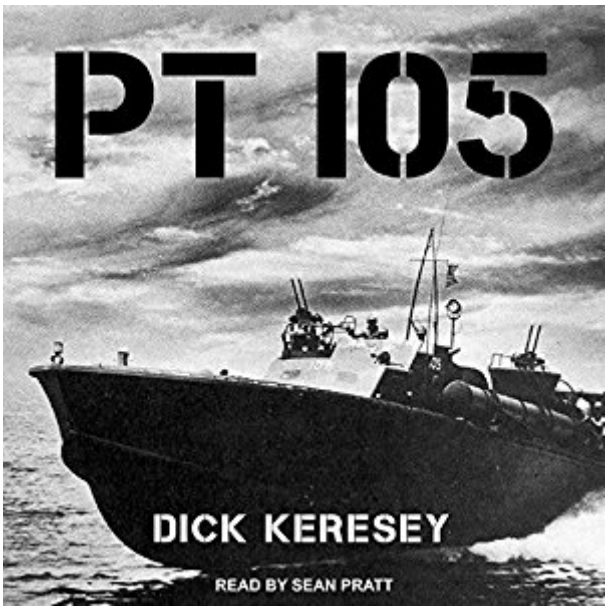
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PT 105



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Synopsis

Admittedly small and vulnerable, PT boats were, nevertheless, fast - the fastest craft on the water during World War II - and Dick Keresey’s account of these tough little fighters throws new light on their contributions to the war effort. As captain of PT 105, the author was in the same battle as John F. Kennedy when Kennedy’s PT 109 was rammed and sunk. The famous incident, Keresey says, has often been described inaccurately and the PT boat depicted as unreliable and ineffective. This book helps set the record straight by presenting an authentic picture of PT boats that draws on the author’s experience at Guadalcanal, New Georgia, Bougainville, and Choiseul Island. Action-filled, his account describes evading night bombers, rescuing coast watchers and downed airmen, setting down Marine scouts behind Japanese lines, engaging in vicious gun battles with Japanese barges and small freighters, and contending with heat, disease, and loneliness. First published in 1996, the book has been hailed for telling an exciting yet fully accurate story.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Author Dick Keresey has written a first-class account of his experiences as a PT boat skipper in WW2; he covers his time from his induction into the US Navy until his eventual posting back home and discharge from the service, where he picked up the threads of his pre-war life and got on with it.This book covers one man’s experiences from being in school and the graduating on to the point of getting ready to start a career, when his plans were blinded by a left field intrusion of the greatest world conflict in modern history. I was drawn to his early experiences and ’stumbling’ from trying to learn trigonometry and astro-navigation to trying to bring a 50 ton PT boat in and out of a dock...his

first attempt rearranged all the paint work and wood craftsmanship of the boat builders...Progressing from the 'early days' of learning about PT boats he was then thrust into the war in the Pacific where he not only had to contend with developing his skills in boatmanship, but added the demands of leadership of the boat's crew and survival in a real live shooting war at a very fast pace. PT boat crews were always at the forefront of the action and had little time to get to learn the intricacies of the 'neighbourhood' they were operating in before they were moved up to another place with fresh dangers and challenges.By the time of his transfer back the the 'States', Dick had done it all, from attacking enemy barges, to rescuing downed airmen to joining a major assault and being responsible for identifying the location of the next set of forward bases for a PT boat squadron and working with the Coast Watchers his last operation was collecting seventy Japanese from out of the water after their ship had been torpedoed. Along the way he was part of the same unit future US president John F. Kennedy was part of and was on the same mission where Kennedy had his boat cut in two on a night operation.I enjoyed this book immensely as it is rich in experiences and illustrates how people rapidly adapt to challenges and dangerous situations in a highly mobile and often changing environment. Often these operations were conducted at night and were at a time when such equipment as Radar were very much an unknown and radios were a still to be improved device.In summary a very well written and enthralling account of PT boats and their operations as well as the human endeavour in a wartime setting. Well worth the read and very rich in detail and narrative. Well done, Dick Keresey!

Gives you a chance to become part of the crew of PT 105, in the early ear years when the USN was not the super power and we did not have the technology, tactics, supplies, troops to overpower Japan in the Pacific. Incredible well written book on this time period and chapter of USN history with a good dose of honesty, comedy, and every emotion you can muster in war. I learned more about this difficult period in military history than in many of the formal history books. This is not a propaganda novel written to inspire everyone to fight harder but an honest look at one PT boat, one skipper, a couple years of adventure. When I finished the novel I hoped to find the author still alive and wanted to reach out to him in professional admiration but sadly that generation and it appears allthe major PT Boat skippers are not gone. Their part of history now lives in a few novels like this one and what family and friends can pass down. Having served 32 years in US Army Special Forces, I can honestly say the author's service and all those who served, bring me to a sense of thank you to that incredible generation. My military generation had everything, they did not and still persevered. Incredible novel--will be re read over the years. Colonel MJK, US Army

An interesting read by one of the Greatest Generation and an American hero. It is rich in details around how he ended up on PT's and arriving in the South Pacific. In his time there, one gets the sense that Mr. Keresey was on dozens of dangerous and exciting missions. Unfortunately, I was left wanting to know more about many more of those missions, how effective he thinks they were in the PT service, etc., etc. It would probably have taken at least another 100 pages but I would have welcomed this. If there were more details and stories related to the missions, I would have given this 5 stars. All in all, a good read for those interested in WW2 history.

This is a well written book, the author lived through all the war time stories he wrote about.Dick Keresey writes in an easy fluent style which is very easy to read and digest, his part in the war time stories are understated without the usual hero type macho man stereotype.I can recommend this book to any one who likes stories about boats,in particular PT boats. These were plywood boats built by craftman boat builders, powered by 3 massive engines.

A very exciting book, Well written. The the John Wayne version of PT boats.

OK read. It gives one a better understanding of what it was like to serve in the PT boat. Tough and very dangerous duty. They and their crews were truly seen as expendable. Also now understand why JFK was running on one engine when his boat was cut in half by the Japanese destroyer. I had not realised that the PT's wakes made them such targets for enemy aircraft. Kersey is among the fortunate men who survived to write about his service.

I'd like to say that this is a remarkable book by an amazing man, but this book deserves far better than such a routine compliment. I bought this book on a whim and enjoyed it immensely. A first hand account of life in action on a PT boat in the Pacific written by a man of intelligence, humility and wry wit.I recommend this book unreservedly and look forward to the author's next work. Many, many thanks to you sir!

Good first person account of a very smart and courageous skipper. He went above and beyond the call of duty picking up the sure to die japanese sailors in his final recollection. Keresey is proof they were dependable not they were expendable.

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