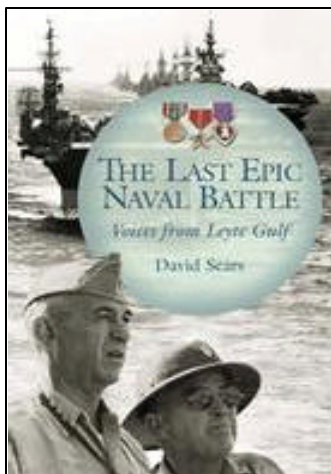
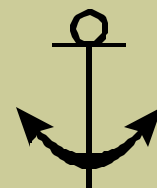


# D. L. Sears BOOKS *Log Book*



## Welcome to the Premier Issue of *Log Book*

Welcome to **Log Book**, a four-times-a-year (January, April/May, July, October/November) update on D.L.Sears projects—past (*The Last Epic Naval*), present (*At War with the Wind*) and future.

You may be on the mailing list for **Log Book** for a number of reasons. You may have purchased a book; or been interviewed for a book project. You may have participated in one of our presentations or programs. Or you may have simply gone to our book web site

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Special points of interest:

- Premier issue of **Log Book**
- Update: *Last Epic Naval Battle*
- Update: *At War with the Wind*
- Roll Call: A selection of photos of enduring heroes



November, 1944; USS Albert W. Grant in floating dry dock, Manus, Admiralties. (Photo courtesy of Ralph Natali)

### Inside this issue:

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## 'The Last Epic Naval Battle': Paperback Edition Set

We're pleased to report *The Last Epic Naval Battle: Voices from Leyte Gulf* will be available in a paperback edition.

The edition is set to be published and distributed by New American Library. We understand the release date will be in July 2007, though we currently have no additional details.

## Update: 'At War With the Wind'

As we distribute this premier edition of **Log Book**, I want to give you a quick update on the status of our current project.

*At War With the Wind* is the story of the U.S. Navy's struggles with orchestrated air, land and sea borne suicide attacks during the climatic months of the War in the Pacific.

*At War With the Wind* is unique in that much of it is told from the perspectives of actual veteran participants in battles for the Philippines, Iwo Jima and Okinawa.



As we reached out to obtain these perspectives (we began with listings of veterans by ship found on the [Tin Can Sailors](#) and [Destroyers OnLine](#) web sites), we were impressed to find not just a handful of 'living historians' but hundreds.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Dateline: Pacific, January 6, 1945



USS Walke (DD-723)

**USS Allen M. Sumner (DD-692)** moves into Lingayen Gulf to support minesweeping operations. Around noon, her unit comes under air attack by *kamikazes*. The first plane retreats from heavy anti-aircraft fire while the second attacker acts as a decoy to mask a suicide

run in by a third. This plane dives out of the sun on the destroyer's port bow and crashes into her near the after stack and after torpedo mount. The warship loses 14 men killed and 19 injured.

**USS Newcomb (DD-586)** drives off 2 would-be *kamikazes*.

**USS Walke (DD-723)** attacked by four "Oscars". One crashes into her bridge and bursts into flames. Control is shifted to secondary conn, and fires are brought under control. Walke's CO George F. Davis is awarded Medal of Honor, posthumously.

<p>Jim Creighton USS O' Neill (DE-188)</p>	<p>Glenn Grant USS Henrico (APA-45)</p>	<p>Brian Masterson USS Aulick (DD-569)</p>	<p>Joe McDonough USS Twigg (DD-591)</p>	<p>James Montgomery USS New Orleans (CA-32)</p>
<p>Bill Pumphrey USS St. Lo (CVE 63)</p>	<p>Donald E. Roller USS Cowell (DD-547)</p>	<p>Harold (Scotty) Scott USS Bennion (DD-662)</p>	<p>Gerald Taafe USS Sterett (DD-407)</p>	<p>John I. Vaught USS Bache (DD-470)</p>

### Roll Call

Welcome to the Premier Issue of **Log Book**  
(Continued from page 1)

([www.dlsearsbooks.com](http://www.dlsearsbooks.com))  
and asked to be included on our mailing list.

If you would like to join our distribution for **Log Book**, go to the '[Mailing List](#)' link on our Web Site. (To be removed from the distribu-

tion, simply reply to this e-mail, putting 'remove from distribution' in the subject line.)

If you are the web master, historian or newsletter editor for a ship, squadron or unit veterans association, you have our express permission to include excerpts from **Log**

**Book** in your web or printed materials.

Mindful that many older veterans may not have ready access to Internet or e-mail resources (or the PDF format used for document), feel free to send such veterans a printed copy of this newsletter with our

sincerest compliments. (As these issues go forward, we will consider ways to establish a printed mailing list.)

