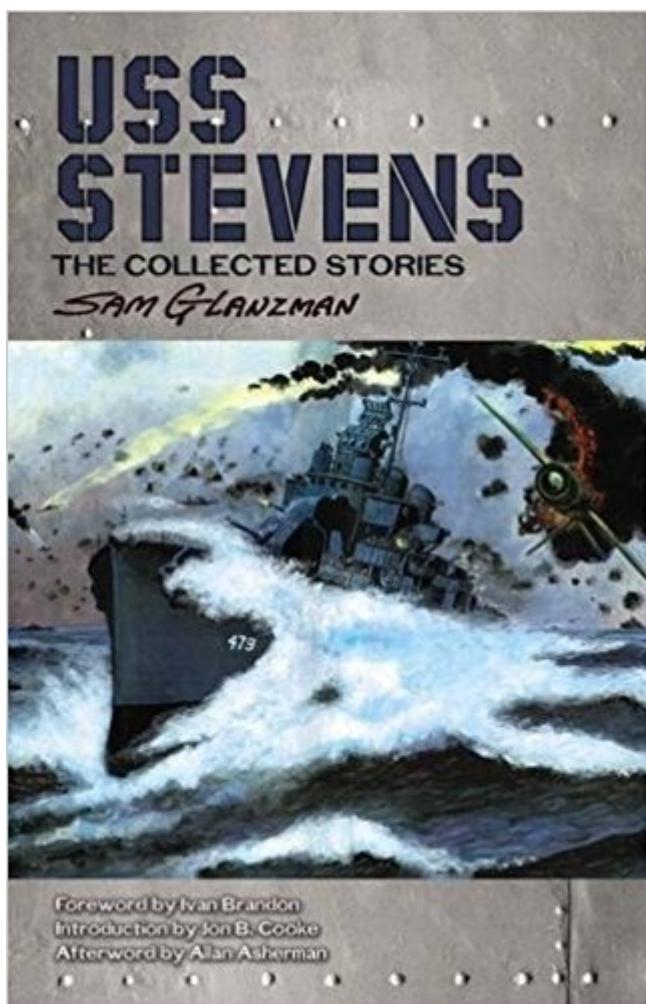


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U.S.S. Stevens: The Collected Stories (Dover Graphic Novels)



Synopsis

"USS Stevens is both an excellent graphic narrative and an important record of an American warship's service in the Pacific campaign of World War Two. It also serves as a fine tribute to the young sailors of the US Navy, who faced the forces of Imperial Japan in battle after battle, enduring countless hardships on the long journey to victory. Mr. Glanzman has my admiration, respect and profound gratitude." • Garth Ennis, Eisner Award-winning writer of Preacher and The Punisher, Hellblazer, Judge Dredd, and Hitman. Legendary Golden Age artist Sam Glanzman set many of his tales aboard the USS Stevens, the actual World War II destroyer on which he served. This full-color, hardcover treasury collects every single Stevens tale he ever published, more than 60 short adventures from Our Army at War, G. I. Combat, and other 1970s DC war comics as well as longer pieces from Marvel's 1986 revival of Savage Tales magazine and the more recent Joe Kubert Presents. Plus, this outstanding collection also includes the final, four-page story about the warship, newly written and illustrated by Glanzman himself. Exclusive Bonus Material: A new four-page U.S.S. Stevens story by Sam Glanzman; Letters from President Barack Obama and President George H.W. Bush; Extended footnotes and story annotations by Jon B. Cooke; Sam Glanzman's WAR DIARY #1; First appearance of the U.S.S. Stevens in a comic book; New Foreword by Ivan Brandon; New Introduction by Jon B. Cooke; New Afterword by Allan Asherman

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A combat veteran, acclaimed comic book creator Sam Glanzman is best known for the biographical stories within this collection, mostly published by DC Comics, and set aboard the USS Stevens, the ship on which he served during World War II. Some of his other work includes two Charlton Comics series, Tarzan and Hercules, the Dell Comics series Combat and Kona, Monarch of Monster Isle, the Marine Corps series Semper Fi, two A Sailor's Story graphic novels from Marvel Comics (recently republished by Dover Comics & Graphic Novels), and his only black-and-white independent comics creation, ATTU. He is also the artist on Will Franz's The Lonely War of Willy Schultz, a controversial series of stories about a German-American Army captain during World War II, which has gained a cult following.

