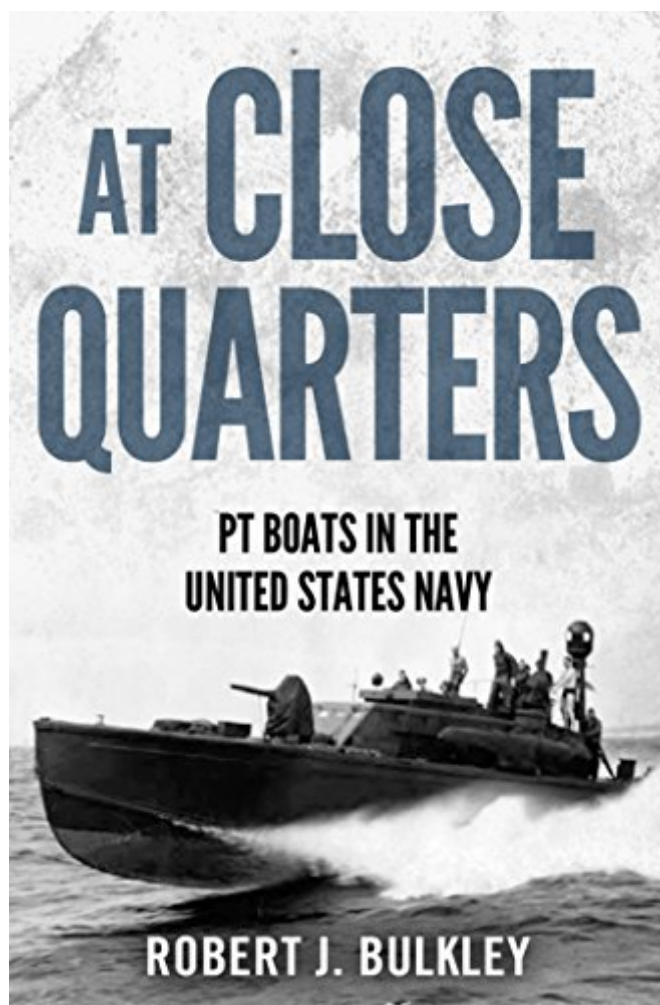


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# At Close Quarters: PT Boats In The United States Navy



## Synopsis

PT boats met the enemy at closer quarters (and with greater frequency) than any other type of surface craft. The crews of no other vessels experienced so high a degree of personal engagement with the enemy.

Robert Bulkley Robert Bulkley's definitive history of patrol torpedo boats in World War Two is exceptionally detailed, meticulously researched, and is a must-read for any naval enthusiast. Bulkley joined the PT division of the Navy in 1941, and immediately fell in love with the small and deadly weaponized boat. After V-J Day, 1945, the Navy continued Bulkley's commission and asked him to write the official history of PT boats in WWII.

At Close Quarters: PT Boats in the United States Navy is the groundbreaking result. In At Close Quarters, Bulkley uses the fastidious records kept by the US Navy to compile a book which serves as not just a record of the role of the PT boat's role in WWII but also as a lesson to future military and naval scholars. Best-known as the boat that future president John F. Kennedy commanded in the Pacific Theater in WWII, popular interest in PT boats has grown substantially since they first emerged as brilliant boats in naval engagements throughout the war. Bulkley provides a detailed account of the origins and history of PT boats, from the part they played in WWI to the improvements and developments made to their design prior to WWII. He analyses the role of PT boats in some of the major sea battles in the Pacific, opening with Pearl Harbor, through to their involvement in the Mediterranean, the D-Day operations in the English Channel as well as the Solomons campaign and the conquest of New Guinea.

"The thorough and competent account herein of over-all PT boat operations in World War II, compiled by Captain Robert Bulkley, a distinguished PT boat commander, should therefore prove of wide interest. The widest use of the sea, integrated fully into our national strength, is as important to America in the age of nuclear power and space travel as in those stirring days of the birth of the Republic."

President John F Kennedy "An invaluable history of WWII PT-Boat operations worldwide."

Pacific Wrecks "This thorough and objective account of the operations of PT boats in the U.S. Navy in World War II was prepared in the year after V-J Day by an officer who served in them through most of the war in the far reaches of the Pacific. He knew and loved these small, fast craft with hornet sting. They played their part with zest in the far reaching, powerful Navy team. He gave to the research into the records, into the memories of other participants, and to the writing itself the same zest. As a result he produced a shipshape manuscript."

Rear Admiral Ernest McNeill Eller Robert J. Bulkley, a retired USNR captain now deceased, commanded PT boats in the southwest Pacific, mostly in New Guinea and the Philippines, from June 1942 to the war's end. This work was first published in 1962, three years

before Captain Bulkley passed away

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is exactly as stated written by a man that was there. The details of some of the actions came right from interviews with the participants, and from Navy records. The author takes great pains to list the OIC in command of each mission described, along with the commander of each boat involved. Also mentioned throughout are the enlisted personnel who stood out in action or deed during the missions described. This is a great book which covers all theaters of operations for PT boats during World War II. The book is easy to read and to understand the overall concept of PT boats from inception to operational phases. I gave it 4 stars because, I am looking for a more personal book describing life as a PT man and day to day experiences while serving with a squadron. So far I have read the Mosquito Fleet, and this book and will keep looking.

Close Quarters tells the realistic history of the small boats during WW2 in the South Pacific. A contribution that could not have been provided by larger craft since the enemy was resupplying its dozens of occupied islands by shallow draft motorized barges. The waters were routinely shallow

enough to have grounded many of the PT boats; destroyers would have been hopeless.

This is a true history of the PT Boats during WWII. It takes you from the original idea of developing a Motor Torpedo Boat to the actual use in the Pacific. The book is written as history, but does inject some personal stories. I fully recommend this book if the reader has any interest into the history of our Navy during WWII.

....of the wide ranging and important roll the PT boats had during the Second World War. This book tells the story of the miniature yet vital naval war being fought all over the world. Where PT were used as naval support for small amphibious landings, much like the capital ships in major efforts, and also take on any enemy ship no matter the size that came their way.

Excellent boat with good action, another good book about World War two, gives the reader a lot of information about the war in the Pacific during World War II, it shows how bad off we were at the start of the War and how Un- prepared we really were.

As a 10 yr old in '43 I resided in Jersey City NJ several miles from the Elco Boat works. A member of my family worked there. Without great details wartime secrecy then. This exciting book filled in my curiosity...a great read.

Has an amazing number of names of USN officers and men who served. I was looking for a cousin but never found him. The great part is it covers all theaters during the war and a lot of great facts

Superb nautical history about a type of boat and the work they did in the Pacific, Mediterranean and the English Channel and the crews who manned the boats, not really understood by most people. Bulkley writes with authority and in a style that makes the book hard to put down. I have the Kindle version and would have liked more maps but, being familiar with most of the areas he writes about, this was a minor point. Highly recommended!

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