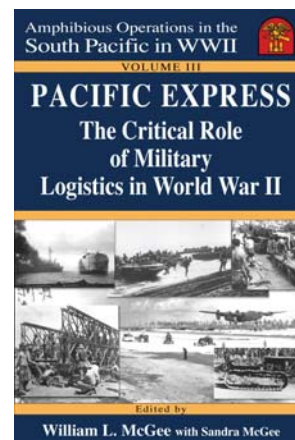
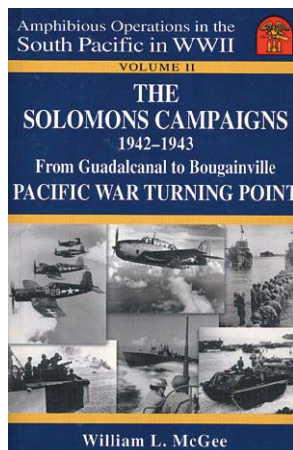
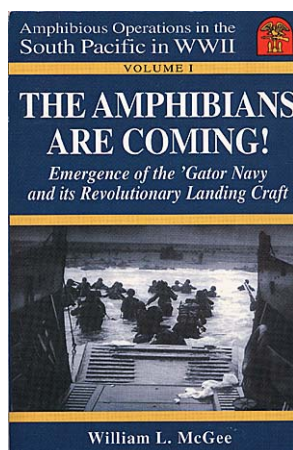


Read what others are saying about this acclaimed series...

Amphibious Operations in the South Pacific in World War II



■ Enough gripping drama, heroism, and heartbreak in McGee's almost encyclopedic *Solomons Campaigns* to supply Hollywood with material for a century.

—*Marine Corps League Magazine*

■ If your children or grandchildren have ever asked, "What did you do in the war?" point them to McGee's books. Throughout you will find yourself saying, "Yup, that was us," and I guarantee you'll have renewed respect for the guy you see in the mirror every morning.

—Howard Clarkson, USS LCI National Assn.

■ McGee is no novice when it comes to writing...nor is he an armchair historian. He has lived through much of what he writes about.

—*Sea Classics Magazine*

■ *Amphibians Are Coming!* is a long-awaited dream since it deals 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 World War II.

—John A. McNeill Sr., USNR,
Officer-in-Charge, LCT-159

■ *Solomons Campaigns* will form a definitive account of naval, sea, and land operations in the South Pacific where America's response to Pearl Harbor began...a thoroughgoing historical record and analysis that historians and scholars will find invaluable.

—*Library Journal*

■ McGee's *Amphibians Are Coming!* describe miracles: Bringing LSTs and other landing vessels into high production in a short time; bringing together untrained officers and men to perform tasks which should have taken months of training; making all this work under unbelievable combat conditions.

—Mel Barger, Author of *Large Slow Target*

■ The result is a masterpiece...The indexes and appendices are the book's crown jewels. Future authors will benefit from McGee's efforts in *Solomons Campaigns*.

—*Leatherneck, Magazine of the Marines*

■ *Solomons Campaigns* will become the definitive work on the campaigns.

—John Cummer, President,
USS LCI National Association

■ Your books brought tears to my eyes. A “must read” for all sea services veterans and their descendants.

—**Charles C. Espy, Lt (jg), USNR,
SS Thomas Nelson, Armed Guard C.O.**

■ McGee has not only done exhaustive research into the documentation of how the amphibious forces were built, but has added the words of the men who took the theory of the amphibious doctrine and the new machines to sea. His dedicated work will surely help keep the day-to-day naval record of the “Greatest Generation” from being lost.

—**John Lorelli, Author of *To Foreign Shores,
U.S. Amphibious Operations in World War II***

■ As a Marine who landed on Guadalcanal on 7 August 1942, *Solomons Campaigns* is the most comprehensive book that I’ve read on the war in the Solomons. It brought back memories of those very dark days. Semper Fi.

