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# Sea Of Thunder Four Commanders And The Last Great Naval Campaign 1941 1945 Evan Thomas

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the art of war Simon and Schuster  
Admiral Hyman Rickover personally revolutionized naval warfare and altered the outcome of the Cold War. Concurrently he drove innovation into American industry -- which in the decades since has proven to be a wellspring of power for American technology. As a touchstone of his success, during Rickover ' s stewardship the Russians had literally dozens of reactor accidents, but Rickover ' s single-minded focus on safety

protected Americans as well as and our lands from nuclear contamination. Rickover did all of this initially by the force of his own personality and eventually by insisting on radical culture change. The author had the good fortune to personally know and be involved with Admiral Rickover as well as many of the most interesting players and protagonists during much of this thirty year process of wrenching cultural upheaval. The author leaves detailed biographical details of Rickover to others, instead

focusing on previously unknown historical events in which he personally participated or had unique knowledge which highlight the management and leadership principles behind Rickover ' s achievements and place important events (President Eisenhower choosing nuclear submarines to counter Sputnik, development of the Polaris Fleet, the relationship of Admirals Zumwalt and Rickover, the loss of USS Scorpion, the superiority of the American submarines over the Soviet fleet, etc.) in an

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historical perspective. Because of his life's work, the author is uniquely qualified to apply many of Rickover's principles to other situations. For example, Dave well understands the particular navy culture Rickover had to destroy for the author began his own career on a diesel boat. Similarly since the author spent a decade in US industry as either the Chief Executive Officer or the Chief Operating Officer, he understands how to identify situations where Rickover's principles can be applied to industry

circumstances. This is done at the end of each chapter in the book, thus providing a starting point for any who wish to use this source for case studies.

#### Against the Tide Public Affairs

Admiral Stavridis, a leader in military, international affairs, and national security circles, shares his love of the sea and some of the sources of that affection. The Sailor's Bookshelf offers synopses of fifty books that illustrate the history, importance, lore, and lifestyle of the oceans and of those who "go down

to the sea in ships." Stavridis colors those descriptions with glimpses of his own service—"sea stories" in popular parlance—that not only clarify his choices but show why he is held in such high esteem among his fellow sailors. Divided into four main categories—The Oceans, Explorers, Sailors in Fiction, and Sailors in Non-Fiction—Admiral Stavridis' choices will appeal to "old salts" and to those who have never known the sights of the ever-changing seascape nor breathed the tonic of an ocean breeze.

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The result is a navigational aid that guides readers through the realm of sea literature, covering a spectrum of topics that range from science to aesthetics, from history to modernity, from solo sailing to great battles. Among these eclectic choices are guides to shiphandling and navigation, classic fiction that pits man against the sea, ecological and strategic challenges, celebrations of great achievements and the lessons that come with failure, economic competition and its

stepbrother combat, explorations of the deep, and poetry that beats with the pulse of the wave. Some of the included titles are familiar to many, while others, are likely less well-known but are welcome additions to this encompassing collection. Admiral Stavridis has chosen some books that are relatively recent, and he recommends other works which have been around much longer and deserve recognition.

*Tin Can Sailors Save the Day*  
Random House

Winner of the Northern California Book Award for Nonfiction "Both a serious work of history...and a marvelously readable dramatic narrative." —San Francisco Chronicle On the first Sunday in December 1941, an armada of Japanese warplanes appeared suddenly over Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and devastated the U.S. Pacific Fleet. Six months later, in a sea fight north of the tiny atoll of Midway, four Japanese aircraft carriers were sent into the abyss, a blow that destroyed the

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offensive power of their fleet. Pacific Crucible—through a dramatic narrative relying predominantly on primary sources and eyewitness accounts of heroism and sacrifice from both navies—tells the epic tale of these first searing months of the Pacific war, when the U.S. Navy shook off the worst defeat in American military history to seize the strategic initiative.

