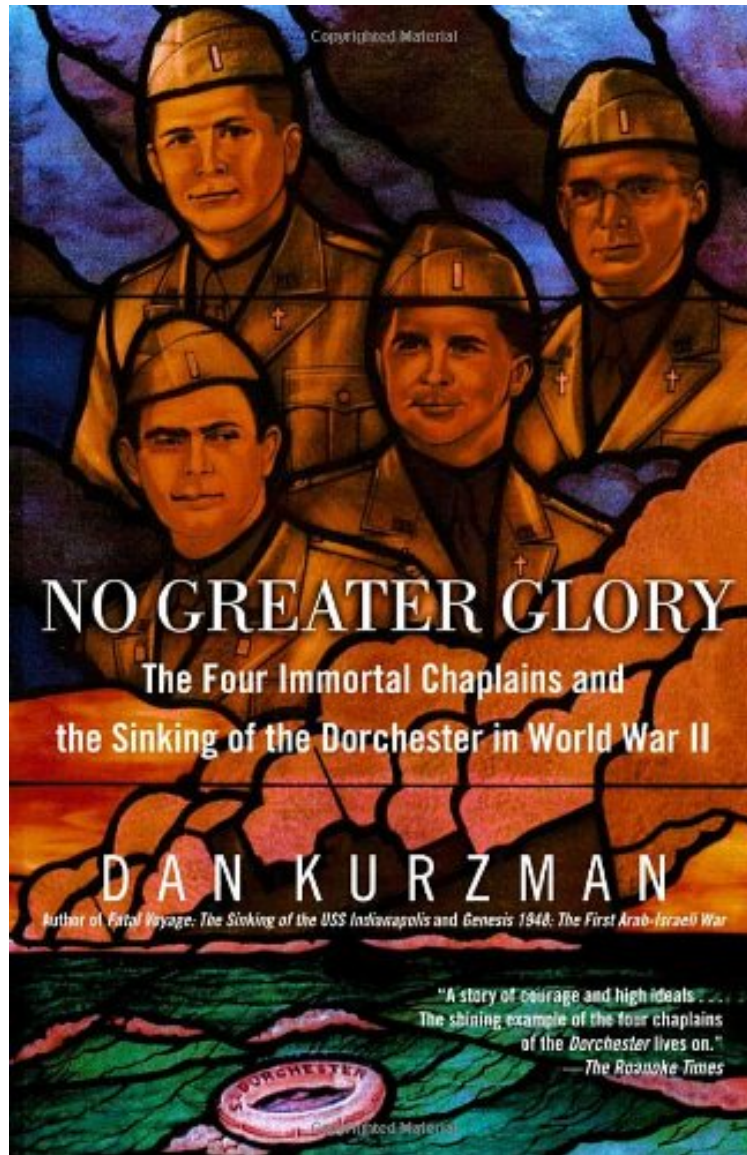


(Library ebook) No Greater Glory: The Four Immortal Chaplains and the Sinking of the Dorchester in World War II

## No Greater Glory: The Four Immortal Chaplains and the Sinking of the Dorchester in World War II

Dan Kurzman

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**Dan Kurzman : No Greater Glory: The Four Immortal Chaplains and the Sinking of the Dorchester in World War II** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised No Greater Glory: The Four Immortal Chaplains and the Sinking of the Dorchester in World War II:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Ultimate courage. By Dutch Almost anyone can be trained to kill, but to save lives must come natural. The 4 Chaplains is an outstanding example of this. They "Talked the Talk, and Walked the Walk". What is so great is that these men were from different denominations, and met in the Army with the same desire to go into combat and help the soldiers. If one reads the Medal Of Honor list most of these men were given the medal for saving lives. The Chaplains are in this group. However, they were not in a combat area as such so did not receive the MOH, but a new medal was struck for them. The book goes into detail with interviews of survivors. A good read for a young person. If you know of a person who thinks they are tough, have them read about the 4 Chaplains, "THEN", they will know what tough is. Dutch.....

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Strong Faith and Living Witness By LabDog48 Amazing lives and incredible series of historical events. The inter-faith example that these men present in living their lives is one that we all need to follow. Christ gave us this witness and these 4 men lived it.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. PROVIDES GREAT INFORMATION By Lee C. I ordered this book for my father, whose brother died in WWII. The family was given almost no information at the time, but by piecing together details, my mother determined that he was almost certainly on a particular boat when it was sunk by the enemy. That fact was confirmed by this book, and it offered a lot of information that is offered only sketchily in other areas. We appreciate the author and the information he was able to provide families, as well as the story of the wonderful chaplains. My mother, an avid reader (particularly about WWII), said this was one of the best written histories on WWII that she has read.