As a kid growing up in the late '60's and early '70's, I devoured comic books with World War Two themes such as Our Army At War and Big G.I. Combat. Sam Glanzman's stories about his shipboard experiences on the U.S.S. Stevens always caught my eye. Both of my dad's older brothers had served in the U.S. Navy during the war (one aboard CVE-91 Makassar Strait and the other aboard AO-2 Maumee). They were just 17 years old when they enlisted in 1943 and 1944. Both came home alive and well, but their wartime histories weren't really accessible to me. What I couldn't learn from my uncles, I learned from Sam, and those comic books led the way to the public library where I could learn even more. His stories about the Stevens and her crew were the starting point of my fascination with U.S. naval history and paved the way for me to discover a wide range of biographies, accounts, analyses and studies of the greatest conflict our nation has ever endured. Glanzman offered me a life-long hobby and love of reading, for the give-away price of 25 cents per comic book. Glanzman's artistry and storytelling provided my young wondering self with a highly detailed account of a Navy sailor's life during wartime in the Pacific. On one hand, the Stevens stories are brilliantly illustrated with a keen eye to technical detail with lots of charts, maps and diagrams thrown in. It's like a history lesson about Fletcher-class destroyers during the war. On the other hand, Sam's stories are primarily about people. The ship and the war are the backdrop, but the human interest always takes center stage, as it should. There was just one problem with his U.S.S. Stevens stories: I could never get enough of them, and I often wondered what I had missed, from comic book issues before I had discovered them and after I grew out of them. Well, here it is, finally, a childhood dream of mine come true -- every U.S.S Stevens story ever published, all in one surprisingly thick and hefty hard-cover volume. It's all here between these pages... the strips I had read as a kid plus those on which I had missed out; a real treasure trove of Golden Age comic book

artistry and storytelling. An added bonus is a biography of the author by Jon B. Cooke, who also provides detailed annotations on each story. It's a complete work, and it's difficult not to get sentimental about this particular graphic novel because I grew up on Sam's artwork. It's hard not to feel like this book was compiled especially for me, because it's exactly what I've wanted for a very long time. Thank you Sam Glanzman for your service to our country and for your richly detailed U.S.S. Stevens wartime diary, from which I have learned so much. And thanks for all of your other equally excellent artwork in other genres over the years. You are as talented as you are prolific. I'm really looking forward to Red Range and whatever else you choose to do.

It's finally here. Sam Glanzman's U.S.S. Stevens stories were fan favorite backup stories in DC war comics of the 70's. They ran regularly in the titles "Our Army at War", "Our Fighting Forces", and "G.I. Combat" from about 1970 to 1974, then gradually tapered off as backup features. Fans appreciated, according to letters to the editor, Sam's technical drawing of the machines of war and the subject matter he chose to write about. This was during DCs Make War No More period, and Sam's stuff was a good fit for that. Humanistic stories, showing how lonely and torturous it was for these young guys, most away from home for the first time. There was a lot of humor too, showing the pranks they'd pull on each other and so on. And like Enemy Ace, stories often focused on pilots and sailors from Japan, on the futility of their fight late in the war. Sam seemed very interested in the idea of the kamikaze pilot and their struggle with this choice and the horrors it produced. I think I'm like a lot of people out there- I had a few, 10-20, comics from this time with Stevens stories in them, but longed for a definitive set. In the mid 80s we were treated to a few backups in Savage Tales, a magazine format war comic from Marvel. The of course came the groundbreaking work, a two-part graphic novel published by Marvel, not DC, called A Sailor's Life. Here, Sam wasn't tied down to telling his stories in four page increments. And this story was all true (Stevens stories were occasionally punched up a little, stretching an anecdote into a whole four page piece), an illustrated diary of his life on DD 479. It was critically acclaimed, a huge hit with war comic fans, and gave a lot of superhero fans the first war story they ever wanted to read. But that's not in this book, however it's available from Dover and at a very reasonable price and even includes a new story you won't find elsewhere. Because this book (USS Stevens) is a collection of all things Stevens (other than A Sailor's Story) it also includes some late Sgt. Rock backups and all the original Joe Kubert Presents stories, plus "The Final U.S.S. Stevens" Story. Plenty of great supplemental stuff too, a biography of Sam, an annotation for each story, and so on. Get this book. It's huge, it's beautifully printed with modern color corrections, it's just great, and a real piece of comics history.

I read most of these stories when they were originally published decades ago and never forgot them. By the end of my grammar school years, I was a big fan of DC Comics' war titles (G.I. Combat, Our Army at War, Our Fighting Forces, Star Spangles War Stories), and Sam Glanzman's backup stories appeared in a couple of these titles. I was impressed with his stories and artwork. He conveyed a great deal of the cruelties and absurdities of war in a just a few pages. By sheer coincidence, I was wondering just a few weeks ago why no one had compiled his stories for release in a single volume. Then I discovered on that my wish had come true. This book is a high-quality collection of Sam Glanzman's stories about World War II, and those stories remain outstanding to this day. Read it. You won't regret it.

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