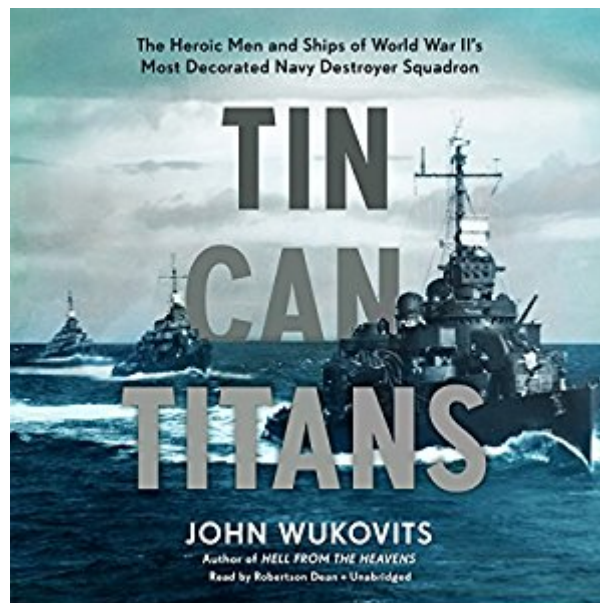




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Tin Can Titans: The Heroic Men And Ships Of World War II's Most Decorated Navy Destroyer Squadron



Synopsis

When Admiral William Halsey selected Destroyer Squadron 21 to lead his victorious ships into Tokyo Bay to accept the Japanese surrender, it was the most battle-hardened US naval squadron of the war. But it was not the squadron of ships that had accumulated such an inspiring record; it was the people serving aboard them. Sailors, not metallic superstructures and hulls, had won the battles and become the stuff of legend. Men like Commander Donald MacDonald, skipper of the USS O'Bannon, who became the most decorated naval officer of the Pacific war; Lieutenant Hugh Barr Miller, who survived his ship's sinking and waged a one-man battle against the enemy while stranded on a Japanese-occupied island; and Doctor Dow "Doc" Ransom, the beloved physician of the USS La Vallette, who combined a mixture of humor and medical expertise to treat his patients at sea epitomize the sacrifices made by all the men and women of World War II. Through diaries, personal interviews with survivors, and letters written to and by the crews during the war, preeminent historian of the Pacific theater John Wukovits brings to life the human story of the squadron and its men, who bested the Japanese in the Pacific and helped take the war to Tokyo.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As he did with "Hell From the Heavens", John Wukovits has once again come up with a stirring recollection of life aboard a U.S. Navy destroyer during World War II, but several this time instead of just one. This is the tale of Destroyer Squadron 21, or DesRon 21 as it was known. From the terrible battles around Guadalcanal through the final surrender in Tokyo Bay, DesRon 21 was there almost

every step of the way. The book tells the story of the various ships which made up the squadron, some in more detail than others, by using personal recollections of those who were there and official ship records. The tales cover a gamut of missions: convoy escorts, night-time bombardments, anti-submarine actions, invasion bombardments, rescue of fellow sailors and/or airmen, picket duty and of course, naval combat. The squadron's actions around Guadalcanal, The Slot and the other Solomon Isles take up about half the book and comprise the majority of the naval combat, followed by events in New Guinea, the Philippines, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. As you read about the exploits of DesRon 21, you'll not only learn about the horrors of naval combat in the Pacific, but you'll learn about the brave men who came from all parts of the U.S. to serve their country. The book is filled with small vignettes from a variety of men who served, and these stories are woven nicely into the greater narrative. Some ships didn't see much action as they joined at later dates or had shorter lives than their counterparts, but nearly all are represented in some depth at one point. The book does a great job of discussing the growth of the U.S. Navy from its shoestring days off Guadalcanal through the end of the war when it was the mightiest navy to ever sail the oceans. Along the way there are changes in commanders, tactics and weapons which helped make the final victory possible, although sometimes the changes didn't always work out for the best. This book will really give you a feel for life about a destroyer and makes a great companion of Wukovits' other works on naval combat. Definitely worth picking up!

The author has woven the personal recollections of naval warriors of the great Pacific battles of WWII into a coherent account of life aboard destroyers from 1941-1945. Very interesting and authentic historical read!

For the world that knows of the famous picture of the Japanese surrender aboard the USS Missouri--it was a great surprise to me to learn that the Missouri was not the lead ship entering Tokyo Bay that fateful day....it was these destroyers...the Tin Can Titans...and their remarkable combat history in the South Pacific, especially the O'Bannon. The heroics and tragedies from 1942-1945 were amazing to read of their captains and crews.

A great book about the most decorated Destroyer Squadron during the war in the Pacific. I believe any former Tin Can Sailor will really like this book. It is accurate and well written and for me, while I did not serve on a 2100 Fletcher Class Destroyer until 1961 it was one of the greatest moments in my 24-year career in the Navy.

Great book, its the second one I have read of Wukovits. Pacific Alamo is another great book of his. Tin Can Titans does a great job of telling the story of those that were for the most part forgotten throughout US Naval history. Wukovits goes to great lengths in his books to find the stories less told from WW2. The Tin Cans kept the US Navy afloat until we could recover from Pearl Harbor. As a result a lot of the new and bigger boats in the Naval fleet received most of the credit through the remainder of the war. This book does a great job of telling some of the lesser known naval missions. The generation that fought and won WW2 was truly the greatest generation our country has ever produced.

A well written book about ww2. Destroyers in the Pacific. A must read for all ww2 nutsExcellent picture s. In the book

As the son of a Navy veteran that provided battle damage repairs on a few of these destroyers and many others from Bougainville to Okinawa aboard the USS Aristaeus ARB-1, I found this book incredibly informative and moving. Particularly Orvill Raines' posthumous letter to his widowed wife. Tin Can Titans provides an insight into living 24/7 at the broken end of a bottle. Death can come at any second from mine, torpedo, enemy shore battery or from the air. If your Father, Grandfather or other relative served in the Pacific in World War II, this is a must read.

Courage, bravery and determination of the officers and men of DESRON 21 well documented in a masterful tale, for a student of naval history, it was hard to put down. You feel that you were there with the brave men who served in those trying times, Definitely a must read!

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