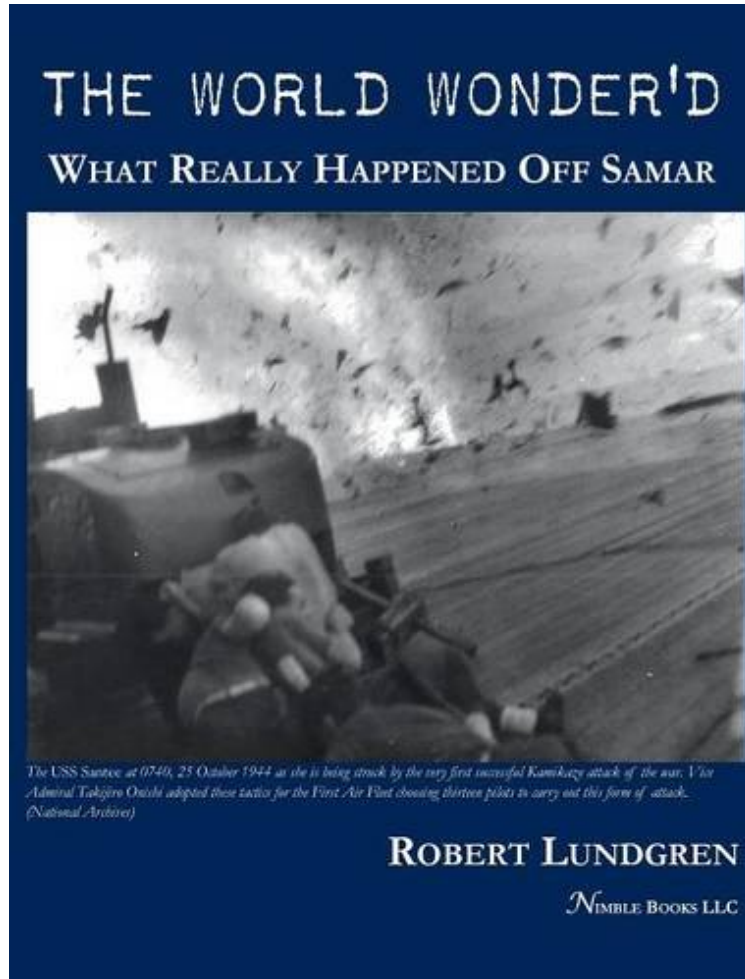


[Download free ebook] The World Wonder'd: What Really Happened Off Samar

## The World Wonder'd: What Really Happened Off Samar

Robert Lundgren

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**Robert Lundgren : The World Wonder'd: What Really Happened Off Samar** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The World Wonder'd: What Really Happened Off Samar:

37 of 37 people found the following review helpful. Overall, a Fine Piece of WorkBy JCI first encountered Robert Lundgren's work when I read his articles on the Naval Battle of Guadalcanal a few years ago. These articles were fascinating and highly detailed accounts of the damage the USS Washington inflicted on the IJN Kirishima, and that suffered by the USS South Dakota in the same fight. Having greatly enjoyed them, when I saw he had written a book on the Battle off Samar, the most dramatic part of the Battle of Leyte Gulf, it was an instant buy for me. The book's design reminds of some Civil War Battlefield guides I've used. In them, first is a map of the battle ground at a given time followed by excerpts from the contemporary writings of generals and soldiers, field orders, unit reports and the

like about what they saw and did with occasional portraits, engravings or art. In Lundgren's book, the Map of the battleground s replaced by a track chart showing the course of the USN and IJN ships over a specific time period, usually a half hour segment. Then he incorporates excerpt's from numerous ship after action reports, commanders' reports, aviator's observations and especially damage reports focused on the same time period. Mixed in are many photographs and stills from film shot during the battle, most of which I had never seen before. Some were amazingly dramatic, especially those of a kamikaze about to strike the one of the CVE's (Locations 4551-4582). Lundgren's work gives the reader a dramatic, you are there sense of what happened off Samar. The author doesn't neglect to discuss the controversial decisions made by Admirals Kurita and Halsey that figured so much in the battle's outcome, but it is less a critical analysis of their decisions than an effort to let us see how the information the admirals had available could have led to the choices they made. Lundgren does particularly well in showing how Kurita reached the seemingly inexplicable decision to stop the pursuit of Taffy 3. I really enjoyed the book and read it within two days of purchase. I must give one caveat, however. At times Lundgren's embrace of "nitty gritty" details exceeded even my considerable appetite. Here's an example: "The projectile penetrated door A-0201 and then the deck of A-0201 at frame 27 tearing a hole 24 inches by 36 inches. It then entered stateroom A-0103 and struck bulkhead 26, tearing a hole approximately 48 inches by 60 inches in stateroom 0101. It continued into the outboard bulkhead of compartment 0101, distorting and pushing this bulkhead outward for four feet between frames 24-25." His description continues on in this vein for several more sentences--and that's just describing the first shell hit on a CVE! More hits, and more descriptions like this followed. I ended up skimming over such bits of excess. I enjoyed reading the book and don't regret the time or money spent. 15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Illuminating look at a famous battle By Kindle Customer Robert Lundgren has gone from having a casual interest in warships to producing professional quality work. The World Wondered breaks down basically moment by moment all the details that happened to all the major ships off Samar, both USN and IJN. In so doing he has not only provided a better and more evenhanded accounting of the battle, but has shown, or at least provided a very strong case for reinterpreting large portions of the battle, specifically the part played by the IJN battleships. This is coupled with a lot of Photos I've never seen before, giving some valuable context to the text. The writing style is somewhat dry and he uses a shifting narrative to bounce back and forth between various ships. This is very helpful in showing how each side thought the battle was going while they were in the midst of it, and of showing how things could be misinterpreted in battle, but it may not be for everyone. Some technical details that will make warship nuts like myself smile may be too much for more casual readers But for anyone who has any interest in Samar at all, this is a must read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fills in Some Gaps on One of the Most Famous Naval Engagements of WWII By John E Hocking This small book has a great title, named for the famous message Halsey received from Admiral Nimitz. I've read everything about this battle I could get my hands on, starting with Morrison. The book fills in some gaps in that it organizes, to the extent possible, what was going on at every minute. However, for me, it seemed a bit overly sterile or matter-of-fact, and this may have been the author's intent. Plenty of books provide a narrative that tells the story of this famous battle. I was reminded of "Friday," the character played by Jack Webb in the old "Dragnet" TV show. He'd ask for, "just the facts," without embellishment. I don't mean to suggest that this approach doesn't make an important contribution to the extensive literature on the battle. It did make the book less interesting, \*for me\*, than others about this last major Naval engagement of WWII.

This book is an analysis of the primary documentation from both the Japanese and the United States for the naval Battle off Samar which took place on October 25, 1944. The conclusions of the analysis differ greatly from what has been previously written; there are many revelations about the true role of the famous vessels on each side and about the oft-questioned thinking of the contending admirals. There are hundreds of photos and drawings and several hundred footnotes within the book, each placed within the text at the moment they occurred. This allows the reader to witness the battle as it played out, literally salvo for salvo, with complete confidence in the accuracy of the narration. Essential reading for anyone interested in battleship combat, the naval history of World War II, the Battle off Samar, or the U.S. and Japanese navies.