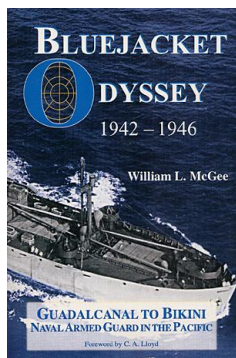


EDITORIAL REVIEWS

**Bluejacket Odyssey, 1942-1946****Guadalcanal to Bikini, Naval Armed Guard in the Pacific**

by William L. McGee

(BMC Publications, 1997, 2000)

NAVAL HISTORY, January/February 1999

Memoirs of World War II duty on board naval combatant vessels of every type crowd the bookshelves, but little has been written about service in the Armed Guard, in which nearly 145,000 men served. William L. McGee, in "Bluejacket Odyssey," remedies this deficiency to the extent that one volume can....Drawing upon a meticulously maintained diary, McGee's report is written from the viewpoint of the enlisted man....The greatest merit of "Bluejacket Odyssey" is that it offers a clear picture of the duties and dangers of service in the Armed Guard. As a source of first-hand information on this type of naval experience, the book has value for historians.—Colonel Lane C. Kendall, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve (Retired)

MILITARY, August 1998

Those who entered service as young enlistees, eager to know what men know, and do those things that men do—or at least what they think men do—will see their reflections in this book. Combat veterans may find themselves drawn into the action by McGee's honest prose. Accounts by other participants in the action broaden the scene and color it deadily. You might catch yourself resisting the urge to look behind you for a Japanese plane, its determined pilot boring in at your back.

War called McGee toward the sea to make ships. At 17, he enlisted. The Marine physical ruled him out, so he joined the Navy. The fastest way to the open sea, and the war waged for its control, was through gunnery school and a berth aboard a merchant vessel as a member of the Navy's Armed Guard....McGee and his shipmates lived through a series of surprises, their world expanded as for puppies escaped from their world in a cardboard box. Innocence gave way to experience to the survivors. After war's end, McGee was reassigned to a modern warship. He sailed aboard it to a long, memorable post-war Navy experience: the beautiful, but sobering, Bikini Atoll atomic bomb tests.

In four years, McGee grew away from the innocent, young cowboy—who didn't get away with using 'heck' or 'darn'—into the salty life of a young sailor in a world at war. He tells his story with a candid eye, and without embellishment. It's McGee's honesty, clarity, and respect for his subject, that impresses.—David A. Strongin, USA (Retired)

SEA CLASSICS, December 1997

The story of a generation of Armed Guards....Well written, the book is an honest, factual story—laced with humor.—*Merle Chivers*

SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS, December 7, 1997

The real color is revealed through McGee's detailed daily journal, interviews with former shipmates, and declassified documents. All is further brought to life via photos and illustrations in an in-depth look at one aspect of wartime adventure.—*Fred Klein*