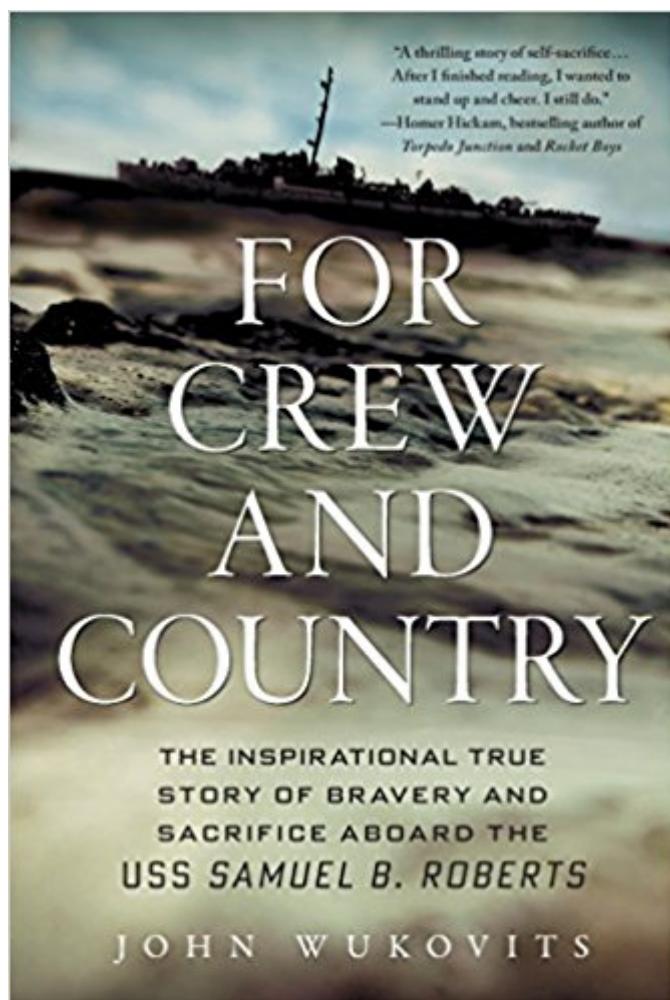


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# For Crew And Country: The Inspirational True Story Of Bravery And Sacrifice Aboard The USS Samuel B. Roberts



## Synopsis

In *For Crew and Country*, John Wukovits tells of the most dramatic naval battle of the Pacific War and the incredible sacrifice of the USS Samuel B. Roberts. On October 25, 1944, the Samuel B. Roberts, along with the other twelve vessels comprising its unit, stood between Japan's largest battleship force ever sent to sea and MacArthur's transports inside Leyte Gulf. Faced with the surprise appearance of more than twenty Japanese battleships, cruisers, and destroyers, including the Yamato, at 70,000 tons the most potent battlewagon in the world, the 1,200-ton Samuel B. Roberts turned immediately into action with six other ships. Captain Copeland marked the occasion with one of the most poignant addresses ever given to men on the edge of battle: "Men," he said over the intercom, "we are about to go into a fight against overwhelming odds from which survival cannot be expected." The ship churned straight at the enemy in a near-suicidal attempt to deflect the more potent foe, allow the small aircraft carriers to escape, and buy time for MacArthur's forces. Of 563 destroyers constructed during World War II, the Samuel B. Roberts was the only one sunk, going down with guns blazing in a duel reminiscent of the Spartans at Thermopylae or Davy Crockett's Alamo defenders. The men who survived faced a horrifying three-day nightmare in the sea, where they battled a lack of food and water, scorching sun and numbing nighttime cold, and nature's most feared adversary—sharks. The battle would go down as history's greatest sea clash, the Battle of Samar—the dramatic climax of the Battle of Leyte Gulf.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Engaging and lively . . . A valuable addition to our understanding of the events that took

