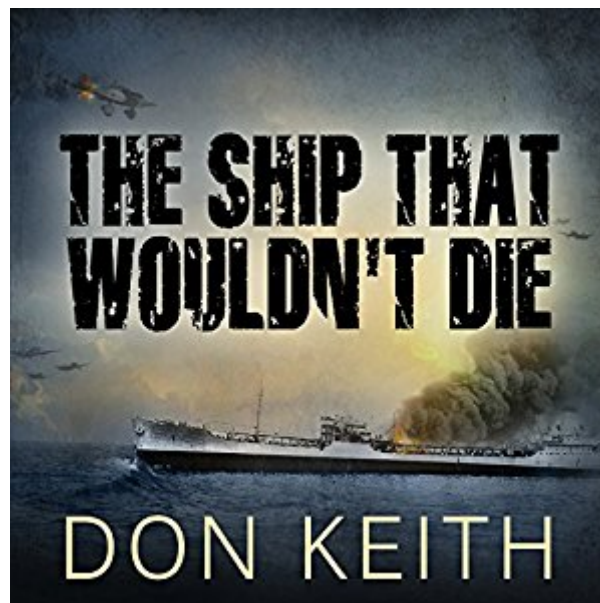


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The Ship That Wouldn't Die: The Saga Of The USS Neosho - A World War II Story Of Courage And Survival At Sea



Synopsis

In May 1942, Admiral Jack Fletcher's Task Force 17 closed in for the war's first major clash with the Japanese Navy. The Neosho, a vitally important tanker, was escorted by a destroyer, the Sims. The ships were attacked by Japanese dive bombers, and when the smoke cleared, the Sims had slipped beneath the waves. Scores of sailors were killed or wounded while hundreds bobbed in shark-infested waters. It was the beginning of a hellish four-day ordeal as the crew struggled to stay alive and keep their ship afloat, while almost 200 men in life rafts drifted away without water, food, or shelter. Only four of them would survive to be rescued after nine days. A tale of a ship as tough and resilient as its crew, *The Ship That Wouldn't Die* captures the indomitable spirit of the American sailor - and finally brings to the surface one of the great untold sagas of the Pacific War.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In early May, 1942, the American and Japanese fleets met in the first carrier battle of the Pacific war in the Coral Sea. The oiler USS Neosho was part of the American task force. It was her job to provide oil for the ships as well as aviation gas for the carrier planes. After topping off the American ships, Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher ordered the Neosho and escort destroyer USS Sims to sail out of harm's way away from the coming battle. What happened next can only be considered pure bad luck, for the Japanese planes, in their search for the American carriers, stumbled upon the two American ships. For most of the day, the Neosho and Sims were attacked by scores of Japanese planes; the pilots who mistook the Neosho and Sims to be an aircraft carrier and cruiser. The Sims

sank shortly after being attacked, while the Neosho remained on the surface for four more days. Many men jumped overboard after claiming to have heard the order to abandon ship. This order was never given. The actual order was to prepare to abandon ship. Nevertheless, scores of men jumped overboard into the oily, flaming sea. After four days, rescue finally arrived, but not before many men perished in the sea. Author Don Keith has done a very good job of telling the story of the Neosho and Sims. The Neosho, survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor, was truly a ship that wouldn't die, as evidenced by her remaining afloat for four days. She finally succumbed to shell fire from a rescuing destroyer. This book tells a harrowing tale of survival on the high seas and the heroic efforts of the U.S. Navy to locate the survivors. Highly recommended.

Don Keith is, by his own admission, a storyteller and not the technical historian we usually see in our history textbooks. The Story of the oil tanker Neosho, and her destroyer escort Sims is one that would not be more than one or two lines of any historical text, yet here this gripping saga of the men who lived, served, and died on these two ships is brought to life within the pages of the book. I would have liked to have seen also, the stories of the adversaries these men faced who thought that they would be sending an American carrier to its watery grave but instead faced a replenishment ship and her single escort. The Japanese nevertheless pressed the attack to a successful conclusion by sinking the Sims and mortally wounding the Neosho. Don Keith's recounting of not only this savage battle, but also her near miraculous escape from destruction during the surprise attack at Pearl Harbor gives the book another dimension of the Neosho's history. A book not for the serious student of history but for those who wish to get a feel for the bravery of the everyday sailors of WWII.

A very enjoyable read. I served on an oiler and understand the dangers that comes with this duty. I still recommend to the youth of America to serve. You just might learn a skill.

Very good book!! Gives the reader a great picture of what these valiant men went through.

Well researched. Written in an easy to follow style. Tells the story of exceptional men in extreme circumstances as they work together to save their ship and their struggle to rescue fellow shipmates and survive.

I just really like these kinds of stories and this was an account of survival that I had never heard of

before. I never get tired of true World War II stories and this is a good one.

I found this book quite by accident, but I could not put it down. Great facts surrounded by a great story teller.

Excellent book. Worth buying and reading.

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