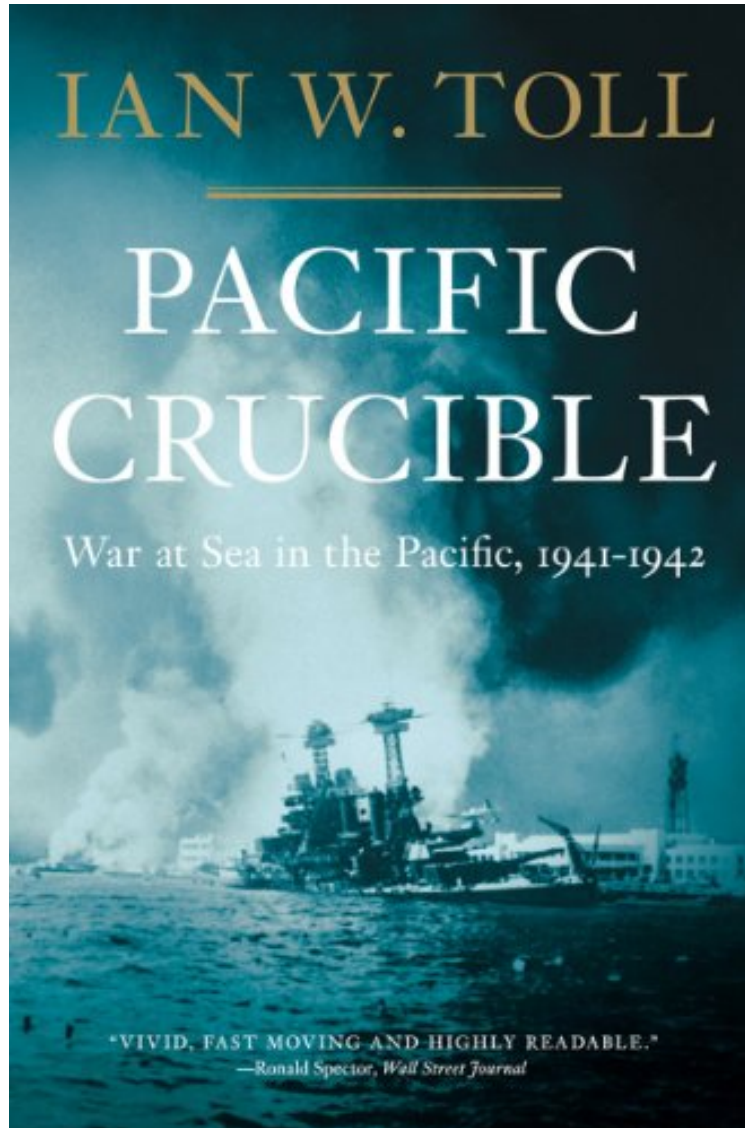


[Library ebook] Pacific Crucible: War at Sea in the Pacific, 1941-1942

Pacific Crucible: War at Sea in the Pacific, 1941-1942

Ian W. Toll

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#43284 in Books W. W. Norton n Company 2012-11-26Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.20 x 1.80 x 6.10l, 2.01 #File Name: 0393343413656 pages | File size: 20.Mb

Ian W. Toll : Pacific Crucible: War at Sea in the Pacific, 1941-1942 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pacific Crucible: War at Sea in the Pacific, 1941-1942:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is an extremely fine example of the compelling way that history can really be a very good story well told. Mr Toll is to be congratulated both on his research and his writing style.By CustomerSo much World War II History is written in the manner of the inevitable victory of the Allies over the Axis forces. Perhaps this is so, but this viewpoint can overlook the desperate nature of the struggle in the early moments of

the Pacific War. Mr Toll correctly points out the terrible arrogance of commanders such as MacArthur in underestimating the level of preparation by the Japanese and their commitment to the concept of assault by their combined forces, augmented particularly by their innovation and understanding of the efficacy of their air power. History would have correctly judged on any event that the United States should have won the Pacific War. This book points out that it could just as easily have been lost but for superb courage and leadership on the part of the U.S. Navy as well as a healthy dose of extreme good fortune. The book is written very well and the stories contained therein are compelling. The story of the sinking of the Lexington at the Battle of the Coral Sea is heartbreaking, but a proud moment in our nation's history nonetheless, and but one example of the excellence of this book. The superb efforts of our code breakers at Pearl Harbor would be another. I truly hated to see this book end, and I look forward to the next volume of The Pacific War Trilogy. 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Superb

