

THE LEGACY OF WWII VULNERABILITY TO MODERN WARSHIP DESIGN - LESSONS LEARNED AND FORGOTTEN

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SUMMARY

It has been 70 years since the end of WWII. The experience taught a great deal about warship vulnerability but it would be surprising if some of the lessons had not been lost. This paper reviews what is still relevant, reminds us of the biases of current practices and considers what has been lost but can be re-learned without costing the lives of ships' companies. Warships have evolved since 1945, seeing an increase in the complexity and number of weapons and sensor systems. While priorities may have changed, the lessons have not been invalidated. Vulnerability lessons of direct relevance to modern designs are presented in terms of the mitigation measures of the time and, importantly, justifications to facilitate their implementation in modern warships.