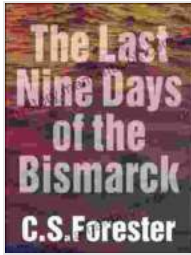


The Last Nine Days of the Bismarck: A Harrowing Account of the Legendary Battleship's Final Moments



The Bismarck, Germany's most formidable battleship of World War II, embarked on its fateful maiden voyage on May 18, 1941. Its mission was to disrupt British shipping lanes in the North Atlantic. However, the Bismarck's reign of terror was short-lived, as it was relentlessly hunted down and sunk by the Royal Navy just nine days later. This article provides a detailed account of the Bismarck's last nine days, from its glorious departure to its tragic demise.

The Last Nine Days of the Bismarck by C. S. Forester



★ ★ ★ ★ ☆	4.3 out of 5
Language	: English
File size	: 1479 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 144 pages
Lending	: Enabled
Paperback	: 212 pages
Item Weight	: 15.7 ounces
Dimensions	: 6.69 x 0.5 x 9.61 inches



May 18, 1941: Setting Sail

The Bismarck left the port of Gotenhafen, Poland, amidst a fanfare of cheers and Nazi salutes. The ship was commanded by Admiral Günther Lütjens, a seasoned naval officer known for his audacity and unwavering determination. As the Bismarck steamed out into the open sea, it carried the hopes of the entire German nation on its broad shoulders.

May 20, 1941: Encounter with the HMS Hood

On the morning of May 20, the Bismarck crossed paths with the British battlecruiser HMS Hood, one of the Royal Navy's most prized possessions. In a fierce exchange of fire, the Bismarck's superior firepower proved decisive. With a single salvo, the Hood exploded and sank within just three minutes, taking over 1,400 lives with it.

May 21-22, 1941: Elusive Pursuits

The sinking of the Hood sent shockwaves throughout the British Admiralty. Determined to avenge its fallen vessel, the Royal Navy dispatched a massive force to hunt down the Bismarck. Over the next two days, the Bismarck evaded relentless pursuit by British battleships, destroyers, and aircraft.

May 23-24, 1941: Torpedo Damage

On May 23, a torpedo launched from the British destroyer HMS Cossack struck the Bismarck's stern, damaging its steering gear and causing it to circle helplessly. The following day, a second torpedo from the destroyer HMS Dorsetshire exacerbated the damage, leaving the Bismarck crippled and vulnerable.

May 25-26, 1941: Final Assault

As the Bismarck floundered in the North Atlantic, the Royal Navy closed in for the kill. On May 25, the battleships HMS King George V and HMS Rodney bombarded the Bismarck with their massive guns. The Bismarck fought back fiercely, but its damaged hull was no match for the relentless firepower.

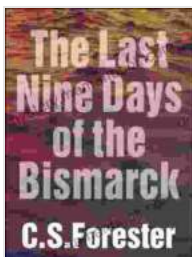
May 27, 1941: Sinking of the Bismarck

By the morning of May 27, the Bismarck was a burning wreck. Its bridge had been destroyed, its guns silenced, and its crew decimated. At 10:39 AM, the Bismarck capsized and sank beneath the waves. Of the 2,300 men aboard, only 115 survived.

Aftermath and Legacy

The sinking of the Bismarck was a major turning point in World War II. It demonstrated the Royal Navy's overwhelming naval superiority and marked the end of Germany's surface fleet as a major threat. The Bismarck's legacy, however, lived on. Its indomitable spirit and the bravery of its crew became symbols of German resilience and sacrifice during the conflict.

The last nine days of the Bismarck were a harrowing tale of maritime warfare, heroism, and ultimate tragedy. The ship's brief but eventful career left an enduring mark on naval history and stands as a testament to the fierce battles fought on the stormy seas during World War II.



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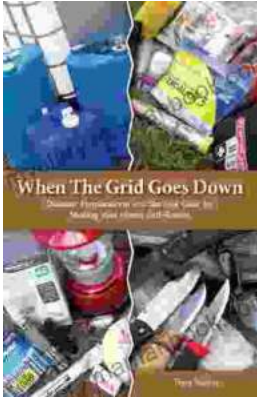
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