—**William J. Carroll, President,
Guadalcanal Campaign Veterans**

■ To say Bill McGee is a serious naval historian is an understatement. As they say in the Navy, well done!

—**W. C. Hilderbrand, Capt, CEC, USN (Ret),
CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation**

■ *Solomons Campaigns* is perfectly balanced between riveting history, personal narratives, and pleasing layout packed with photos, maps, and illustrations. As the son of a Flotilla Five veteran of the Pacific, McGee’s books are a fine tribute to all who served in that theater.

—**Ron Swanson, Editor, *The Flotilla,
LCT Flotillas of WWII***

■ *Amphibians Are Coming!* is a “must read” for all Armed Guard and merchant mariners and their families.

—**C.A. Lloyd, Chairman,
USN Armed Guard Veterans of WWII**

■ Having experienced a full measure of life at sea during WWII, I find your military histories detailed, vivid, accurate. They capture the essence of that war.

—**Anthony P. Tesori, USNR,
Gunnery Officer, LST-340**

■ I knew McGee’s years of exhaustive and intensive research would produce a lasting history of the Solomons campaigns. That he has done. Admirably.

—**Charles J. Adams Jr, LST-281**

■ One of the best books I’ve ever read on WWII. I was impressed with the scholarly effort the author put forth. I’m a former Marine and didn’t know the kind of detail that occurred in that sector of the campaign, but I sure do now.

—**Jim Comiskey, Author, *Academic Innovations***

■ I heard about this book from my cousin, John A. McNeill Sr, skipper of the LCT-159 of the Solomons campaign. I was a sailor on USS LSM-342 which evolved out of the LCT in 1943 and first hit the beaches in the Philippines in 1944. Thank you for this great history of the ‘Gator Navy.

—**Royce McNeill, LSM-342**

■ Having done my own research for the famed “Green Dragons”—the history of the Four Stack APD (Destroyer Transports) in WWII—I consider your Amphib’s book a must read for anyone interested in the history of our great amphibious navy that was so instrumental in winning WWII.

—**Curt Clark, Secretary,
The Four Stack APD Veterans**

■ My father, a Flotilla Five veteran, pulled rank and read the book first. It’s filled with many personal accounts of the pioneering men of Flotilla Five and gave me an idea of what life was like in those days of the war in the South Pacific. For my father, it brought back many memories.

—**Richard Fox, Webmaster,
LCT Flotillas of WWII**

■ A masterful job in dealing with the wide range of Amphibians. You included just the right amount of detail to make the book very readable.

—**Alfred J. Ormston, Skipper, LCI-334**

■ Excellent reading.

—**"Frenchy" Maurais, Duty Yeoman,
USS McCawley (aka “Wackymac”)**

■ Truly comprehensive.

—**Robert M. Carr, Skipper, LCT-364**

■ I went into the Amphib fleet after I saw the *Missouri* go out of commission in 1955. I'm fascinated with small craft of the Navy and thank you for the wonderful contribution you are making to keep this history alive.

—**Herbert Fahr Jr, President, 1998-2000,
USS *Missouri* (BB-63) Association**

■ I was on LCT-146 that was transported to Noumea, New Caledonia on LST-399 as narrated in your book. I am still in close contact with a navy buddy who was on LST-398 that transported his LCT-145 as narrated on page 162 in your book. I would like a copy of your book sent to him as a gift.

—**Howard Breckenfeld, USN**

■ Your book reminded me of how easy it was to lose one's life then. Your story of the ship's gun crew firing at planet Venus gave me a chuckle. Some gun crews were really trigger-happy and dangerous.

—**Paul Clodfelter, First Special Naval
Construction Battalion**

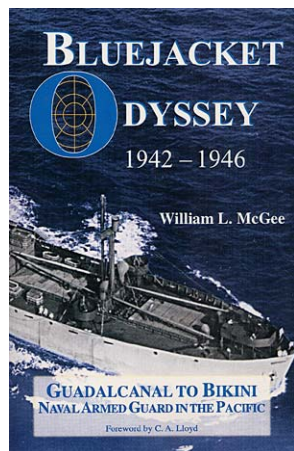
■ Another great book. There is very good coverage of the amphib's role during the Solomons campaigns.

