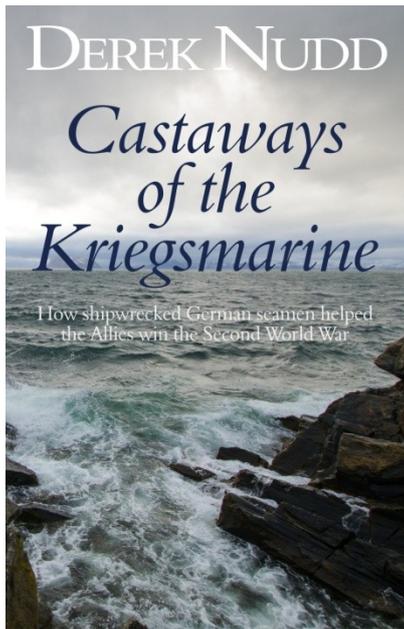


# PRESS RELEASE

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## Castaways of the *Kriegsmarine*

How shipwrecked German seamen helped  
the Allies win the Second World War

**They thought their war was over when they were hoisted from the sea.** In truth they were just entering a murky world of eavesdropping, deceit and betrayal. Derek Nudd brings the survivors' experiences to life in their own voices, introduces us to the interrogators they met, and tracks the intelligence they yielded back into the merciless arena of ocean combat.

Derek says, *"I was drawn to this topic by curiosity about my grandfather, who led the Naval Intelligence section at Latimer House. As is the way with these things the story quickly gained a momentum of its own."*

### **December 1943 brought little cheer to Hitler's *Kriegsmarine*.**

As Mediterranean U-boats threw themselves into ever more desperately hopeless sorties against allied convoys a short, vicious battle in the Bay of Biscay sank a German blockade runner and three of the escorts trying to bring her in. On Boxing Day the battlecruiser *Scharnhorst* met her lonely end in the heaving, freezing waters of the Barents Sea off North Cape.

Only the most wilfully myopic of the exhausted, disoriented castaways brought to Latimer House and Wilton Park interrogation centres could believe in ultimate victory, a gift for the experienced interviewers awaiting them.

This tale follows the interwoven fates of the bedraggled captives and the Naval Intelligence team's small, eclectic, irreverent band of reservists and Wrens.

Derek adds, *"I ignore the movers and shakers, the German generals and senior staff whose egos were carefully groomed in long-term stays at Trent Park. Instead I look at the constant procession of ordinary matelots and seagoing officers, who passed through Latimer House and Wilton Park, were drained of their useful information, and 'dumped' to regular prisoner-of-war camps."*

DEREK NUDD returned to his first love, writing, after a degree in History and English, a master's in Systems Analysis and a successful career in engineering. Freelancing in business communications kept the wolf from the door while writing his first book, *Armageddon Fed Up With This – A Gunner's Tale* (Matador, 2015). He is currently working on new writing projects.



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