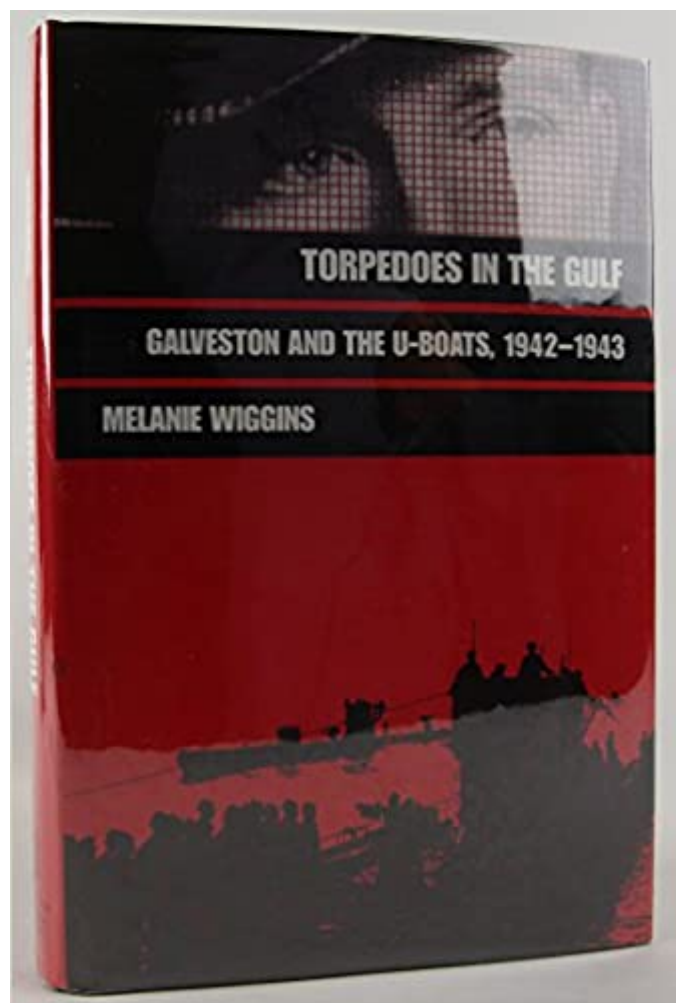




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# **Torpedoes In The Gulf: Galveston And The U-Boats, 1942-1943 (Texas A&M University Military History Series)**



## Synopsis

At the beginning of America's involvement in World War II, Galveston Island was a recreation center for area servicemen. Every evening throngs of soldiers, sailors, and Marines strolled along the seawall, basking in the warm sun and soft gulf breezes. Red, pink, and white oleanders bloomed in all their glory, sea gulls squawked overhead, and gentle waves swished over sandy beaches. It was paradise on earth. Small wonder that German U-boat commanders couldn't believe their eyes when they stealthily entered the Gulf of Mexico that year. All navigational lights glowed, and towns and cities along the coast shone brightly, illuminating every American ship traveling by. On Galveston Island the summer tourist season had just begun when Harro Schacht, commander of U-507, sailed up to the mouth of the Mississippi River and blew up eight ships. Catching Americans totally unprepared for a Gulf attack, twenty-four German submarines entered the Gulf of Mexico between 1942 and 1943 and attacked both American and Allied ships, sinking fifty-six merchant ships and damaging fourteen more. In May, 1942 alone, the blitz of the "Gulf Sea Frontier" gave German U-boats their greatest victories to that date in the war. From then until peace in 1944, Allied shipping in the Gulf sailed freely, secure from attack--but not until this surprising onslaught raised national patriotism to new heights and brought the war so close to home. Based on interviews with U.S. Navy, Merchant Marine, and German U-boat veterans, translated war diaries, and declassified military documents, *Torpedoes in the Gulf* tells a fascinating personal story with two sides. Readers will marvel at behind-the-scenes accounts of German U-boat spy maneuvers and as Galvestonians, fearing for their lives, raced to fortify their island, convinced at last that they were truly at war. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"How the tiny submarines managed to operate so effectively more than 2,000 miles from their home port was a great puzzlement at the time, writes Galveston author Melanie Wiggins in her well-researched *Torpedoes in the Gulf*. . . . a valuable addition to an ever-growing body of work about World War II. It's also a fascinating read for local history buffs. Few realize how close Texas was to combat. Fewer still understand how comically unprepared we were for modern war."--Charles P. Thobae (Charles P. Thobae)"...a must-read for the avid submarine enthusiast or devout U-boat scholar."--Christopher Percy, *The Northern Mariner* (Christopher Percy *The Northern Mariner/Le marin du nord* 2013-06-03) --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Melanie Wiggins is a freelance writer living in Galveston. She is a member of the Galveston County Historical Commission and the Texas Gulf Historical Society of Beaumont, and she is the author of a book on the history of Bolivar Peninsula. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

If you have any interest at all in WWII, or even the history of Texas, you should get this book. Growing up as a Baby Boomer, I thought I knew a lot about war activities in the Gulf of Mexico, but I really had no idea of the large scale of the submarine battles in the Gulf. Loved the book, just wish it was a LITTLE better organized. Seems to repeat some of the same stories at different parts of the book.

Never learned about this in school. WWII at our doorstep.

I remember the blackouts when I was a child living in Galveston. My dad walked a certain area to remind people of the blackout if he saw a light coming from the house. I thought this book was very accurate and well written.

Great read if you are interested in knowing more about u-boats in Galveston during WWII. Guessing if you are reading this review you are. Book peaked my interested in reading more about it. Made me wish I still had family who fought in WWII around so I could ask them questions.

i loved it!!! why we don't let our children know more about what happen in world war II right of our own shores is beyond me. I wish more people would read this book to learn aobut what happen on the other side of the war.

Purchased as a gift but my short review of the book prior to giving it as a gift was very favorable. It appears to cover a little known part of World War II very well and in an interesting and engaging way.

good book, was as stated

My husband is enjoying the book. Great service

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