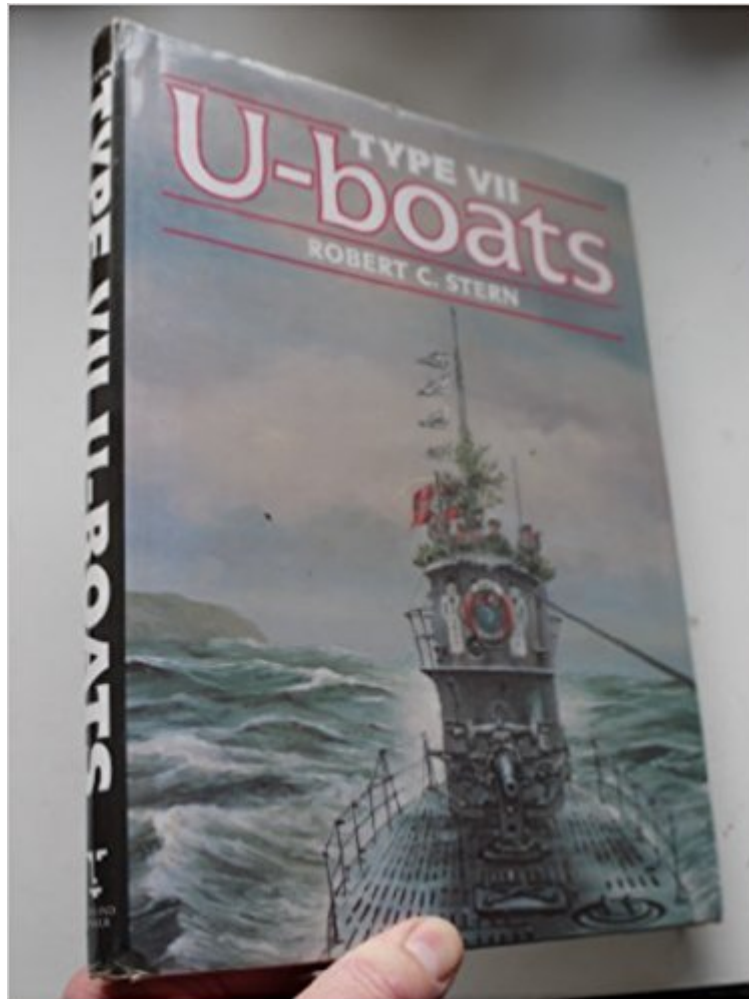




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Type VII U-Boats



Synopsis

Dust jacket notes: "After the narrow defeat of their Uboat fleet in the First World War, the German Navy analyzed their experiences and devised new theories and plans for a future conflict. The principal result of this study was the development of the daring concept of Radeltaktik, which involved coordinated pack attacks on the Allied convoy systems that had proved so successful in defence. Donitz was one of the architects of this new scheme, and his favoured method was the surfaced night attack, the Uboats shadowing the convoys for some time, communicating the position of their quarry and then converging from the surrounding ocean areas for 'the kill'. The perfect boat to implement this doctrine had to have certain characteristics it required an effective operational range and the levels of speed and armament usually associated with large boats; and it had to be highly manoeuvrable with a fast dive - a factor normally exhibited by smaller boats. It needed excellent communications and, above all, it had to be easy to build because a great many were needed. Armed with such a weapon, Donitz was convinced that, given the will, Germany could win any tonnageschlacht (tonnage battle) in the Atlantic. It was the Type VII Uboat that largely fulfilled this role. Over 700 examples of this superb submarine were built, making it by far the most numerous type of Uboat and fully deserving of this study. Robert C. Stern looks in detail at how the various technological elements of this advanced weapons system worked and how the crewmen operated to maximize its effectiveness in action. He traces the development and design of the class together with the crucial offensive and defensive components it took to sea: torpedo and gun types; radio, hydrophones, radar decoys and sonar countermeasures; mines; and a host of other innovative items...."

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A very good book with thorough technical details of the Type VII. If you are one of those who is building a Type VII model, or upgrading a Type VIIB to VIIC, this is a worthwhile purchase. More photos of hull detail would be useful, as there is not one photo showing the stern torpedo tube.

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