

World War II German Fast Attack Hydrofoil Craft

[3 Sep 01] I am a 16-year-old undergraduate student in Parma - Italy who is performing assigned research on German fast-attack boats (in particular hydrofoils) of War World II. Although the historical part of your WebSite is a very comprehensive one, I was unable to find there some detailed technical information I need for my writing. Would you be so kind to address me to other more detailed WebSites dealing with the topic or key person (like the late Captain Johnston) who could help me further? Also, are there relevant books on the subject? -- Flavio Scarpignato (scarpi@tin.it) or (carmelo.scarpignato@unipr.it) e-fax: +1-603-843-5621; website: <http://www.unipr.it>

Response...

[3 Sep 01] Following are some quick ideas:

- There is a 1982 book: *Strike Craft* by Antony Preston; Bison Books Ltd (17 Isherwood Place; Greenwich CT 06830 USA) ISBN 0-86124-068-5. This book contains many photos and much history of German E-Boats and S- Boats... no specific WWII hydrofoil history however. There are several used copies of this book available at <http://www.amazon.com>. There is a photo of this book on the IHS website at <http://www.foils.org/popbook.htm>.
- A search for fast attack boats and torpedo boats on amazon.com yielded several interesting titles, but I do not have a copy of or know the specific contents of any of these: *German Coastal Forces of World War Two* by M.J. Whitley; *Coastal Forces (Brassey's Sea Power : Naval Vessels, Weapons Systems and Technology, Vol 10)* by Barry Clarke, Jurgen Fielitz, Malcolm Touchin, Geoffrey Till (Editor); *From Monitor to Missile Boat : Coast Defence Ships and Coastal Defence Since 1860* by George Paloczi-Horvath; *Fast Attack Craft* by Anthony J. Watts; *Fast Attack Craft : the Evolution of Design and Tactics* by Keiren Phelan; *Fast Fighting Boats, 1870-1945 : Their Design, Construction, and Use* by Harald Fock; *Die Flottille : aussergewoehnlicher Seekrieg deutscher Mittelmeer-Torpedoboote* by Wirich von Gartzten; *E-boats and coastal craft : a selection of German wartime photographs from the Bundesarchiv, Koblenz* by Paul Beaver; *Z-vor! : internationale Entwicklung und Kriegseinsätze von Zerstörern und Torpedobooten, 1914 bis 1939* by Harald Fock; *Fast Fighting Boats, 1870-1945 : Their Design, Construction, and Use* by Harald Fock; *Flottenchronik - Die an den beiden Weltkriegen beteiligten aktiven Kriegsschiffe und ihr Verbleib*, by Harald Fock, erschienen 1995 im Koehler Verlag. "Mit diesem Buch wird erstmals der Versuch unternommen, das Schicksal der an den beiden Weltkriegen beteiligten aktiven Kriegsschiffe aller Nationen darzustellen. Das Werk umfaßt die Kriegs- und Nachkriegsschicksale für den Zeitraum 1914 bis 1980 in chronologischer Reihenfolge".
- There are three hydrofoil attack craft on Michael Emmerich's *Kriegsmarine* site at the following locations:
 - Tragfl?elboot Projekt www.german-navy.de/kriegsmarine/ships/fastattack/tb5/
 - Submersible Tragfl?elboot Projekt www.german-navy.de/kriegsmarine/ships/fastattack/tb5c/
 - Turbojet Tragfl?elboot Projekt www.german-navy.de/kriegsmarine/ships/fastattack/tb5b/
- There was a magazine article: von Schertel, Baron Hanns, *Hitler's Hydrofoils, The Best of Sea Classics, Summer 1975 and Sea Classics Jan 74, Challenger Publications, Inc. Canoga Park CA, USA, pp 4-9, reprinted from Aviation & Marine Magazine, France. Baron von Schertel first began experimenting with hydrofoil craft in 1927. This article gives details on German hydrofoil development during World War II. In 1939, the military first became interested in a 2.8 ton hydrofoil demonstration boat. Various hydrofoils followed that craft, including the VS 6, VS 8, VS 10, TS-1 Coastal Surveillance Hydrofoil, Single-Seat 3-ton torpedo boat, and the 4-ton*

Pioneer Corps workboat.

Hopefully some of this will be of assistance to you. Unfortunately IHS is not a source of the documents cited above! -- Barney C. Black (Please reply via the [BBS](#))

[9 Sep 01] You might add another book to the reference list: Marine-Kleinkampfmittel by Harald Fock, Nikol BVertragsvertretungen 1996, ISBN 3-930656-34-5. This is the book where I found the German hydrofoil projects described. - Michael Emmerich (emmerich@german-navy.de)