

**All Came Home: A World War II story told through the letters of Boat Group Commander, Joseph B. McDevitt**

By Paul K. McDevitt

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Reviewed by Lee Boyland

**WWII Fast Attack Transports in the Pacific theater**

I have read many novels and nonfiction books dealing with the Pacific war against Japan. They mostly dealt with combat ships, airplanes, and ground troops. But how did the troops and required supplies get to the island beaches? Where did the landing crafts come from? How were so many men and supplies delivered to the correct beach so quickly? Who moved the Army and Marines from island to island and then returned them to the U.S.? The answer is: Fast Attack Transports.

*All Came Home* is a story of life in America in the late 1930s and 1940s. A nation mired in the great depression where people struggled to survive — a land that young Americans in the 21st Century can hardly imagine. It is part of one page of the story of the Greatest Generation, the men and women, military and civilian, who through determination and sacrifice won World War II and turned America into a mighty nation, a superpower.

One such young man was Joe McDevitt. While this is Joe's story, compiled by his son through copies of personal letters, newspaper articles, and official documents, it is also his family's story and the story of his ship, one of the ships that helped win the Pacific naval war, the USS *Leon* (APA 48), the "Lucky Leon" and her crew who all came back.

I highly recommend this book and will retain my copy for my grandchildren when they are old enough to understand.