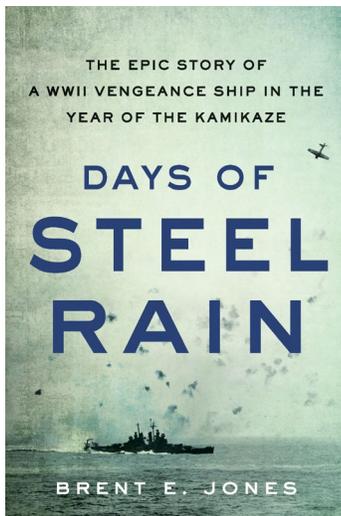


AN INTIMATE TRUE ACCOUNT OF AMERICANS AT WAR, *DAYS OF STEEL RAIN* IS AN EPIC DRAMA ABOUT AN UNLIKELY GROUP OF MEN FORCED TO WORK TOGETHER IN THE FACE OF AN INCREASINGLY DESPERATE ENEMY DURING THE FINAL YEAR OF WORLD WAR II



During the late stages in the Pacific Theatre of World War II, U.S. Navy Captain George Dyer, wounded in action, vowed to return for one last chance to avenge his injuries and salvage his career. In 1944 he accepted an assignment on the light cruiser USS *Astoria*, named for her sunken predecessor. This was a “vengeance ship” whose mission was to avenge that sunken warship lost during the worst sea defeat in American naval history.

DAYS OF STEEL RAIN (5/11/21; Hachette Books; 9780316451109; \$32) introduces a major new voice in naval history. **Brent Jones** brings to life more than a decade of research and firsthand interviews. The result is an at once intimate and epic drama about an unlikely group of men forced to work together in the face of an increasingly desperate enemy during the final year of World War II.

Just getting into action would prove to be a battle. Dyer’s crew was comprised of late-war draftees, disciplinary castoffs, and broken veterans of previous traumatic combat. Most had no desire to be in the war, yet all found themselves fighting an enemy more afraid of surrender than death. The new ship herself proved a further liability—the product of a failing shipyard torn by labor strife, shoddy craftsmanship, and materiel shortages.

The reluctant ship was called to respond to challenges that its men never could have anticipated. From a typhoon where the ocean was enemy to daring rescue missions, a gallant turn at Iwo Jima, and the ultimate crucible against the Kamikaze at Okinawa, they endured the worst of the final year of the war at sea.

DAYS OF STEEL RAIN weaves an unforgettable portrait of leadership, heroism, endurance, and redemption and follows in the treads of deeply-researched war histories. **Brent Jones** fills the narrative with secret diaries, memoirs, letters, interpersonal conflicts, and the innermost thoughts of the *Astoria* men; including 80 never-before-seen photos taken by the ship’s photographer, also a main character in the story.

Brent Jones holds a BA in Economics from University of Texas at Austin and an MBA from Southern Methodist University in Dallas. After 20 years in business operations and corporate writing, he became a full-time writer. He was awarded the 2017 Mayborn Literary Conference Personal Essay prize and his work has appeared in *World War II Magazine* and *US Navy Cruiser Sailors' Association* magazine. *Days of Steel Rain* is his first book.



(continued on next page)

DAYS OF STEEL RAIN:

The Epic Story of a WWII Vengeance Ship in the Year of the Kamikaze

Hachette Books | May 11, 2021

\$32 | Hardcover | 400 Pages | Two 16-Page Inserts of B&W Photos | ISBN: 9780316451109

For more information on DAYS OF STEEL RAIN, to request an interview with Brent Jones, or to request a review copy, please contact Michael Giarratano at michael.giarratano@hbgusa.com

Praise for DAYS OF STEEL RAIN

“The story of how this novice crew came together over time under Dyer's firm, but fair, leadership to become a very tough, very competent crew capable of performing consistently and well under extraordinarily demanding conditions. A great story of a great ship!”

–Admiral John C. Harvey, Jr., USN (Ret.)

“DAYS OF STEEL RAIN relates in graphic and dramatic detail how cruiser USS *Astoria* and her sailors withstood Japan's dreaded Kamikaze assaults during the most deadly [and] decisive campaigns of the Pacific War. A first-rate account of American courage, selfless sacrifice, and perseverance against high odds in the crucible of combat. A must-read for anyone interested in the battle history of U.S. Navy.”

–Edward J. Marolda, former Senior Historian of the U.S. Navy

“Brent E. Jones strikes gold with his stirring DAYS OF STEEL RAIN, which relates the exploits of his World War II relative, Lawrence Jones, and his shipmates aboard the light cruiser, USS *Astoria*, as they battle their foe off Iwo Jima, Okinawa, and Japan in the Pacific War's final year. Relying on vivid combat sequences, Jones has provided touching testimony that humans, not guns and weapons, win wars. He offers a fitting tribute to his relative and to the other courageous sailors who manned that cruiser.”

–John Wukovits, author of *Tin Can Titans* and *Dogfight Over Tokyo*

“Finally, a seafaring story we can steer into at top speed. This is World War II as we seldom get to see it. First-hand. Fast-paced. And arriving not a moment too late. Batten down the hatches—you're about to follow a fraternity of heroes as they plunge into chaos. It's time to go to sea.”

–Adam Makos, author of the *New York Times* bestseller *A Higher Call*

“As powerfully built as the ship at its heart, DAYS OF STEEL RAIN is a mighty feat of storytelling. Herein lie Iwo Jima bombardments, a near-collision with [the] *Indianapolis*, kamikazes, typhoons, and incomparable men. The narrative is vigorous, deeply felt .and so attentively wrought, it's as if Brent E. Jones came through the war on *Astoria* herself.”

–James Sullivan, author of *Unsinkable*