—**Jacob Miller, Fightin' Foxes Reunions**

■ Being an "old amphib", I never really knew how much I didn't know about the new landing crafts' humble beginnings. I look forward to Volume II and highly recommend not only amphib sailors read it, but all those interested in the Navy and WWII. Great stuff!

—**Bill Bartz, Capt., USNR-R,
President, ACU Veterans Group**

Read what others are saying about *BLUEJACKET ODYSSEY, 1942-1946...*



■ Little has been written about service in the U.S. Naval Armed Guard in which nearly 145,000 men served... McGee remedies this in *Bluejacket Odyssey*... the book has value for historians.

—*Naval History Magazine*

■ You are writing facts. How do I know? I was in Task Unit 32.4.4 and lost my ship on 23 June 1943, just as you write.

—**L. Ray Weathers, Boatswain Mate 2/c, USN, USS *Deimos* (AK-78)**

■ The tragic voyage of Task Unit 32.4.4 still haunts me after all these years. Your eyewitness accounts of the June 1943 action is spellbinding. I couldn't put the book down.

—**Roy Lucy, Radioman 3/c, USNR, USS *Aludra* (AK-72)**

■ As a *Skylark* veteran, your military histories mean a lot to us, more than you'll ever know.

—**Len Honeycutt, Radarman 1/c, USN, USS *Skylark* (AM-63)**

"A must read for all Armed Guard and Merchant Seamen and their families."

—**C.A. Lloyd, Chairman,
USN Armed Guard Veterans of WWII**

"*Bluejacket Odyssey* includes McGee's time aboard the USS *Fall River* during Operation CROSSROADS. We give it our highest recommendation."

—**Dr. Oscar Rosen, Editor,
*Atomic Veterans Radiation News***

"Not since reading all of James Michener's books have I been so enthralled. I am reading and re-reading. Your research is unbelievable—dates, places, bona fide archival photos. Just up my alley."

—**Mary K. Pierson, Cryptographer,
WWII U.S. Military Attaché**

"Very well-written, and I say that as a former college professor of English. Brought tears to my eyes. A 'must read' for all sea services veterans and their descendants, too."

—**Charles C. Espy, Lt (jg), USNR,
SS *Thomas Nelson* Armed Guard C.O.**

"Well-written and interesting with an abundance of factual information."

—**Arnold Latare, Skipper, *Iowa* crew,
USN Armed Guard**

"One of the best books I've read. Very, very good, sir."

—**Henry Carringi, New York State Director,
USN Armed Guard Veterans of WWII**

"Your career paralleled mine in many ways and am sure our paths crossed during the war."

—**William Tubbs, USN Armed Guard,
Illinois-Wisconsin Crew**

"I have read most of the books about the Armed Guard and think yours is the best. I like the combination of personal and WWII histories."

—**Robert L. Coffman, USN Armed Guard**

"You have done your research well. I give your book a 4.0."

—**Duane Curtis, SS *Nathaniel Currier*,
USN Armed Guard**

"Factual, no embellishment. It brought back many memories I had forgotten."

—**Ray Simpson, U.S. Merchant Marine**

"Your excellent *Bluejacket Odyssey* recalls many good *Fall River* memories as well as provides Armed Guard insights."

—**Bob Snow, Ensign, USNR,
USS *Fall River* (CA-131)**

"A great gift for my dad who also served in the Navy (Seabees) in WWII. Enclosed is my check for his copy."

—**Gilbert Mackey, Engineer, Los Alamos, NM**

"I served in both the Atlantic and Pacific, including thirty-four days in a lifeboat. If you want to re-live your life again, read this outstanding book!"