**The Man to See** A&C  
Black

This book is an analysis of the

primary documentation from both the Japanese and the United States for the naval Battle off Samar which took place on October 25, 1944. The conclusions of the analysis differ greatly from what has been previously written; there are many revelations about the true role of the famous vessels on each side and about the oft-questioned thinking of the

contending admirals. There are hundreds of photos and drawings and several hundred footnotes within the book, each placed within the text at the moment they occurred. This allows the reader to witness the battle as it played out, literally salvo for salvo, with complete confidence in the accuracy of the narration. Essential reading for anyone interested in battleship combat,

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the naval history of World War II, the Battle off Samar, or the U.S. and Japanese navies.

### The War Below Simon and Schuster

Based on in-depth reporting by a special team of Newsweek reporters and written by bestselling author Evan Thomas, *A Long Time Coming* tells the inside story of Barack Obama's triumph over Senator John McCain to become the first African-American U.S. president. In juicy detail, it chronicles the

long siege between Obama and Hillary Clinton, the wild ride of John McCain, and the explosive arrival of Sarah Palin. Finally, it shows how Obama overcame times of vexation and self-doubt to transform himself from the consummate outsider to the confident leader of an unstoppable political movement—one that brought hope and the possibility of redemption to the United States.

*Thunder Below!* PublicAffairs  
The fall of Singapore and the brilliant victories achieved

since the start of the war mean we are protected, but I don't know just how grateful I should be. —Takahashi Aiko, housewife, February 1942  
This is my final departure from the home islands. I have paid my respects to those who have helped me. I have no regrets. —Itabashi Yasuo, navy kamikaze pilot, February 1944  
We had rice gruel for lunch again. There was no tofu in it, but there were potatoes.... We went through with the closing ceremony and received our report cards. Everyone was there. From now on, I'll persevere and not fail.

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—Manabe Ichiro, primary school student, July 1944 This collection of diaries gives readers a powerful, firsthand look at the effects of the Pacific War on eight ordinary Japanese. Immediate, vivid, and at times surprisingly frank, the diaries chronicle the last years of the war and its aftermath as experienced by a navy kamikaze pilot, an army straggler on Okinawa, an elderly Kyoto businessman, a Tokyo housewife, a young working woman in Tokyo, a teenage girl mobilized for war work, and two schoolchildren evacuated to the countryside.

Samuel Yamashita 's introduction provides a helpful overview of the historiography on wartime Japan and offers valuable insights into the important, everyday issues that concerned Japanese during a different and disastrously difficult time.

Shattered Sword Simon and Schuster

On 27 October 1942, four 'Long Lance' torpedoes fired by the Japanese destroyers Makigumo and Akigumo exploded in the hull of the aircraft carrier USS Hornet (CV-8). Minutes later, the ship that had launched the Doolittle

Raid six months earlier slipped beneath the waves of the Coral Sea. Of the pre-war carrier fleet the Navy had struggled to build over 15 years, only three were left: USS Enterprise, which had been badly damaged in the battle of Santa Cruz; USS Saratoga (CV-3) which lay in dry dock, victim of a Japanese submarine torpedo; and the USS Ranger (CV-4), which was in the mid-Atlantic on her way to support Operation Torch. For the American naval aviators licking their wounds in the aftermath of this defeat, it would be difficult to imagine that within 24 months of this

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event, Zuikaku, the last survivor of the carriers that had attacked Pearl Harbor, would lie at the bottom of the sea. Alongside it lay the other surviving Japanese carriers, sacrificed as lures in a failed attempt to block the American invasion of the Philippines, leaving the United States to reign supreme on the world's largest ocean. Now publishing in paperback, this is the fascinating account of the Central Pacific campaign, one of the most stunning comebacks in naval history, as in just 14 months the US Navy went from the jaws of defeat to the brink of victory in the Pacific.

