



# The French Navy in World War II

By Rear Admiral Paul Auphan, Jacques Mordal

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Prior to this book's original publication in 1959 little had been done to dispel confusion regarding what really happened to the French Navy during World War II. Few people realized the tragic situation of a country forced to capitulate to a traditional enemy. After this humiliating experience, the Navy, in its attempts to preserve France's foreign possessions, and to supply the mother country, found itself torn between the conflicting interests of involved internal and international politics. Forced to scuttle part of the fleet at Toulon, the remainder found themselves viewed with wary suspicion by both the Germans and the Allies.

That the French Navy was able to survive at all is a minor miracle. That it so well preserved its unanimity as to return to the fight and participate in the final victory is in itself a tribute to the moral, discipline, and traditions that date back to the crusades. *The French Navy in World War II* is now available in paperback.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

“This is a recent reprint of this book originally written in 1959 when most of these events were still fresh in the authors’ and contributors’ minds, and many of the schisms of the war were still evident. The book could be accused of some bias in seeking to explain the events and decisions made by the leaders of Vichy, but overall, it gives a very complete picture of the French Navy activities. Its 385 pages of text provide a lot of information about what, for many of us, is a very little known aspect of World War II.”? *Starshell*

#### Language Notes

Text: English, French (translation)

#### About the Author

Rear Admiral Paul Auphan (1894–1982) served in World War I and World War II. After serving as Minister of the French Navy, he resigned on 15 November 1942. He published numerous books on naval and political history.

Jaques Mordal (1910-1980) was a French naval historian. He authored twenty books on World War II, the most important of which relate the stories of the conspicuous events in the history of the French Navy: the Norwegian campaign; the battles of Dunkirk, Dakar, and Casablanca; and the war in Indochina.

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