—**Alvin Kemble, USNR**

"A very fine tribute to a branch of the Navy which deserves and has heretofore not had the respect and appreciation it should have had."

—**W.T. (Bim) Miller, Esq., Miller and Robinson**

"*Bluejacket Odyssey* arrived in the mail the other day and I could hardly put it down. It's amazing how you compiled all that information after fifty years. You can be proud of this accomplishment."

—**John Stambaugh, QM1/c, USN,
USS *Fall River* (CA-131)**

"A most complete and well-researched document covering a major dramatic event in our young lives."

—**Tony Gray, Quartermaster 3/c, USNR,
USS *Celeno* (AK-76)**

"Thanks to you I've learned things I never knew before and some I'd completely forgotten."

—**Pat Paones, Shipfitter 1/c, USNR,
USS *Deimos* (AK-78)**

"I found your writing most realistic. Enjoyed every page immensely."

—**Charles Maiers, USS *Deimos* (AK-78)**

"Your book is great. I will definitely include excerpts in our next issue of GUNS."

—**Jack Photenhauer, Editor, Guns,
Association of Gunner's Mates**

"So many mixed memories. Looking forward to your next book."

—**Gerhard R. Hess, USNR, LST-342**

"A magnificent job of research and presentation. Brought back many memories. Some good, some bad."

—**Alfred Warm, USNR, LCI-222**

"Have greatly enjoyed reading *Odyssey*. My family enjoyed reading it as well."

—**Ross Osborn, USNR, USS *Aludra***

"A magnificent job of research and presentation. I will be passing it around to our shipmates here in the Wilmington area."

—**George W. Cameron, Crew Chief,
Armed Guard Mid-Atlantic Chapter**

"I was born in 1926, so it was a real revelation to me to read of your childhood and compare it with mine. I could have read on and on about your early years, your family and the ranch work. I found it so interesting."

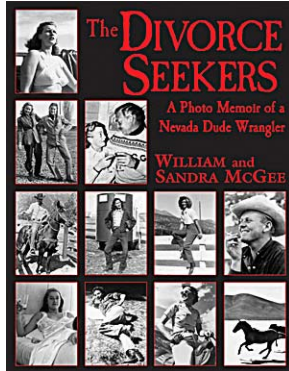
—**E. V. Clothier, Dagenham, Essex, U.K.**

"Thanks, Bill, for bringing back many good memories of my days in the Navy. *Bluejacket Odyssey* is one of the best books ever published on WWII. Will treasure it, as will all of my family."

—**Carlo Mangiaracina, USNR**

"Really jogged my memory. One hell of a book, difficult to put down. Here's my check for another copy."

—**Lou Fantacone, USN Armed Guard**

Read what others are saying about *THE DIVORCE SEEKERS...*

- One of the most remarkable cultural times in the American West...and helped to define the West.

—**Andria Daley, Writer/Producer,**
Northern Nevada advisor, National Trust for Historic Preservation

- Not only a fascinating memoir, richly evocative of its time and place, but also the best book yet about Nevada's famous dude-divorce ranch business.

—**Eric Moody, Nevada Historical Society, Reno**

- Delightful reading about bygone times and glamorous people...a valuable history of a unique epoch of the West.

—**Barnaby Conrad, Author, *Matador* and *Last Boat to Cadiz***

- The dude ranch culture seems now like part of a bygone culture. It feels like a past more colorful than the present (but most everything is these days). I can't think of it now without envisioning Clark Gable meeting a new divorcée or two beneath the tall pines, and romance developing. It was a special culture where marriages ended and new romances began. Maybe today no one needs to get away to get divorced; they just divorce. But certainly Nevada as a place to split, is a legend of our time.

—**Charles Champlin, Former Film Critic and Arts Editor, *Los Angeles Times***

- Bill and Sandra McGee recount a magical and untold story of Nevada during the 1940s and '50s, the good old, bad old days of café society. This book is an absolute must for any Western, literary or social historian's bookshelf. Not unlike Mark Twain's recounting of his own Nevada days, Bill's stories are "filled to the brim with the wine of life."