The British Navy Book Simon and Schuster  
Evan Thomas takes us inside the naval war of 1941-1945 in the South Pacific in a way that blends the best of military and cultural history and riveting narrative drama. He follows four men throughout: Admiral William ("Bull") Halsey, the macho, gallant, racist American fleet commander; Admiral Takeo Kurita, the Japanese battleship commander charged with making what was, in essence, a suicidal fleet attack against the American invasion of the Philippines; Admiral Matome Ugaki, a self-styled samurai who was the commander of all kamikazes and himself the last kamikaze of the

war; and Commander Ernest Evans, a Cherokee Indian and Annapolis graduate who led his destroyer on the last great charge in the last great naval battle in history. Sea of Thunder climaxes with the Battle of Leyte Gulf, the biggest naval battle ever fought, over four bloody and harrowing days in October 1944. We see Halsey make an epic blunder just as he reaches for true glory; we see the Japanese navy literally sailing in circles, torn between the desire to die heroically and the exhausted, unacceptable realization that death is futile; we sail with Commander Evans and the men of the USS Johnston into the jaws of the Japanese fleet and exult and suffer with them as they



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torpedo a cruiser, bluff and confuse the enemy -- and then, their ship sunk, endure fifty horrific hours in shark-infested water. Thomas, a journalist and historian, traveled to Japan, where he interviewed veterans of the Imperial Japanese Navy who survived the Battle of Leyte Gulf and friends and family of the two Japanese admirals. From new documents and interviews, he was able to piece together and answer mysteries about the Battle of Leyte Gulf that have puzzled historians for decades. He writes with a knowing feel for the clash of cultures. *Sea of Thunder* is a taut, fast-paced, suspenseful narrative of the last great naval war, an important contribution to the history of the

Second World War.

[The Battle For Leyte Gulf \[Illustrated Edition\]](#) Simon and Schuster

On November 30, 1916, an apparently ordinary freighter left harbor in Kiel, Germany, and would not touch land again for another fifteen months. It was the beginning of an astounding 64,000-mile voyage that was to take the ship around the world, leaving a trail of destruction and devastation in her wake. For this was no ordinary freighter—this was the *Wolf*, a disguised

German warship. In this gripping account of an audacious and lethal World War I expedition, Richard Guillatt and Peter Hohnen depict the *Wolf*'s assignment: to terrorize distant ports of the British Empire by laying minefields and sinking freighters, thus hastening Germany's goal of starving her enemy into submission. Yet to maintain secrecy, she could never pull into port or use her radio, and to comply with the rules of sea warfare, her captain fastidiously tried to avoid

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killing civilians aboard the merchant ships he attacked, taking their crews and passengers prisoner before sinking the vessels. The Wolf thus became a huge floating prison, with more than 400 captives, including a number of women and children, from twenty-five different nations. Sexual affairs were kindled between the German crew and some female prisoners. A six-year-old American girl, captured while sailing across the Pacific with her parents, was adopted as a mascot by the Germans. Forced to survive on food and fuel plundered from other ships, facing death from scurvy, and hunted by the combined navies of five Allied nations, the Germans and their prisoners came to share a common bond. The will to survive transcended enmities of race, class, and nationality. It was to be one of the most daring clandestine naval missions of modern times. Under the command of Captain Karl Nerger, who conducted his deadly business with an admirable sense of chivalry, the Wolf traversed three of the world's major oceans and destroyed more than thirty Allied vessels. We learn of the world through which the Wolf moved, with all its social divisions and xenophobia, its bravery and stoicism, its combination of old-world social mores and rapid technological change. The story of this epic voyage is a vivid real-life narrative and simultaneously a richly detailed picture of a world being profoundly transformed by war. The War Lovers Naval

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Institute Press  
The New York Times  
bestseller from master  
biographer Evan Thomas  
brings to life the tumultuous  
story of the father of the  
American Navy. John Paul  
Jones, at sea and in the heat of  
the battle, was the great  
American hero of the Age of  
Sail. He was to history what  
Patrick O' Brian's Jack  
Aubrey and C.S. Forester's  
Horatio Hornblower are to  
fiction. Ruthless, indomitable,  
clever; he vowed to sail, as he  
put it, "in harm's way."  
Evan Thomas's minute-by-  
minute re-creation of the

bloodbath between Jones's  
Bonhomme Richard and the  
British man-of-war Serapis off  
the coast of England on an  
autumn night in 1779 is as  
gripping a sea battle as can be  
found in any novel. Drawing on  
Jones's correspondence with  
some of the most significant  
figures of the American  
Revolution—John Adams,  
Benjamin Franklin, Thomas  
Jefferson—Thomas's  
biography teaches us that it  
took fighters as well as thinkers,  
men driven by dreams of  
personal glory as well as high-  
minded principle, to break free  
of the past and start a new

world. Jones's spirit was  
classically American.  
The Wolf W. W. Norton &  
Company  
On February 15, 1898, the  
American ship USS Maine  
mysteriously exploded in the  
Havana Harbor. News of the  
blast quickly reached U.S.  
shores, where it was met by  
some not with alarm but  
great enthusiasm. A powerful  
group of war lovers agitated  
that the United States exert  
its muscle across the seas.  
Theodore Roosevelt and  
Henry Cabot Lodge were  
influential politicians

