

## Press Releases

### ***THE AMPHIBIANS ARE COMING!***

#### **Volume I in William L. McGee's "Amphibious Operations" series upholds the memory of the "Greatest Generation"**

SANTA BARBARA, CA, January 1, 2001—*The Amphibians Are Coming! Emergence of the 'Gator Navy and its Revolutionary Landing Craft*, by William L. McGee—a veteran of the World War II Navy—is the first of a three-volume series titled *Amphibious Operations in the South Pacific in WWII*.

The primary objective of McGee's Volume I is to provide a close-up look at the revolutionary new World War II shore-to-shore landing ships and craft and the unsung heroes who manned them.

- Chapter 1 covers a brief American history of amphibious operations—one of the most difficult problems in warfare—from the Revolutionary War to the 1942 Guadalcanal and North Africa campaigns.
- Chapter 2 profiles the famed "Green Dragons"—the World War I flush-deck, four-stack destroyers converted into high-speed transports (APDs) with accommodations for assault troops—which filled a pressing Marine Corps need for ship-to-shore delivery prior to the arrival of the new landing craft.
- Subsequent chapters focus in on the Flotilla Five crews and their vessel types.

In case you don't speak "Navy," McGee spells it out for us as needed. For example, LCTs are Landing Craft, Tank; LSTs, Landing Ship, Tank; and LCIs, Landing Craft, Infantry.

The Flotilla ("Flot") Five LCTs, LSTs and LCIs were the first of the larger U.S.-built shore-to-shore landing craft to be integrated into an amphibious task force in WWII (Solomons, June 1943).

The biographies of each "Flot Five" vessel type and crew range from ship design and construction, stateside training, crew and flotilla formations, to on-the-job warfare training in the Southern Solomons in preparation for their first invasion of enemy-held territory.

McGee does a masterful job of conveying the reality of shipboard life: the tedious voyage from the States to Guadalcanal, with its drills, breakdowns, and more drills, and the endless waiting followed by an afternoon of sheer terror during a Japanese 120-plane bombing and strafing raid.

More than a hundred Flot Five veterans were personally interviewed by McGee for this book. The net result of his diligence: many amusing and heroic stories providing a change of pace from the recounting of historic events.

John A. McNeill, a former LCT skipper interviewed for the book, had this to say after reading the manuscript:

*"A fascinating and accurate history on the landing ships and craft of World War II and a welcome addition to the short list of books on the subject. I look forward to your next two volumes on the Pacific War. For me, it's a long-awaited dream since they deal with my kind of war. You've brought great pride and joy to thousands who were there, and to future generations who will learn how America fought in the Forties."*

McGee joined the U.S. Navy in 1942. He writes from the unique perspective of a volunteer enlisted man, one who has *"been there and done that."* On his first deployment to the South Pacific, he was greeted by a major air attack, followed by the torpedoings of two navy cargo ships in his Task Unit—both actions occurring within two weeks of his arrival in the Solomons Islands. He is the author of nine other books on broadcast advertising, sales and marketing.

***The Amphibians Are Coming!  
Emergence of the 'Gator Navy and its Revolutionary Landing Craft, Volume 1  
Amphibious Operations in the South Pacific in WWII series***

by William L. McGee

\$29.95, Softcover, 308 pages, 110 photos and illustrations, plus appendices, notes, bibliography and index, 6 x 9, ISBN 0-9701678-6-5, BMC Publications, 2000.

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