The sinking of the *Dorchester* in the icy waters off Greenland shortly after midnight on February 3, 1942, was one of the worst sea disasters of World War II. It was also the occasion of an astounding feat of heroism—and faith. As water gushed through a hole made by a German torpedo, four chaplains—members of different faiths but linked by bonds of friendship and devotion—moved quietly among the men onboard. Preaching bravery, the chaplains distributed life jackets, including their own. In the end, these four men went down with the ship, their arms linked in spiritual solidarity, their voices raised in prayer. In this spellbinding narrative, award-winning author and journalist Dan Kurzman tells the story of these heroes and the faith—in God and in country—that they shared. They were about as different as four American clergymen could be. George Lansing Fox (Methodist), wounded and decorated in World War I, loved his family and his Vermont congregation—yet he re-enlisted as soon as he heard about Pearl Harbor. Rabbi Alex Goode was an athlete, an intellectual, and an adoring new father—yet he too knew, the day Pearl Harbor was bombed, that he would serve. Clark Poling (Dutch Reformed), the son of a famous radio evangelist, left for war begging his father to pray that he would never be a coward. Father John Washington (Catholic), a scrappy Irish street fighter, had dedicated himself to the church after a childhood brush with death. Chance brought the chaplains together at a Massachusetts training camp, but each was convinced that God had a reason for placing them together aboard the *Dorchester*. Drawing on extensive interviews with the chaplains' families and the crews of both the *Dorchester* and the German submarine that fired the fatal torpedo, Kurzman re-creates the intimate circumstances and great historic events that culminated in that terrible night. The final hours unfold with the electrifying clarity of nightmare—the chaplains taking charge of the dwindling supply of life jackets, the panic of the crew, the overcrowded lifeboats, the prayers that ring out over the chaos, and the tight circle that the four chaplains form as the inevitable draws near. In *No Greater Glory*, Dan Kurzman tells how four extraordinary men left their mark on a single night of war—and forever changed the lives of those they saved. Riveting and inspiring, this is a true story of heroism, of goodness in the face of disaster, and of faith that transfigures even the horror of war. From the Hardcover edition.

From Publishers Weekly The U.S. Army Transportation Service troopship *Dorchester* was torpedoed in the North Atlantic, 100 miles south of Greenland, on the night of February 3, 1943. As a former luxury liner, the ship went down quickly. Of the 900 passengers and crew, 597 were military personnel, and four of those men were the ship's chaplains—Methodist senior chaplain George Lansing Fox, rabbi Alexander Goode, Dutch Reformed minister Clark V. Poling and John P. Washington, a Roman Catholic priest. Each chaplain distributed life vests as the ship went down and then gave up their own when supply ran out. (There were approximately 200 survivors.) Former Washington Post correspondent Kurzman (*Fatal Voyage*) follows the men from their enlistments to that fateful night, detailing their families and travails along the way. The result is the fullest reckoning yet for the men who have become known as "The Four Immortal Chaplains," who have previously been commemorated by the U.S. Postal Service, with a stamp issued in their honor. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist In the *Battle of the Atlantic's* catalog of tragedies, the 1943 sinking of an American troop transport stands out as a heroic vignette witnessed by survivors. They recounted how four chaplains, after pressing their life jackets on terrified young men, went down with the ship, praying. The chaplains have been commemorated over the years in various media but never in so comprehensive a fashion as in Kurzman's book. His research of primary documents associated with each chaplain's life and religious career, and interviews of people who knew them, pays off in a narrative that not only recalls the men's personalities but also the quality of their faith in God. It was slightly different for each—an intellectual decision for Protestant minister Clark Poling; a starting point for an idealistic

commitment to brotherhood and democracy for the young rabbi Alexander Goode. From the chaplains' bonding in training camp to the voyage to Greenland, their duties and sacrifice are movingly commemorated in this poignant account, which is bound to connect with spiritually minded readers. Gilbert Taylor Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved "One of the greatest survival stories of World War II. A tale full of heroism and courage in the face of genuine horror." —Los Angeles Times "Kurzman takes this gigantic tragedy and tells it in very personal terms. . . . The writing style is compelling. . . . Kurzman records dozens of tales of heroism, large and small. One can only marvel at the superhuman feats man is capable of in times of crisis." —Indianapolis Star "An intensely personal moving account of the events and personalities involved in the catastrophe and its clouded aftermath." —Sea Power From the Hardcover edition.