—**Andria Daley, Writer/Producer**

- As the current owners of the famous Flying M E, we are thrilled that Bill and Sandra have documented the ranch's robust history in what is now the most complete history known to exist.

—**Norman and Rhonda Azevedo,**
Flying M E, Franktown, NV

- We were always a bit jealous of dude wranglers. What was really going on in those dude ranches and wouldn't that be the job for a young fella like me! This book is a wonderful sharing of an inside perspective. Real cowhands, famous Hollywood actors, the business powerful, the low profile rich, the watering holes, and the special sightseeing areas. It's all here with the best of photos and the colorful commentary that brings them to LIFE. A must read for its entertainment and historical value.

—**Neal Cobb, Sheriff,**
Westerners International Nevada Corral

- Growing up on my family's ranch in Washoe Valley, I can say that the divorce seekers themselves contributed to our community. Many of them were from the East and they either stayed when they came here, or returned with their spouses to make a life here. Our community was vastly enriched by their presence because they helped found institutions or contributed to the arts in many ways. Our ranch and our lives were very much enriched by having divorce seekers come here. The McGees have combined personal memoirs with extensive interviews and historical research, and have uncovered hitherto unknown information and photos.

—**Tina Bundy Nappe,**
Bundy Ranch, Washoe Valley, NV

■ This book contributes to the culture of America's post-World War II period. The research and photos are priceless.

—**Janice Goodhue, Reno, NV**

■ The TH Ranch history is exciting, well done, and very accurate. I'm looking forward to reading about the other dude ranches.

—**Jack Horgan, TH Ranch, Sutcliffe, NV**

■ A book waiting to be written about an era that will never be repeated and will go down in history as one of Nevada's fascinations. The McGees' research, stories, and photographs are priceless Nevada history.

—**JohnD and Kay Winters,
Ophir Mill Ranch, Dayton, NV**

■ Not only entertaining, this book is historical and portrays a fascinating era—national and international in scope—which was here, is now gone, but will never be forgotten.

—**Harry B. Swanson,
Attorney at Law (Retired), Reno, NV**

■ My parents met at the Flying M E when my mother was staying there for a divorce. Soon after her divorce was final, she married my father. Your book gives me insight into a time in my parents' lives that I did not know and wanted to learn more about.

—**Nikki M. Demas-Butz, Carson City, NV**

■ Chapter 16, "Lucius Beebe and Charles Clegg, Enterprising Journalists," recounts the early days of my brother, Chuck Clegg, and Lucius Beebe, and brings back vivid memories of my first visit with them in Virginia City in 1949. I had been curious about the dude ranches we drove by in Washoe Valley and now at last, thanks to Bill McGee's remarkable reminiscences, we can learn what really went on there.

—**Ann Clegg Holloway, Virginia City, NV**

There's one less hole in the Nevada bookshelf and now it's filled with gold (or silver). This book captures one of the last great glimmers of Nevada's history.

—**Paul Cirac, 5th generation Nevadan,
White Sage Studios, Virginia City, NV**

■ The McGees have documented a significant period in Nevada's history with splendid research, photographs and personal stories. Their slide show presentation holds the attention of the audience and converts any doubters that the subject matter is not only worthy of historical review but essential to understanding an important aspect of Nevada and national history.

—**Mary Ellen Conaway, Director,
Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center**

■ The McGees' slide show presentation was one of the most interesting, informative and entertaining programs that the museum has hosted. The heretofore little-known story of the divorce ranches is covered... a treasure trove of photographs depicting life and times at these Nevada institutions during the 1940s and '50s. Bill McGee's knowledge of the era is encyclopedic—after all, he was there! The book is highly recommended.

—**John Frink,
Nevada State Railroad Museum,
Carson City, NV**