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dismayed by the "closing" of the Western frontier. William Randolph Hearst's New York Journal falsely heralded that Spain's "secret infernal machine" had destroyed the battleship as Hearst himself saw great potential in whipping Americans into a frenzy. The Maine would provide the excuse they'd been waiting for. On the other side were Roosevelt's former teacher, philosopher William James, and his friend and political ally, Thomas Reed, the powerful Speaker of the House. Both foresaw a disaster. At stake was not only sending troops to Cuba and the Philippines, Spain's sprawling colony on the other side of the world-but the friendships between these men. Now, bestselling historian Evan Thomas brings us the full story of this monumental turning point in American history. Epic in scope and revelatory in detail, *The War Lovers* takes us from Boston mansions to the halls of Congress to the beaches of Cuba and the jungles of the Philippines. It is landmark work with an unforgettable cast of characters-and provocative relevance to today.

[The Very Best Men](#) Simon and Schuster

The thunderous roar of exploding depth charges was a familiar and comforting sound to the crew members of the USS Barb, who frequently found themselves somewhere between enemy fire and Davy Jones's locker. Under the leadership of her fearless skipper, Captain Gene Fluckey, the Barb sank the greatest tonnage of any American sub in World War II. At the same time, the Barb

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did far more than merely sink ships-she changed forever the way submarines stalk and kill their prey. This is a gripping adventure chock-full of "you-are-there" moments. Fluckey has drawn on logs, reports, letters, interviews, and a recently discovered illegal diary kept by one of his torpedomen. And in a fascinating twist, he uses archival documents from the Japanese Navy to give its version of events. The unique story of the Barb begins with its men, who had the confidence to become unbeatable. Each team helped develop innovative ideas, new tactics, and new

strategies. All strove for personal excellence, and success became contagious. Instead of lying in wait under the waves, the USS Barb pursued enemy ships on the surface, attacking in the swift and precise style of torpedo boats. She was the first sub to use rocket missiles and to creep up on enemy convoys at night, joining the flank escort line from astern, darting in and out as she sank ships up the column. Surface-cruising, diving only to escape, "Luckey Fluckey" relentlessly patrolled the Pacific, driving his boat and crew to their limits. There can be no greater contrast to

modern warfare's long-distance, videogame style of battle than the exploits of the captain and crew of the USS Barb, where they sub, out of ammunition, actually rammed an enemy ship until it sank. Thunder Below! is a first-rate, true-life, inspirational story of the courage and heroism of ordinary men under fire. History of the Unified Command Plan Simon and Schuster  
Traces the dramatic story of the submarine force that changed the course of World War II through strategic campaigns involving Japan's

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merchant fleet and economy, revealing the formidable obstacles faced by the crews of three submarines. *Sea of Thunder* Weidenfeld & Nicolson  
Chester Nimitz was an admiral's Admiral, considered by many to be the greatest naval leader of the last century. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Nimitz assembled the forces, selected the leaders, and - as commander of all U.S. and Allied air, land, and sea forces in the Pacific Ocean - led the charge one island at a time, one battle at a time, toward victory. A brilliant strategist, he

astounded contemporaries by achieving military victories against fantastic odds, outpacing more flamboyant luminaries like General Douglas MacArthur and Admiral "Bull" Halsey. And he was there to accept, on behalf of the United States, the surrender of the Japanese aboard the battleship USS Missouri in August 1945. In this first biography in over three decades, Brayton Harris uses long-overlooked files and recently declassified documents to bring to life one of America's greatest wartime heroes. John Paul Jones University of

