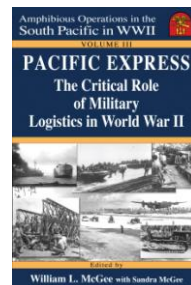
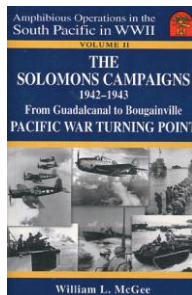
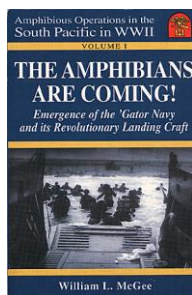


EDITORIAL REVIEWS

Amphibious Operations in the South Pacific in World War II***A Pacific war trilogy***

By William L. McGee

(BMC Publications, 2000, 2001, 2009)

***MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, Summer 2002***

Blow by Blow Through the Solomons - One real-life incident during World War II was the inspiration for the box office success, "Saving Private Ryan"....***However, there is enough gripping drama, heroism, and heartbreak in McGee's almost encyclopedic The Solomons Campaigns to supply Hollywood with material for a century....***

It is difficult to select what to excerpt from his narrative, because his spare but effective style is as precise and economical as a Mickey Spillane novel....His narrative is copiously supplemented with photographs, tables, stats, command lists, and even official critiques of operations and lessons learned. He drew extensively on a variety of sources to tell the whole tale: records of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Navy, Marine, Army and Army Air Corps archives, Japanese records, veterans' accounts, memoirs, and other histories of the campaigns. And, as with a good Spillane novel, his tale bears repeated readings.

—Edward Cline

LIBRARY JOURNAL, March 1, 2002

A World War II navy veteran and prolific author, ***McGee has written the second of a three-volume set that will form a definitive account of naval, sea, and land operations in the South Pacific***, where America's response to Pearl Harbor began. McGee's narrative coverage in this second volume is encyclopedic, providing concise details of operations, often on a daily basis. His introductory essay is an informative summary of events from 1931 to 1941 that illustrates how these events led up to World War II. An exhaustive list of sources and notes creates a solid background for a detailed but readable text. In addition to battle history, the book discusses logistics, tactics, and the deployment of forces. Most useful is the author's analysis of the campaigns ("Lessons Learned in the Solomons"). Numerous interviews and recollections of veterans bring in the war's human side, and a long list of military abbreviations and designations aids the reader, as do photos, maps, and charts. ***This work is a thoroughgoing historical record and analysis that historians and scholars will find invaluable.*** Recommended for academic and large public libraries and for specialized collections.—David M. Alperstein

LEATHERNECK, Magazine of the Marines, April 2002

Author William L. McGee's work [*The Solomon's Campaigns*] is intended to accomplish a mighty task: to encompass the entire Solomons campaigns in a single, detailed study. **The result is a masterpiece** outlining U.S. Navy and Marine Corps operations in the South Pacific from Aug. 7, 1942, through Nov. 25, 1943. As McGee points out, there is no other single work of this detail that covers such a large expanse in time and space....

McGee is particularly qualified to document the Solomons campaigns. He knows the fear and frustration of torpedo and aerial attack, the monotony of endless watches and the thrill of victory because he was a young enlisted sailor serving in the waters off Guadalcanal, as well as during other engagements throughout the Pacific campaign....The reader who desires to see life through the eyes of the men who actually manned the guns, fought the fires and stood mind-numbing "go on, stay on" watches, will come away with an enlightened appreciation of just how good our sailors and Marines are.

The indexes and appendices are the book's crown jewels—detailed and easily accessible as a starting point for further research. McGee has done an absolute superb job here, and future authors will benefit from his efforts. Overall, the book is a great read worthy of any Marine's time and efforts.—*Capt. Scott E. Ukeiley*

WW II HISTORY, March 2003

The Solomons Campaigns is a broad-ranging and informative study, **a masterwork of extensive research, brisk prose, and convincing analysis**. Besides being a wonderfully comprehensive overview of operations in the Solomons, from Tulagi and Savo Island to Tassafaronga and Rennell Island, McGee's volume provides considerable detail about the American and Japanese sea, ground, and air units involved; planning and logistics, leaders and heroes, equipment and weaponry; the costs and lessons learned.

LEATHERNECK, Magazine of the Marines, July 2001

William L. McGee both built and served with amphibians in the early days of the Guadalcanal invasion. He has authored the first of his intended three-volume treatment of the WWII Gator Navy in the Pacific. The reader is regaled with the tales of the first amphibians and the men who sailed them. Through ships' logs, war diaries and oral histories, we learn about the experiences of these early "plankowners" of "Earlybird" Flotilla Five. For the most part, they were naval novelists, and we can catch a small glimpse of their enormous tasks, trials and challenges....

