

# Unveiling the Extraordinary Life and Legacy of Fleet Admiral Ernest King



In the annals of American naval history, few names shine brighter than that of Fleet Admiral Ernest King. As the Chief of Naval Operations during World War II, he played a pivotal role in the Allied victory against the Axis powers.



## Master of Seapower: A Biography of Fleet Admiral

**Ernest J. King** by Thomas B. Buell

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 10398 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 658 pages



### Early Life and Naval Career

Ernest Joseph King was born in Lorain, Ohio, on November 23, 1878. From a young age, he harbored an unwavering fascination with the sea. He enrolled in the United States Naval Academy in 1897 and graduated with honors in 1901.

King's early naval career was marked by a series of distinguished assignments. He served on battleships during the Spanish-American War and later commanded destroyers during World War I. His exceptional leadership skills and tactical acumen earned him the respect of his superiors.

### Ascension to Chief of Naval Operations

With the outbreak of World War II in 1939, King's career took a decisive turn. President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed him Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet, and Chief of Naval Operations. This dual role placed King in charge of both the Pacific and Atlantic Fleets.

King's tenure as CNO was characterized by his decisive leadership and unwavering determination. He oversaw the massive expansion of the Navy, from 162 ships in 1941 to over 7,000 vessels by the end of the war.

## **Wartime Achievements**

King's leadership was instrumental in the Allied victory in the Pacific Theater. He orchestrated a string of pivotal operations, including the Battle of Midway and the island-hopping campaign. His strategic foresight and ability to coordinate vast naval forces proved invaluable.

In the Atlantic Theater, King played a key role in the Battle of the Atlantic against German U-boats. He oversaw the development of new anti-submarine technologies and tactics, helping to secure Allied shipping lanes.

## **Clash with MacArthur**

Despite his wartime achievements, King's legacy is also marked by his contentious relationship with General Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Allied Commander in the Southwest Pacific. The two men often clashed over strategy and command.

Their rivalry persisted even after the war, with MacArthur accusing King of deliberately delaying his return to the Philippines. However, King's decisions were based on strategic considerations and the need to maintain overall military coordination.

## **Postwar Career and Legacy**

After the war, King retired from the Navy in 1945. He served as United States Ambassador to the United Nations for two years before his final

retirement. King passed away in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, on June 25, 1956.

Ernest King's legacy as a naval leader is firmly established. He was a brilliant strategist, an effective commander, and a driving force behind the Allied victory in World War II. His unwavering determination and exceptional leadership skills left an enduring mark on American history.

### **Book Recommendation: Biography of Fleet Admiral Ernest King**

To delve deeper into the extraordinary life and legacy of Fleet Admiral Ernest King, we highly recommend the comprehensive biography by Thomas B. Buell.

Buell's meticulous research and captivating narrative provide a vivid account of King's early life, naval career, wartime achievements, and postwar legacy. It is an indispensable read for anyone interested in naval history, leadership, and the complexities of human character.

Free Download your copy of "Biography of Fleet Admiral Ernest King" today and experience the inspiring story of one of America's greatest naval leaders.



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