

WWII HISTORY

www.wwiihistorymagazine.com

OUTPOST SNIPE

**Desperate
Stand at
El Alamein**

30TH DIVISION

**Holding the Line
at Mortain**

VILLAGE MASSACRE

**SS Atrocity at
Oradour-sur-Glane**

WAR

Jimmy Stewart

Pacific Merchant Marine

JULY 2012

\$5.99US \$6.99CAN



RETAILER: DISPLAY UNTIL JULY 23

**OSS IN ALBANIA, AMERICA'S JEEP, PRO-AXIS ARAB
LEADER, BOOK & GAME REVIEWS, AND MORE!**



Haj Amin inspects soldiers of a Muslim division of SS troops raised in the Balkans. This photograph was taken in 1943, and the Germans saw the Grand Mufti as an advocate for Muslim soldiers in the SS.

Imperial German Second Reich, and the harsh 1919 Versailles peace treaty and its terms. Haj Amin concurred in these views.

In his postwar memoirs and other writings, the Grand Mufti insisted that he had not been

involved in the first Holocaust, but he had opposed Jewish immigration from Nazi-occupied Europe to Palestine in his meetings with Hitler, SS Reichsführer Heinrich Himmler, and von Ribbentrop, thus indirectly helping to pro-

vide more victims for the destructive maw of the gas chambers.

A primary aim of the Greater German Reich was the negation of a Jewish national homeland in Palestine, and Haj Amin was quoted as asserting that he was both delighted and pleased by the Nazi Final Solution of the Jewish Question during the four years that he spent within Nazi Germany during 1941-1945.

With the end of the Axis war effort in North Africa, Haj Amin turned his attention to the scattered Muslim populations throughout the Balkans. Two Waffen SS divisions were created for them, Handschar and Kama.

With the loss of the war in May 1945, Haj Amin slipped illegally into neutral Switzerland. Returning to prostrate Germany, he was arrested by the French and imprisoned at Varenne, rightly fearing indictment by the Allies as a war criminal at Nuremberg. He was saved miraculously from this fate, however, when General Charles de Gaulle personally intervened on his behalf, possibly to spite his British ally, Winston Churchill.

Thus, the Grand Mufti escaped yet again and was received at anti-British Cairo by Egyptian King Farouk and later welcomed back to Palestine as the unchallenged leader

Continued on page 74

THE KISSING SAILOR

The Mystery Behind the Photo That Ended World War II

By Lawrence Verria and George Galdorisi

Foreword by David Hartman

"The authors deliver a convincing conclusion to their romantic detective tale about the last day of WWII and the photo that 'savored what a long-sought peace feels like.'"



— *Publishers Weekly*

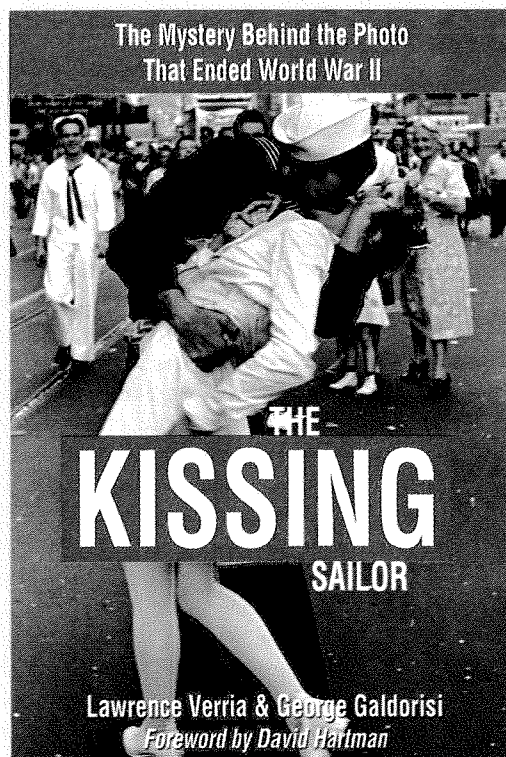
"What a wonderful detective story about a kissing sailor and a beautiful nurse—the most famous couple celebrating the end of WWII. Famous but anonymous—until now. I loved it."

— Tom Brokaw, author of *The Time of Our Lives* and *The Greatest Generation*

NAVAL INSTITUTE PRESS

800.233.8764 • trade@usni.org • www.usni.org

Like Us On  & Follow Us On  @USNIBooks

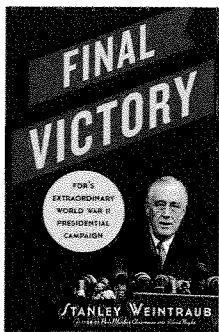


▲ Hardcover: \$23.95 • ISBN: 978-1-61251-078-1
eBook Available **NOW AVAILABLE!**

Mace's unit was featured in the HBO miniseries *The Pacific*. It chronicled Eugene Sledge, a mortar man with K/3/5, fighting on Peleliu and Okinawa. Sledge later wrote about his experiences in the classic book *With the Old Breed at Peleliu and Okinawa*, one of the best personal accounts dealing with men in combat.

Mace, who was a consultant on Sledge's book, has also delivered a hard-hitting story that equals Sledge's memoir.

