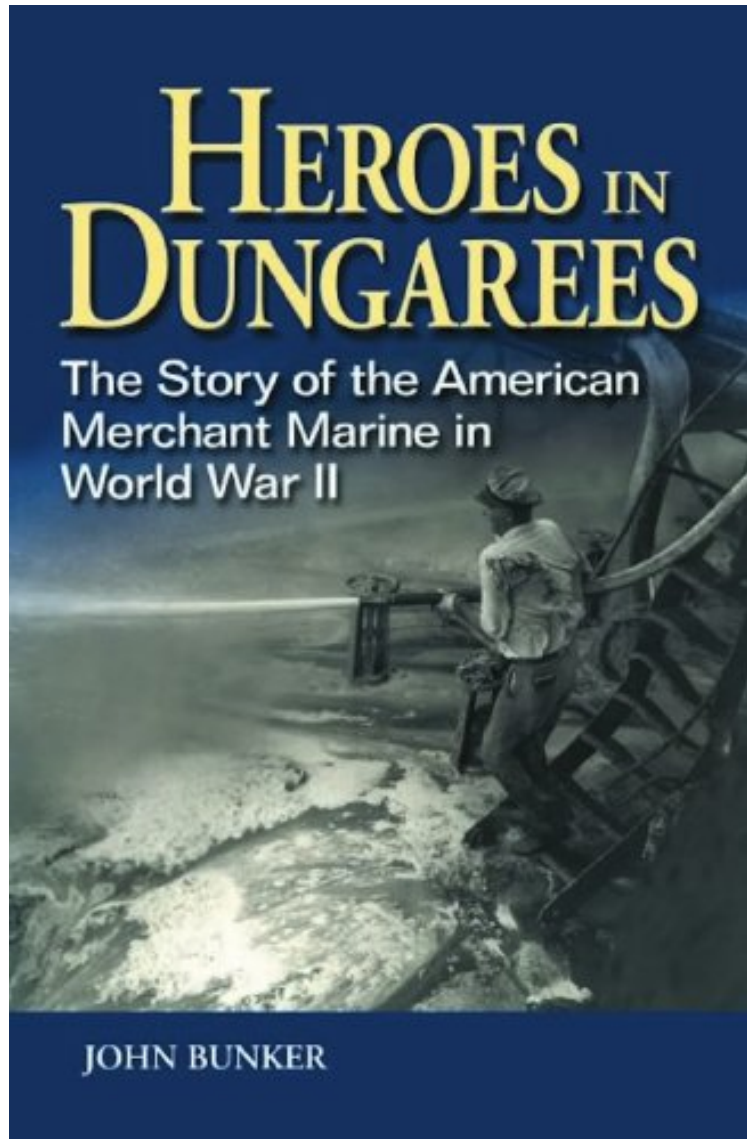


(Read now) Heroes in Dungarees: The Story of the American Merchant Marine in World War II

Heroes in Dungarees: The Story of the American Merchant Marine in World War II

Von John Bunker

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Von John Bunker : Heroes in Dungarees: The Story of the American Merchant Marine in World War II before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Heroes in Dungarees: The Story of the American Merchant Marine in World War II:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Great overview of American Merchant Marine in WW IIVon Daniel HorodyskyIf you have time to read only one book about

the Merchant Marine in World War II, John Bunker's "Heroes in Dungarees" is a terrific read! Bunker's book would make a great gift for anyone --- from high school student to senior citizen. Bunker writes with the feeling and enthusiasm of one who was there: he served in engine room crews during the War. He writes with the accomplishment of a professional writer: he was a reporter for the Christian Science Monitor and the San Diego Tribune. His writing is wonderfully easy to read as he paints wonderful pictures of wartime at sea. Bunker begins by telling us a little about the ships: the Liberty's, Victory's, tankers, and Hog Islanders. He tells us about the men of the Merchant Marine and Naval Armed Guard and their life on board. Bunker then covers World War II action by region: Atlantic Seaboard, North Atlantic, Murmansk run, Mediterranean, Caribbean, Pacific, and Indian Oceans. Each chapter starts with a broad introduction, followed by examples. The stories are well thought out, with many direct quotes from the participants or eyewitnesses. Reading the stories is almost like watching a movie: we can see the German submarine circling, the Captain's reaction when he realizes attack is imminent, the battle of outgunned merchant ship vs. raider, the moments of chaos when the torpedo hits, the abandoning of the ship, and the fight for survival on rafts and lifeboats. Bunker gives thrilling accounts of the heroic crews of the SS Stanvac Calcutta, SS Stephen Hopkins, SS Cedar Mills, and SS Henry Bacon. He chronicles the disasters extremely well: Convoy PQ 17, the bombing at Bari, SS Jean Nicolet, SS Bienville, and the ships lost without a trace. However, readers of Heroes in Dungarees will need a good map or globe by their side, because the major shortcoming of the book is the lack of good maps. To appreciate the experiences of the mariners, you need good maps to follow their voyages and to visualize their travails in lifeboats and rafts. The Appendix listing U.S. ships sunk during the War would have been more useful and illustrative if it included the cause of sinking: submarine, bomber, mine, etc. as well as the date and place of sinking. I was baffled by the fact that this Appendix ended with the sinking of the SS Black Point off Rhode Island on May 5, 1945, since there were over 30 more war casualties before war's end on Dec. 31, 1946. Anyone reading Heroes in Dungarees will wonder why the men and women of the U.S. Merchant Marine had to fight for over 40 years for recognition as veterans.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Merchant Marine Remembered
Von Ein Kunde
Bunker provides a valuable insight to the USMM in World War II. The book is wonderful to read and feels as if you are there. Bunker also gives important insight to less remembered theatres of war like the Indian Ocean and Caribbean. The only possible error I found was the number of the U-Boat that sunk the USAT Dorchester I believe it was U-223, although I could be wrong. VERY WELL written book. Kudos to John Bunker.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Gone but not forgotten
Von Robert A. Kerr
This is not a scholarly work but rather, this book is a marvelous collection of wartime sea stories.

Kurzbeschreibung
A World War II merchant seaman, John Bunker takes a thorough look at the American merchant marines' significant contributions to the war effort. There are plenty of fascinating facts about their extensive supply operations, but the focus of the book is on the men and their often-heroic actions. Bunker draws from his own experiences to describe the action at sea and also includes the personal stories of many other civilian participants. It is an engaging portrayal of the courage, bravery, and ingenuity demonstrated by these merchant seamen. All theaters of operation using U.S. merchant ships are covered, and in addition, Bunker provides information on events before the country entered the war when efforts were being made to build more ships and to recruit the men necessary to crew the huge fleet.