By Jack Sparacino Pacific Crucible is superbly researched and magnificently written with balanced, alternating attention to both the Japanese and American machinations leading up to and following December 7 at Pearl Harbor. The detailed narrative focused on the immediate aftermath of the horrendous attack on Pearl is simply gripping. Especially, for me, Mr. Toll's description of FDR's slow walk to the podium to address a temporarily hushed Congress on December 8, his leg braces clicking for all to hear. I had to put the book down for a moment and dial up this famous "infamy" speech on YouTube which brought tears to my eyes. The character portrayals are fascinating, the attention to nuance and bombast alike masterful. And the author's treatment of the critical battle of Midway is just superb. Mr. Toll is that rare combination of great historian and storyteller. As a special bonus, he manages to weave in almost countless passages from participants' letters and other writings and conversations. Do NOT miss this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Toll does a good job of explaining the characters involved and the decisions and ...

By Jits a well executed engrossing read. Toll does a good job of explaining the characters involved and the decisions and tactics made. To some extent it suffers due to the way he glossed over how the decision was made to begin the island hopping/leapfrogging campaign - essentially other than the way he examined the submarines, Toll doesn't spend extensive time discussing the key changes in strategy and doctrine that helped the US Navy. That said - this trilogy is on par with Atkinson's Army at Dawn/Day of Battle/Guns at Last Light.

“Both a serious work of history . . . and a marvelously readable dramatic narrative.” - San Francisco Chronicle

On the first Sunday in December 1941, an armada of Japanese warplanes appeared suddenly over Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and devastated the U.S. Pacific Fleet. Six months later, in a sea fight north of the tiny atoll of Midway, four Japanese aircraft carriers were sent into the abyss, a blow that destroyed the offensive power of their fleet. Pacific Crucible tells the epic tale of these first searing months of the Pacific war, when the U.S. Navy shook off the worst defeat in American military history and seized the strategic initiative. This dramatic narrative, relying predominantly on eyewitness accounts and primary sources, is laced with riveting details of heroism and sacrifice on the stricken ships and planes of both navies. At the war's outset, Japan's pilots and planes enjoyed a clear-cut superiority to their American counterparts, but there was a price to be paid. Japanese pilots endured a lengthy and grueling training in which they were disciplined with baseball bats, often suffering broken bones; and the production line of the Zero? Japan's superbly maneuverable fighter plane? ended not at a highway or railhead but at a rice paddy, through which the planes were then hauled on ox carts. Combat losses, of either pilots or planes, could not be replaced in time to match the fully mobilized American war machine. Pacific Crucible also spotlights recent scholarship that revises our understanding of the conflict, including the Japanese decision to provoke a war that few in their highest circles thought they could win. Those doubters included the flamboyantly brilliant Admiral Isokoru Yamamoto, architect of the raid on Pearl and the Midway offensive. Once again, Ian W. Toll proves himself to be a simply magnificent writer. The result here is a page-turning history that does justice to the breadth and depth of a tremendous subject. 24 pages of illustrations; 12 maps

“An entertaining, impressively researched chronicle of the tense period between the bombing of Pearl Harbor and American victory at the battle of Midway.” - Kirkus

“Toll's storytelling abilities make this an approachable and compelling read in a genre typically reserved for military historians. . . . Revealing and poignant, Toll's latest deftly navigates the rough waters of the Pacific struggle with flying colors.” - Publishers Weekly

“The research is thorough, the writing clear, and the narrative flow exemplary...it is difficult to think of a recent book on this subject that is of such consistently outstanding value.” - Booklist

“Well documented? albeit from previously published materials? and well written. Experienced World War II history buffs may bypass if they feel no need to read another retelling of this phase of the Pacific War, but nonspecialists and general readers will want to consider it.” - Library Journal.com

About the Author Ian W. Toll is the author of Pacific Crucible and Six Frigates, winner of the Samuel Eliot Morison Award and the William E. Colby Award. He lives in San Francisco and New York.