Illinois Press

The true story of the lead pilot of the Pearl Harbor attack and his conversion to Christianity. "As I looked across at my companion, I marveled afresh at the goodness of God-this man was my enemy; now he is my brother! Such is the miracle of the grace of God." —Rev. Elmer Sachs, Director of Sky Pilots International. These words were written of Mitsuo Fuchida, who led the first wave of the air attacks on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 as a Captain in the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service. After the war, Fuchida was introduced to the gospel through the testimony of Jacob DeShazer. He began reading the Bible and

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eleven years after Pearl Harbor, he became a Christian. Fuchida spoke boldly of his conversion in his native Japan, and a few years later, he was recruited by Rev. Elmer Sachs to join Sky Pilots International. He came to the United States where he had the opportunity to share his story across the country. From Pearl Harbor to Calvary is the story of Mitsuo Fuchida ' s conversion and ministry in his own words. Central to his narrative is the message that God works through even the most improbable of circumstances to further the gospel.

Ike's Bluff Little, Brown

Evan Thomas's startling account of how the underrated Dwight

Eisenhower saved the world from nuclear holocaust. Upon assuming the presidency in 1953, Dwight Eisenhower set about to make good on his campaign promise to end the Korean War. Yet while Eisenhower was quickly viewed by many as a doddering lightweight, behind the bland smile and simple speech was a master tactician. To end the hostilities, Eisenhower would take a colossal risk by bluffing that he might use nuclear weapons against the Communist Chinese, while at the same time restraining his generals and advisors who favored the strikes. Ike's gamble was of such magnitude that there could be but two outcomes: thousands of lives saved, or millions of lives lost. A

tense, vivid and revisionist account of a president who was then, and still is today, underestimated, IKE'S BLUFF is history at its most provocative and thrilling.

Robert Kennedy Naval Institute Press

Describes the life of the First Lady of South Vietnam, a glamorous, sexy and controversial figure known as the " Dragon Lady " who lived in exile after a U.S.-backed coup killed her husband and brother-in-law during the Vietnam War.

Being Nixon Bloomsbury Publishing

Dr Robert Ballard's challenge for this work was to discover

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and photograph the ships sunk in the Battle of Midway, one of the most dramatic engagements of the Pacific War. After the bombing of Pearl Harbour in 1941, the Imperial Japanese Navy seemed almost unstoppable, and a final strike in Midway Island was planned by Admiral Yamamoto for June 1942. But the Americans, aware of the plan, were prepared for the attack and in a great victory sank three of the four Japanese carriers, losing only one of their own. The battle was a turning point in the Pacific War and never again would Japan take the offensive.

The story of this battle is illustrated using Ballard's underwater photographs of the ships' remains, and Ken Marschall's evocative paintings. Sea of Thunder Library of Alexandria  
A suspenseful account of the Battle of Leyte Gulf in October 1944 is told through the commands of four naval leaders, including two American commanders and two Japanese admirals, and offers insight into how the war reflected profound cultural differences. 100,000 first printing.  
Pacific Crucible: War at Sea

in the Pacific, 1941-1942 (Vol. 1) (The Pacific War Trilogy) Simon and Schuster  
A New York Times Notable Book of the Year, winner of the Southern Book Critics Circle Award and the Lillian Smith Award. An American epic of science, politics, race, honor, high society, and the Mississippi River, Rising Tide tells the riveting and nearly forgotten story of the Great Mississippi Flood of 1927. The river inundated the homes of almost one million people, helped elect Huey Long governor and



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made Herbert Hoover president, drove hundreds of thousands of African Americans north, and transformed American society and politics forever. The flood brought with it a human storm: white and black collided, honor and money collided, regional and national powers collided. New Orleans ' s elite used their power to divert the flood to those without political connections, power, or wealth, while causing Black sharecroppers to abandon their land to flee up

north. The states were unprepared for this disaster and failed to support the Black community. The racial divides only widened when a white officer killed a Black man for refusing to return to work on levee repairs after a sleepless night of work. In the powerful prose of *Rising Tide*, John M. Barry removes any remaining veil that there had been equality in the South. This flood not only left millions of people ruined, but further emphasized the racial inequality that have continued even to this day.