We take this opportunity to wish yesterday's and today's heroes—and their loved ones and families—a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year!

## Connections: *USS Ammen (DD-527)*

As we began research and interviews for *At War with the Wind*, we've been requesting World War II photos of veterans who experienced the attacks. We've received many such photos, either from surviving veterans or from families of veterans. They've come electronically (as attachments to e-mails) and on computer disks sent by mail. We've also arranged to receive originals by mail, scan them and return the originals.

Those photos are being posted on the book web site: [www.dlsearsbooks.com](http://www.dlsearsbooks.com). A collection of photos will also be included in these newsletters (see page 2 for this edition's collection).

Aside from the web site and newsletter, the photos serve two important purposes.

First, in the writing of *At War with the Wind*, which depends largely on veterans' experiences, it really helps to picture sailors and airmen

at the time of the action.

Second, at just as important, these photos help veterans, after the 60 year gap between World War II and today, refresh memories—both of *themselves* and of their buddies.

We've had a number of instances, both in the writing of this book and the writing of *The Last Epic Naval Battle*, where, usually through posting of photos on the Internet, where veterans and families have been able to make amazing connections across many decades, thousands of miles and even generations.

We'd like to share just one example. In April, we got the following e-mail:

"David, I am Lori the daughter of **Donald Costelow** (photo top right). He was on the **USS Ammen**. I would love to help you if I could but my father died in 1966 on my first birthday of lung can-

cer. I was only 1 year old. Sorry I wish I could help."

In October, we interviewed **Herb Garcia** (photo right), a surviving veteran of the *Ammen*. After Herb went to our web site to view the page set up for *Ammen*, he sent the following e-mail:

"I checked your website and to my surprise Don Costelow, my ship mate from boot camp at Farragut, Idaho showed up. it was reported he passed away at Boston. I would like to who mailed his photo to you so that i may contact them. we were great friends as were the rest of the crew. I have photos of some of the crew that Lorrie Harris might like to see. Herb Garcia"

We were thrilled to put Herb in touch with Lori, who recently e-mailed us:

"I would like to thank you for giving Herb my email address. I received photos and

*(Continued on page 4)*



Donald Costelow, *USS Ammen*



Herb Garcia, *USS Ammen*

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*..veterans and families have been able to make amazing connections across many decades, thousands of miles and even generations.*

## War Story: Yankee Doodle

When day during the Okinawa operation, **Harold (Scotty) Scott** (see Roll Call photo page 2), Gunnery Officer aboard **USS Bennion (DD-662)**, tried to compose a letter home that would pass censorship and not betray the *Bennion's* (and other Okinawa-based

shops') dangerous plight. Finding it difficult to compose the appropriate cheery news to send home, he instead produced (and held onto) the 'doodle' shown here.

Scotty recalls: "It came

*(Continued on page 4)*



The *Bennion* at Okinawa. Illustration courtesy of Harold (Scotty) Scott.

Connections: *USS Ammen (DD-527)*  
(Continued from page 3)

newspaper articles about the ship and my dad. I almost cried when I saw these pictures that I have never seen before. My mom and I are very thankful and we couldn't ask for a better Christmas present. I will be staying in touch with Herb from now on. Lori Harris"

War Story: *Yankee Doodle*  
(Continued from page 3)

about, not because of a funny and hilarious cartoon of that period, but as I recall, the forethought in the midst of attempting a letter home. You know, censorship required no detailing of operations and action."

Update: *'At War With the Wind'*  
(Continued from page 1)

Working from these initial contacts, we have assembled a large (and growing) list of more than 300 living historians from whom we are collecting personal accounts, mainly through phone interviews.

Added to this are accounts—letters, diaries, photos etc.—obtained

both from living historians and from family members (across several generations) of veterans.

In all, we anticipate *At War With the Wind* will encompass the contributions of nearly 1000 'witnesses to history.'

We'll keep you posted, both on these pages and on our [DLSeasBooks](#) web site.



Ralph E Natali  
Gunners Mate  
USS Albert W. Grant  
(DD-649)



Available now for book orders of:

**The Last Epic Naval Battle: Voices from Leyte Gulf**

Book plate inserts customized with photos of veterans and ships (see examples above and

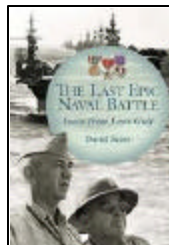


⚓ USS Bennion (DD-662) ⚓

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