

I served on a coastal minesweeper in Vietnam and have enjoyed reading all three volumes of the Wooden Ships series.

The author has done a thorough job of researching the history of the mine fleet. Anyone who has ever served on a minesweeper will find his ship in these books and learn where the ship went, what she accomplished, and what eventually happened to her. I especially enjoyed learning new things about MY ship [USS *Woodpecker* (MSC 209)].

Very little has been written about minesweepers. Even those of us who served in the mine fleet will be impressed by how much action these ships and boats saw and the heroism of their people.

The series also should be read by anyone who has an interest in naval policy and strategy. The author correctly points out that minesweepers are the orphan children of a fleet that has been quick to abandon this capability until it is urgently needed.

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