well because they depend on them and their own skills to survive. They nickname themselves the Scrapyard Flotilla.

The story is mainly about one destroyer – H.M.S. Warlock; her captain, Lieutenant-Commander Keith Drummond; and the First Officer, Lieutenant David Sheridan (known as 'No. 1', which would be the 2IC in American parlance); along with many other crew members at all levels. Sheridan is a Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve (R.N.V.R.) officer who is miffed because he wanted a command of his own and believes he is ready for his own ship, but has been sent to Warlock to replace the previous First Officer, who was maimed in a previous battle.

It is also about the flotilla's C.O., a vain, arrogant, uncompromising officer driven by glory, Captain Dudley Beaumont. This man was one of only a handful of survivors from the Conqueror, a battleship that infamously received a broadside from a German battlecruiser and promptly blew up and sank. He was branded a hero and is used by the Admiralty for publicity purposes, so is continually followed around by his press officers – a newspaperman and a photographer, who make sure his handsome face regularly appears in the press to

keep up morale.

There is some doubt about the true nature of what happened aboard the Conqueror and Drummond eventually does some digging, spurred on by the love interest in the story, Sarah Kemp, the sister of a sailor who did not survive the Conqueror's sinking, although another survivor claims he was on a raft at one point and argued with the 'hero'.

The underlying theme of the story is the war itself, which sounds obvious but none of us who has never been involved in a general war can imagine the continuous, unrelenting pressure to DO; to prepare, to work, to serve – the continuous and crushing tiredness, exhaustion, worry about our families and the desperate need for one day off, a drink or some love and physical release. Reeman puts this across very effectively; Drummond, as captain of the Warlock, is exhausted, the flotilla having been on convoy protection duty for months. Then, just when he really needs a rest, along comes this new C.O. (Beaumont), an upbeat, cocky, over-confident man whom Drummond suspects is willing to undertake dangerous missions irrespective of casualties in order to further his own career, at the expense of everyone under his command. Drummond is so tired because he has been burdened with the responsibility of his ship and his crew, who come a close second in his eyes after following his orders

The story goes on to describe in fascinating detail the preparations of the ships, the planning of the missions, the personal lives of the main characters (including one with a dark secret) and, of course, what happens when they undertake their hazardous missions. The action sequences are described very well, to the point that you can imagine yourself there, worrying along with them about when you might be hit by a shell or strafed by a dive-bomber. In films you see a lot of near misses where bombs explode close to a ship and nothing really happens as a result. In the book you are reminded that exploding shells hurl hundreds of white-hot splinters of jagged metal away from the impact point, so thin steel plating is holed and men are wounded even when the ship is not hit. Meanwhile, the senior officers are standing on an open bridge directing the crew.

Some of the characters we have come to know are killed or wounded – and the rest just get on with their jobs and wonder why they are still alive. I feel that this characterisation, realistic description of the characters' fears and feelings and also of the realities of war, i.e. that there are few heroes – mostly it's just ordinary but brave men getting on with it, for the sake of their ship and their mates, are what make Reeman's novels so believable.

There are several side-stories (about other crew-members) intertwined with the main action and these give more depth to the tale. I loved this book and will re-read the other Reeman novels I own. If you like stories about war and what it does to people, if you like ships and the sea, read this book – you'll love it. Solid five stars.

---

### **Leigh says**

This book had everything from excitement to intrigue. It was a great story which kept the humanity of war within its pages. The action was described superbly and gave you a fantastic sense that the battles were quick, dangerous and confusing. Really enjoyed this book!!

---

### **Jamie Campbell says**

[ he introduces some nebulously defined capital ships; which are always trouble in a fractured history. (hide spoiler)]

---

### **Ron Wroblewski says**

Another great book by Douglas Reeman - a British naval novel of WWII. When I read his books I feel right into the story. In fact last night I woke up feeling I was on a the British destroyer heading into the Norwegian coast on a raid of a German harbor. He gives a good feel of naval life during war and what battle is like.

---

### **Tim says**

Great action. Great insight into british Naval small unit action.

---

### **Rose Theromani says**

An interesting read. It was first published in 1974 by Douglas Reeman who had served in the Royal Navy during the Second World War. What surprised me, was that the book, could bring to the surface, the horrors of warfare but without the graphic language we are now use to. The violence was described but without the graphic portrayal of the blood and guts, and yet the emotions of the combatants were portrayed as clearly as if you were talking to them in a pub in the early 70's, a remark bringing back the memories, of some night 30 years earlier that could not be processed and resolved.

A book that makes sense to a 60 year old plus reader, use to seeing the unhealed emotion scars of the generation before them, but would it make any sense now to younger readers.

---

### **Brian Grouhel says**

What is there to say? Douglas Reeman writes excellent war novels which usually turn out to be a mild love story as well. For realistic action in circumstances we can only imagine his books abound with the sights, sounds and feel of the sea. In The Destroyers an aging flotilla of ships go forth in desperation to do battle with much more modern forces. A great story and one you will not want to put down!

---

### **Nooilforpacifists says**

Douglas Reeman drinking game: Lt Commander Drummond served a "Horses Neck, just how you like it", on page 40. #2, page 133.

See previous reviews of Reeman books for the Reeman drinking games.

Ver slow start. Beginning about a third in, however, the pace picks up nicely to become a very well plotted adventure. No surprises at all (except for Reeman's toying with the historical record--but this is fiction). Hero

---

is a bit higher ranking than usual (Lt. Commander/Commander), and a bit too tightly wound to enjoy.

---