Final Victory: FDR's Extraordinary World War II Presidential Campaign by Stanley Weintraub, Da Capo Press, Philadelphia, 2012, 256 pp., photographs, notes, index, \$26.00, hardcover.



Historian Stanley Weintraub has penned another engrossing work dealing with the only American president to serve more than two terms—Franklin Delano Roosevelt. This book focuses on FDR's campaign for his fourth term in office, winning hard-fought election only to die less than three months later. Roosevelt had not been in good health. His heart was failing, and the polio he had contracted (a carefully hidden secret from most of the American public) years earlier was taking its toll. Still, most Americans wanted FDR to have another term. With the war still raging in Europe and the Pacific, they believed he was the man to finish the job.

The Republicans had their hands full to find

a candidate to beat the popular FDR. They chose Thomas E. Dewey, the dapper governor of New York who, as Weintraub writes, had a “mechanical smile.” Despite that physical drawback, the savvy New Yorker was a consummate politician and came out swinging, criticizing FDR.

In the end, although he mounted an aggressive campaign, Dewey was defeated by FDR, who took most of the electoral votes and 36 of the 48 states. Sadly, the rigors of the campaign trail took their toll, and FDR passed away in April 1945. Vice President Harry S. Truman was sworn in as the new commander-in-chief.

“There will never be another fourth-term election,” Weintraub writes. “The Rooseveltian legacy may be that we will never have further crises of such magnitude as to require one.”

A Different Time, A Different Man: The Story of John L. Sullivan, Assistant Secretary of the

Short Bursts

Road to Valor: A True Story of World War II Italy, the Nazis, and the Cyclist who Inspired a Nation by Aili and Andres McConnon, Crown Publishers, New York, 2012, 336 pp., photographs, notes, index, \$25.00, hardcover.

All that Gino Bartali ever wanted to do was ride his bicycle. In fact, the native of Tuscany in northern Italy became a renowned cycling legend when he won the Tour de France, a grueling 2,200-mile excursion that winds its way through the Alps, in 1938. With his victory, the Fascist government of Benito Mussolini attempted to use Bartali's win for propaganda purposes, something that thoroughly sickened the champion.

Although apolitical, Bartali had no choice but to take sides when Italy capitulated and the country was occupied by the Nazis during the war. He became involved with the Italian resistance movement and would routinely ride through the countryside carrying forged documents, photographs, and other papers, in the frame of his bicycle. Through his efforts, he saved the lives of an estimated 800 Italian Jews.

After the war Bartali was poor and practiced vigorously for another attempt at winning the Tour de France, which he did in 1948. Often outspoken and irascible with reporters because of his views, they soon dubbed him Ginettaccio or “Gino the Terrible.”

A quiet and unassuming man, Bartali rarely discussed his wartime experiences. On May

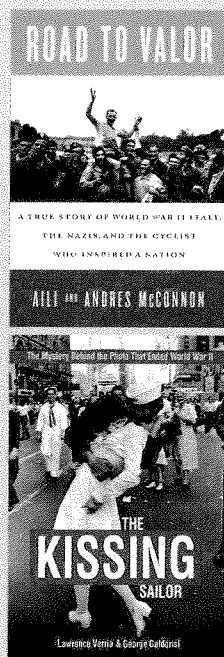
5, 2000, surrounded by his family, Bartali quietly passed away. Called Ginettaccio by some because of his hard demeanor, he was called a hero by many for risking his life to save the lives of others—and that is what true heroes do.

The Kissing Sailor: The Mystery Behind the Photo That Ended World War II

by Lawrence Verria & George Galdorisi, Naval Institute Press, Annapolis, MD, 2012, 224 pp., photographs, notes, index, \$23.95, hardcover.

Times Square. New York. August 1945. Japan had just surrendered to the Allies, ending nearly four long years of war. Pandemonium erupted as people flocked to read the *Times* “zipper” announcing the end of hostilities. Greta Zimmer, a dental assistant dressed in her white uniform, stared intently at the marquee as she read the exciting news. Suddenly, George Mendonsa, a sailor serving aboard the destroyer USS *The Sullivans*, grabbed the startled dental assistant and, holding her tightly, gave her a big kiss.

Unknown to the embracing pair, *LIFE* magazine photographer Alfred Eisenstaedt saw the opportunity for a good shot and quickly



raised his camera, snapping four pictures in succession. The second picture would grace the cover of the publication and go on to become one of the most celebrated photographs of the World War II era.

However, Eisenstaedt did not get the couple's names. It took years of detective work and investigating numerous claims by others saying that they were the kissing couple on that August day to finally uncover their identity.

The authors not only do a great job in following the clues that led to the undisputable claim that Mendonsa and Zimmer are, in fact, the kissing couple, but they also convey the euphoria that swept the country when the war ended.

It has been immortalized for eternity in one simple photograph.

A Man and His Ship: America's Greatest Naval Architect and His Quest to Build the SS United States by Steven Ujifusa, Simon & Schuster, New York, 2012, 464 pp., photographs, notes, index, \$29.99, hardcover.

William Francis Gibbs was a dreamer. Although painfully shy, he went on to become one of the greatest engineers and created,