place almost 70 years ago, and an inspirational story of devotion to duty and country.â•“This story of the brave and resourceful officers and crew of the gallant Samuel B. Roberts is one that should be read by every American. A thrilling story of self-sacrifice, of David versus many Goliaths, of a little war vessel with a paper-thin hull saluting, stepping up, and making a charge to death and glory. After I finished reading, I wanted to stand up and cheer. I still do.â•“Homer Hickam, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Torpedo Junction*, *Rocket Boys/October Sky*, and *The Keeper’s Son*“In this richly detailed book, John Wukovits provides unusual insight into the crew, the teamâ•¢the familyâ•¢of theÂ USS Samuel B. Roberts. The human detail is drawn from wartime letters, secondary sources, and survivor interviews, resulting in a rare combination of research, exposition, and insight. From the tentative process of shaking down to deployment to the Pacific, to the soaring, searing reality of combat at Leyte Gulf, readers will come to know many of the ‘Sammy B’s’ crew, celebrate their survival, and mourn their loss.â•“Barrett Tillman, author of *Enterprise: America’s Fightingest Ship and the Men Who Helped Win World War II*“John Wukovits writes with verve and command in this rousing tale of an epic battle. You’ll marvel at the bravery of the men on a very small ship up against the main battle fleet of the Japanese Imperial Navy.â•“Evan Thomas, New York Times bestselling author of *Sea of Thunder* and *Ike’s Bluff*“In this gripping page-turner, Wukovits chronicles one of the greatest stories in naval history, when tiny, outnumbered, outgunned destroyers and destroyer escorts went ‘toe-to-toe’ with Japanese battleships and cruisers. One of those ships paid the ultimate price, but played a key role in turning the tide in this seemingly one-sided engagement. This is that ship’s incredible story.â•“Thomas J. Cutler, author of *The Battle of Leyte Gulf*“Despite the U.S. Navy’s huge contribution to allied victory in World War II, stories of individual ships and their crews have formed an oddly small niche in the American literature on the struggle. But if the niche is small, its quality glimmers with the works of authors like Edward Stafford and James Hornfischer. Now John Wukovits’ narrative of the Samuel B. Roberts joins this illustrious company. From the building yard to the agonies of survivors pitted against an unforgiving sea, this outstanding account is a loving tribute to an immortal vessel and her heroic crew.â•“Richard B. Frank, author of *Guadalcanal: The Definitive Account of the Landmark Battle and Downfall: The End of the Imperial Japanese Empire*

JOHN K. WUKOVITS is a military expert specializing in the Pacific Theater of World War II. He is the author of many books, including *Eisenhower: A Biography*; *One Square Mile of Hell: The Battle*

for Tarawa; and American Commando: Evans Carlson, His WWII Marine Raiders, and America's First Special Forces Mission. He has also written numerous articles for such publications as WWII History, Naval History, and World War II. He lives in Trenton, Michigan.

This is a story that anyone who has served in the armed forces would enjoy. The author brings to life the molding of a young crew who matured in an unforgettable battle during WW2. This group of 224 men fought a much larger Japanese force from their destroyer escort against battleships and cruisers to protect escort carriers. Although the ship was sunk and 90 men were lost, the author brings the stories of many of the individuals and their families. The closeness of the survivors as well as some of the families of the deceased remained for many years. The destroyer escort, Samuel B. Roberts lives on as several US Navy ship have inherited the name.

Awe inspiring. Heart wrenching. Gut wrenching. Bravery almost beyond belief. This is the story of the heroic sailors of the USS Samuel B. Roberts during an historic battle in the Pacific of Ww2. This book and how those sailors fought for crew and our country will stay with me forever now. And I plan on visiting their memorial in San Diego to offer up a heartfelt thank you for what they accomplished and sacrificed.

For Crew and Country chronicles the extraordinary bravery and valor of the Destroyer escort USS Samuel B. Roberts crew, when confronted with over whelming odds against the Japanese Navy off Samar Island in the Philippines. The author John Wukovits presents a detailed account of the ship and crew which provides an insight into the daily lives of sailors aboard a ship of the fleet. In addition to a connection one feels with the crew the author is able to describe the events that occured to an extent that one can vividly picture what had taken place that eventful day. Carrying only two five inch guns, Lieutenant Commander Robert Copeland directed the crew to charge head long toward the Japanese Cruisers and Battleships carrying 8-14 inch guns. As a commander of another ship commented, it was a suicidal run. I highly recommend this book which is an inspirational true story of bravery and sacrifice aboard the USS Samuel B. Roberts.

Mr. Wukovits is to be thanked for providing one last glimpse into the lives of a stalwart crew who did their duty with honor and integrity in the face of death. This is not a history of Taffy 3 or the Battle off Samar. As the cover states, it's as intimate look as a non-crew-member will ever get of a particular ships company. Anyone with time at sea will recognize the timelessness of these men and their

personalities.I hope there is always a USN ship in-commission named Roberts, Carr and Copeland.

This is a sad book. If you have any clue what happens during Leyte Gulf you know the ending won't be pretty. But Wukovits does a good job of telling the story of the ship and getting you attached to the crew. Once the battle at Leyte occurs the detail in the book is excellent.I always think the worst part to these poor sailors is how long they get left in the water after the fight. Just as explained in the Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors - these brave guys have to spend a long time waiting to get plucked out of the sea.

I have read multiple accounts of this event and this one rates among the best. Good follow up of the crew in the intervening years as well.

Excellent account of this pivotal WWII battle and the courage of our brave sailors that served aboard the "Sammy B" and the other ships in that engagement that served to turn the tide of the war in the Pacific theater. As one who had the honor of serving aboard the current USS Samuel B Roberts it was humbling and inspiring to read this excellent account of those on the first USS Samuel B Roberts and to understand what it means to serve with "No Higher Honor".

Well written almost like you were right there with the crew. great history and brave crew . So sad about communication problems!

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