

THE AMPHIBIANS ARE COMING!

by William L. McGee

Book Review by Charles J. Adams Jr.
USS LST-281 (1943-1946, Normandy, So. France, Okinawa)

It was back in WWII. You remember that war? It was in all the papers! The U.S. Navy amphibious fleet was both glorious and damned. Days of triumph and tragedy. Weeks and months of grandeur and misery. It's all described and recounted in Bill McGee's newest book, "The Amphibians Are Coming!" In my opinion, "a must read" for all shipmates of the *Gator Navy*.

Whether your landing craft duty was the European Theater or you helped push the Japanese off the Pacific islands, this is an excellent chronicle of your participation. McGee's book combines the testimony of the amphibians that witnessed the terrible costs of combat, with the hindsight of scholars. The book unrolls the images of "our war."

No matter how you turn to the pages, for reference, enlightenment or nostalgia, you will immediately rediscover your own life, and the lives of ordinary guys who helped save the world from becoming the domain of mad men. The tome's underlying objective is to give an insight into the importance of the landing craft and the unsung heroic crews who operated them.

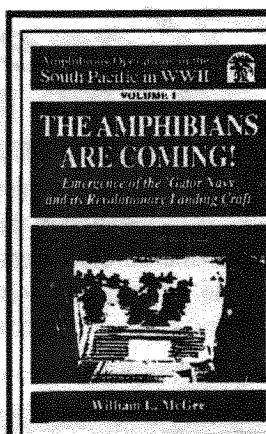
Many brave men fought and died. You fought and did not die though you were witness to a great many shipmates that did. The "Amphibians" is not a glorifier of the men that wear the red-shielded patch (Eagle+Gun+Anchor). Rather it is a study of the development of the Navy's many landing vessels. It is an insight and true understanding of the crew formations, training and the ultimate speed with which the assault troops were put ashore on the Tojo- and Hitler-dominated territories.

The thousands of LSTs, LCTs, LCIs, LCMs and LCVPs (et al) were the mainstay and chief support of the landing of Allied combat teams onto hostile beaches from Africa and France to the Pacific atolls and islands.

Bill McGee joined the U.S. Navy in 1942. He writes from the perspective of a volunteer enlisted man who "has been

there and done that." It is a factual historical biography of "how it was."

"How it was" was some of the most influential events in the 20th century. It was the greatest allied military operation in history, combining the efforts of land, sea and air forces. The so-called "Good War" fades further and further from our memory. We, who are able to give first-hand accounts of the grief and destruction, are passing away everyday. "The Amphibians Are Coming!" is both accurate and comprehensible. It is a necessary addition to our libraries.



The Amphibians Are Coming! by William L. McGee

A biographical history of the revolutionary World War II landing craft and the brave men who manned them. McGee's exhaustive research, hundreds of live interviews and a point-blank writing style combine to capture the very essence of amphib assignments in the WWII 'Gator Navy. One critic called the book "a must read!"

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PTO--A Preliminary report on LCTs in the Pacific from previously published sources. Illustrated.