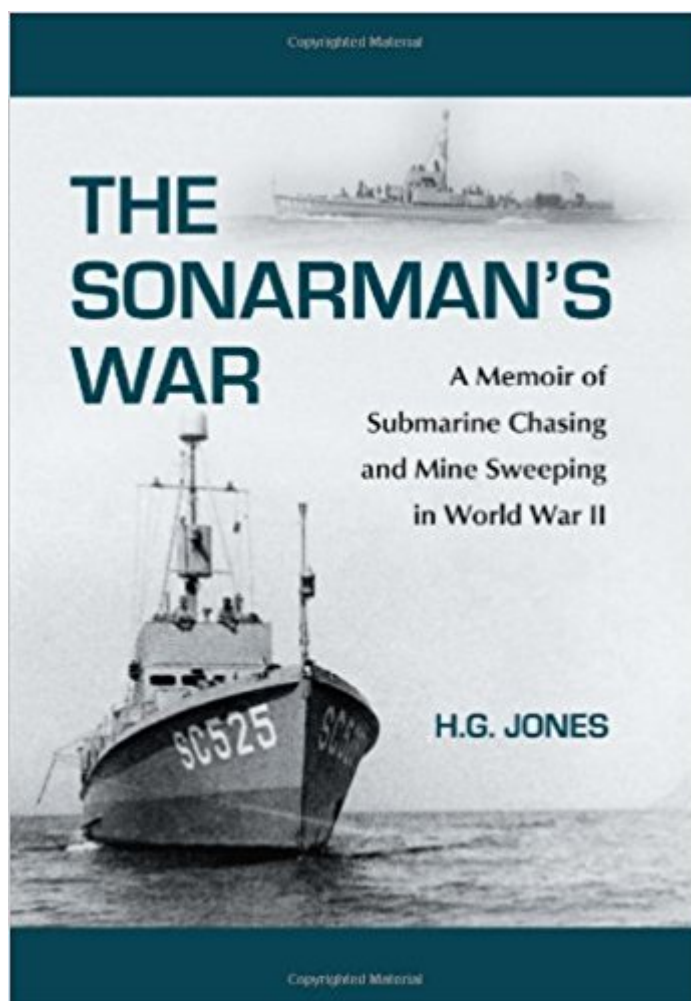


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The Sonarman's War: A Memoir Of Submarine Chasing And Mine Sweeping In World War II



Synopsis

This memoir is an intimate and sometimes irreverent account of one man's coming of age during World War II. Born a North Carolina farmboy, Jones served as a U.S. Navy sonarman aboard a wooden submarine chaser operating from Africa and Sicily during the Allied invasions at Anzio and Southern France. He also served as sonarman and yeoman on two fleet mine sweepers in the Okinawa, Formosa and China operations. This memoir is drawn not only from memory, but from the author's surviving diaries from the conflicts, daily logs of the three ships upon which he served, and the secret reports of military commanders and other official records.

Book Information

Paperback: 260 pages

Publisher: McFarland (September 9, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0786458844

ISBN-13: 978-0786458844

Product Dimensions: 6.9 x 0.6 x 9.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #613,525 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > Ships > Submarines](#) #1146 in [Books > History > Military > Naval](#) #1480 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders & Notable People > Military > World War II](#)

Customer Reviews

"Jones's book is as solidly researched as it is well written"--The North Carolina Historical Review; "this tale is a detailed view of a seaman's life...Jones' war is a microcosm of a thousand seamen's wars, in a dozen navies and therein lies its value in recording history. Sometimes the larger histories fail to give a picture of what it was really like from day to day. This tale accomplishes that"--The Northern Mariner/Le Marin du Word; "a well-written account of one young man's coming of age during World War II...highly recommend"--PCSA Newsletter; "offers a detailed description of the life of a sonarman aboard a wooden submarine chaser. The book will interest World War II buffs and particularly readers who would relish a first-person view of the war from the decks of the small submarine chasers and minesweepers"--Reference & Research Book News.

H.G. Jones has served as a history professor in several universities; state archivist and director of the North Carolina Department of Archives and History; and curator of the North Carolina Collection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His career was capped in 2002 with the North Carolina Award for Public Service, the state's highest civilian recognition. He lives in North Carolina.

The Sonarman's War, by H.G. Jones probably won't be a WWII classic, but I enjoyed it. This sort of book is what I like to refer to as a long footnote to World War II. It is written from the perspective of one of the millions who were there, participated and helped win the war simply by doing the little things that made the big victory possible. I also appreciate the fact that it was well-written, with few noticeable typos. I have read a couple of other books by this same publisher where I found myself wondering if anybody bothered to edit them for either content or typographical errors, so many jumped out at me on almost every page. Thankfully, that was not the case while reading The Sonarman's War. I suspect a lot of that has to do with the author's professional background as university professor.

The author is a personal friend, so I am biased, however the book is a very readable account of a very young man thrown suddenly into an environment totally new, and his reaching maturity under terrible circumstances. That only made him more determined to pursue education and making a place in the world.

An interesting book, but actually had little information about the use of sonar in anti-submarine warfare, which is what I was interested in. Still, it was worth reading. There were some combat accounts, but largely when they were used in escort duties during landings.

Great, detailed, insightful, and interesting. We are given a look into the lives and operations of the naval sub-chasers through the MED & PAC in WWII from the eyes of the sonarman. Thank you for publishing your history! It is wonderful and educational to see another perspective of WWII.

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