

we know about this story. Rediker reminds us that the story of the transAtlantic slave trade and of the institution of slavery is extremely complicated. Likewise, the *Amistad* story is much more complex than how it has been presented in the past. What was left out in previous accounts were the stories of the Africans who made it happen in the first place, and this book shifts the focus away from the white man as the hero of the *Amistad* incident to the Africans who worked collectively to save themselves. It is a fascinating piece of this important story, one told from the ship's hold up to the deck rather than from the Supreme Court down to the jail cell.

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The Kissing Sailor: The Mystery Behind the Photo that Ended World War II by Lawrence Verria and George Galdorisi (Naval Institute Press, Annapolis, MD, 2012, 267pp, illus, notes, biblio, index, ISBN 978-1-6125-1127-6; \$23.95hc)

They still walk among us, contend au-

thors Verria and Galdorisi, the sailor and "nurse" who were captured by the "Father of Photojournalism," Alfred Eisenstadt, on V-J Day, 1945.

The authors come on strong from the start, confidently stating that they can prove the identities of the subjects, whose names were not recorded at the moment the photograph was taken. The assertion is almost overconfident, tending to cause skepticism in the reader; but then, in regards to the famous photo (entitled *V-J Day, Times Square, 1945*), the past seventy years have been rife with incredulity. And if it wasn't for the authors' own skepticism, this book would never have been written.

The authors bring the main players together in the moment: the sailor, the dental assistant (who looked like a nurse), the photographer, the end of the war, and Times Square. Each had a story to tell, but when captured in a singular moment of time, they became symbolic of revelry, of passion, of relief. It was only in 1980 that the heartache began, when *Life* magazine, the owner of the Eisenstadt photograph,

put out a request asking the sailor to come forward. According to the photographer, about eighty World War II veterans staked their claim to be the man in the picture.

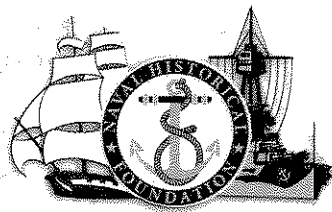
Over the years, forensic experts have studied the photographic evidence, focusing on nose sizes, scars, tattoos, birthmarks, discolorations in skin and hair, subcutaneous lumps and more. Stories told by the different sailors have been scrutinized to the smallest details. One by one, as the years went by, claimants and other players in the debate continue to pass on—Eisenstadt, Edith Shain, who claimed to be the female co-star, for instance—making positive identification ever more elusive.

Still, Verria and Galdorisi compiled all the evidence and presented it with sureness. They believe they have the names of the *V-J Day, Times Square, 1945* subjects. In the end, they implore *Life* magazine, still around in digital format in 2014, to correct past injustices and definitively name them.

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