



THE KISSING SAILOR

THE MYSTERY BEHIND THE PHOTO THAT ENDED WORLD WAR II

By Lawrence Verria and George Galdorisi

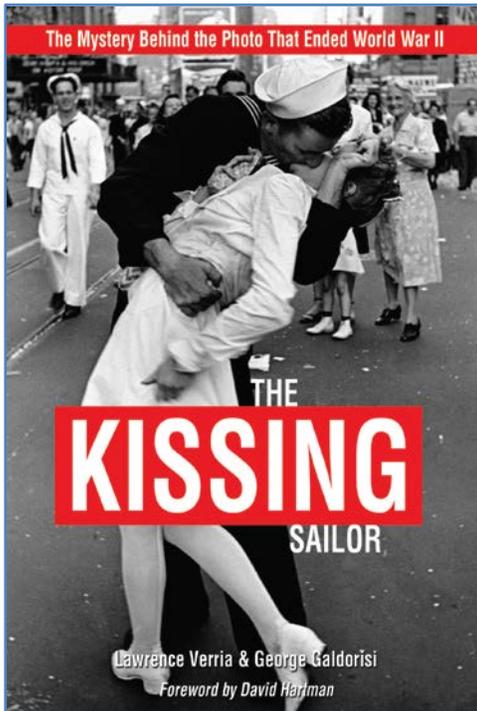
Foreword by David Hartman

*“What a wonderful detective story about a kissing sailor and a beautiful nurse—
the most famous couple celebrating the end of WWII.*

Famous but anonymous—until now. I loved it.”

— TOM BROKAW

author of *The Time of Our Lives* and *The Greatest Generation*



On August 14, 1945, the legendary photographer Alfred Eisenstaedt took a picture of a sailor kissing a nurse in Times Square, moments after receiving the news of Japan’s surrender to the United States. Now for the first time, the whole truth about the couple in the celebrated picture, *V-J Day, 1945, Times Square*, will be revealed. As James Bradley’s bestseller *Flags of Our Fathers* dispelled the many long-held misconceptions about another great photo of the war—the raising of the Marine flag on Iwo Jima—*The Kissing Sailor* documents the true story of the photo that captured the spontaneous kiss celebrating the war’s end.

After publication in *LIFE* magazine, the image became one of the most famous photos of WWII. Eventually the photo was unofficially recognized as one of the greatest in American history. As a cherished reminder of what it felt like for the war to finally be over, all who saw the photo were eager to know the story of the nurse and sailor. Alas, Eisenstaedt had no information and as a result the search for the mysterious couple’s identity took on a dimension of its own. In 1979 Eisenstaedt thought he had found the long-lost nurse and, as far as almost everyone could determine, he had. For the next thirty years Edith Shain was widely identified as the woman in the amorous embrace. In 1980 *LIFE* attempted to determine the sailor’s

identity, prompting many aging warriors to step forward with competing claims. When various experts weighed in to support one candidate over another, chaos ensued.

Intrigued for decades by the controversy surrounding the identity of the sailor and nurse, authors Lawrence Verria and George Galdorisi have collected the evidence to unravel years of misinformation and controversy. *The Kissing Sailor*, the result of their extensive research, takes a critical, multi-faceted look at all of the evidence to make a convincing case for the true identities of the couple. Given the hundreds of jubilant couples kissing in Times Square on V-J Day, it is not surprising that many have mistakenly claimed to be the sailor and the nurse. *The Kissing Sailor*, however, solves the 67-year-old mystery of their identity by providing irrefutable proof that Greta Zimmer Friedman and George Mendonsa are the nurse and the sailor who kissed the war goodbye for a generation of Americans.



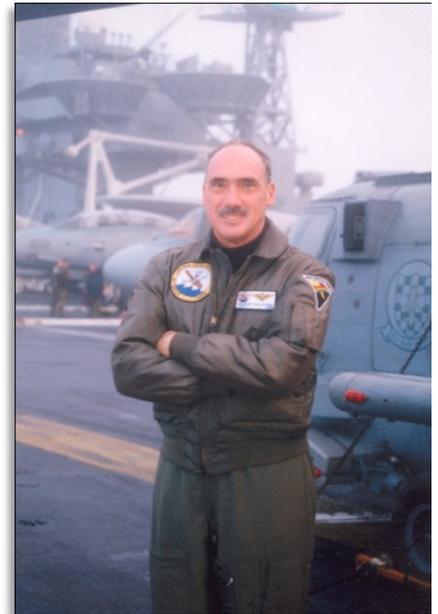
About the Authors



Lawrence Verria is the Social Studies Department Chair at North Kingstown High School, and Rhode Island's 2000 Teacher of the Year. During his twenty-nine year career as a history teacher, he served as an educational consultant to *Frontline* (PBS) and as a spokesperson for The Watson Institute for International Studies' Choices for the 21st Century Education Program at Brown University. He is the recipient of the Susan B. Wilson Civic Education Merit Award and Rhode Island College's Evelyn Walsh Prize for excellence in history studies.

Captain George Galdorisi, USN (Ret.) is a naval aviator who began his writing career in 1978 with an article in *Proceedings*. His Navy career included

four command tours and five years as a carrier strike group chief of staff. He has written seven books previously, including the *New York Times* bestseller, *Tom Clancy Presents: Act of Valor*, the novelization of the Bandito Brothers/Relativity Media film starring U.S. Navy SEALs. He is currently the director of the Corporate Strategy Group at the Navy's C4ISR Center of Excellence in San Diego, California.



David Hartman was the original, and for over 11 years, host of *Good Morning America*. He writes and produces numerous programs about the history of military aviation and space and has earned two national News and Documentary Emmys for writing and the Aviation/Space Writers Association Journalism Award.

THE KISSING SAILOR: THE MYSTERY BEHIND THE PHOTO THAT ENDED WORLD WAR II

By Lawrence Verria and George Galdorisi

Foreword by David Hartman

Hardcover; Publication date: 15 June 2012

224 pages; 40 b/w photographs

Hardcover / ISBN: 978-1-61251-078-1, List price: \$23.95

eBook / ISBN: 978-1-61251-127-6, List price: \$23.95

AT BOOKSTORES, ONLINE, OR DIRECT:

Customer Service
U.S. Naval Institute
291 Wood Road
Annapolis, MD 21402
800-233-8764/410-268-6110
www.usni.org

MEDIA INQUIRIES & REVIEW COPIES, CONTACT:

Judy Heise, Publicist
NAVAL INSTITUTE PRESS
291 Wood Road
Annapolis, MD 21402
410-295-1028/410-295-1084
jheise@usni.org

IN ENGLAND AND EUROPE, CONTACT:

CASEMATE PUBLISHING
17 Cheap Street
Newbury, Berkshire
RG14 5DD United Kingdom
Tel: 011-44-1635 231091
www.casematepublishing.co.uk