We look forward to the next two volumes of the series. This first volume is an easy read. It recalls the saga of an oft neglected but highly hazardous aspect of America's naval war waged in the vast and expansive waters of the Pacific Ocean and will prove **a welcome reference library addition**.—*Robert Loring*

MILITARY, June 2001

The author is to be commended for the research and excellent preparation of *The Amphibians Are Coming!* For me, it tied me closer to the Navy we were a part of.
—*Francis Hepburn*

SEA CLASSICS, April 2002

William L. McGee is no novice when it comes to writing. He's written nine books; two of them best-sellers. Nor is he an armchair historian. He lived much of what he writes about as a volunteer enlisted man who joined up in '42 simply because he wanted to get in the fight. And this he did in spades. His first action occurred the day he arrived in the South Pacific when his ship was attacked by a flight of Japanese bombers. From that day on McGee was up to his armpits in the Pacific War!

A prolific writer and astute historian, McGee's latest effort is part of a series dedicated to the Navy's amphibious forces of WWII. First published late in 1999, Volume I, "The Amphibians Are Coming!" was an immediate sell-out and has now been reprinted. Volume II, "The Solomons Campaigns," carries a 2002 indicia and is now available. Volume III, "Pacific Express", won't be ready for a few years.

What we have here is a very readable biographical history of revolutionary WWII landing craft...and their crews. Volume I focuses on the landing craft themselves: their evolution, baptism of fire, training and deployment as the tip of the sword in every amphibious Pacific invasion. McGee offers immense detail on these unique flat-bottomed vessels—the LCTs, LCIs, LSTs and LSMs that formed the sea-going ridge which took us to Tokyo. He also examines the background of amphibious warfare, how it was employed in North Africa, and profiles other interesting vessels like the "Green Dragon" high-speed destroyer transports which presaged many of the landing craft. All in all, this volume is an amazing job of research and skillful presentation.

This same penchant for authentic detail is evident in McGee's latest companion volume entitled "The Solomons Campaigns: 1942-1943." Certainly one of the longest of the hard-fought Pacific battles, the six month campaign to secure these islands fills Volume II with enough dynamic action, derring-do, brutal horror and conflict to keep one on the edge of his chair for days on end. Astute use of photos and maps helps clarify many engagements, making these offerings a must read for anyone interested in the perils of amphibious warfare.—*Rod E. Redman & Myrle Chivers*

SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS, April 7, 2002

The Solomons Campaigns is filled with graphic photographs, maps and even daily journal entries on the various aspects of Solomons Islands campaigns. Not only does one follow the landing craft warfare, but the ground fighting, the air war and naval battles as well. Mr. McGee shows both sides of the conflict.—*Fred Klein*

SEA HISTORY, NATIONAL MARITIME HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Winter 2000-01

The author's background as shipyard worker and later participant in Pacific landings in World War II gives authenticity and spice to this account of the conception, growth, and operations of U.S. landing craft in the Pacific theater.

THE ELSIE ITEM, Newsletter of the USS LCI National Association, Inc., March 2001

If your children or grandchildren have ever asked, "What did you do in the war?" then point them to McGee's *The Amphibians Are Coming!*

Bill McGee, a prolific author and veteran of naval service in the South Pacific, has written a book that will do any "Amphibian" proud. He has managed by dint of exceptional research and extensive interviews, to perfectly blend the historical development of naval amphibious forces with humorous anecdotal references. You will find yourself chuckling and nodding in the affirmative as you recall your own moments of terror, mind-numbing boredom and outrageous pranks.

McGee tells his story by following the formations of the Flotilla 5 LCTs, LSTs and LCIs, from the formation of their crews in the states, through their training (or lack thereof), crossing the Pacific, and their arrival and operations in the Solomon Islands group. It is a compelling story of "green" crews, "green" officers, "green" dragons, and "green" camouflage.

Throughout the book, you will find yourself saying, "Yup, that was us." Read this book and I will guarantee that you will have a renewed respect for the guy you see in the mirror every morning.—Howard Clarkson, *USS LCI National Association*

SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS, December 3, 2000

The Amphibians Are Coming! Is the first of an ambitious three-book series of amphibious operations in the South Pacific during World War II...The author lets the reader witness the naval adventures.—Fred Klein

MIDWEST BOOK REVIEW, December 2000

A deeply engaging biographical history of World War II ship-to-shore landing craft and their crews...A welcome and informative addition to personal, academic, and community library World War II history and reference collections.