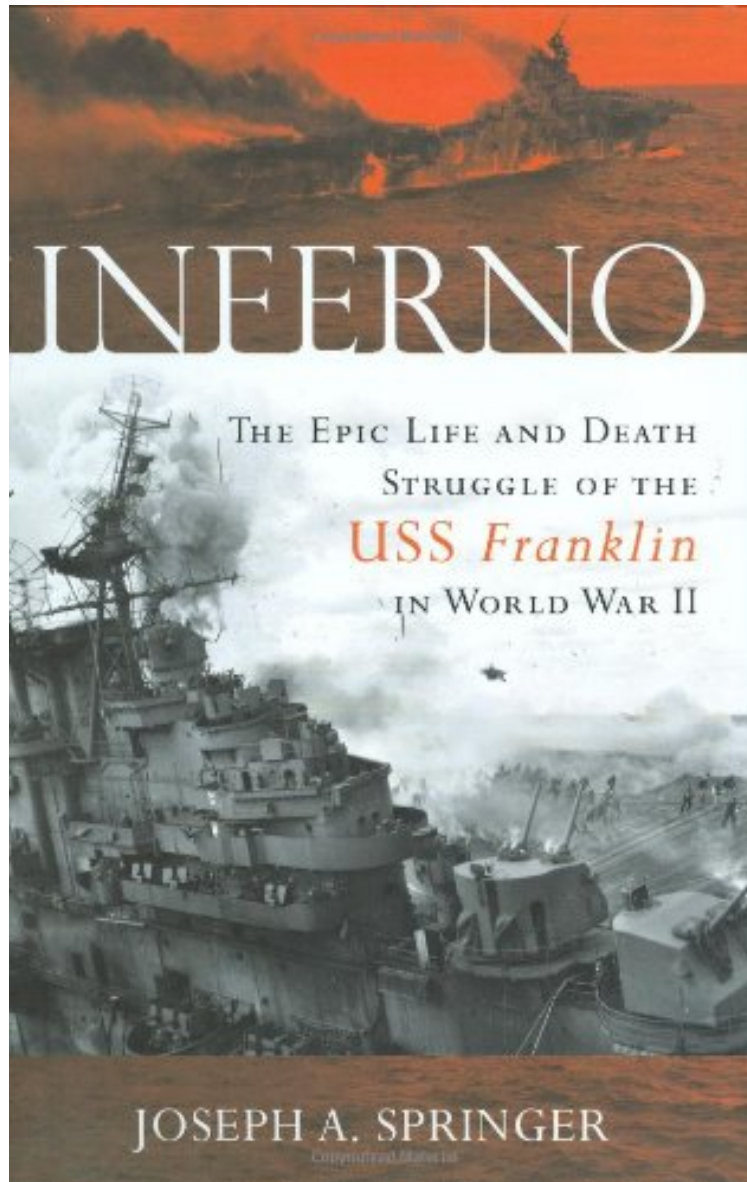


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Inferno: The Epic Life and Death Struggle of the USS Franklin in World War II

Joseph A. Springer

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#1150112 in Books Zenith Press 2007-09-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.25 x 1.25 x 6.251, 1.39
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Joseph A. Springer : Inferno: The Epic Life and Death Struggle of the USS Franklin in World War II before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Inferno: The Epic Life and Death Struggle of the USS Franklin in World War II*:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Bravery, heroism, tragedy, an unbelievably massive fire, and the most decorated crew in the US Navy. By J. Omasta Finally after all these years an author tells the whole story as nearly as it can be told, (too many of the knowledgeable crew are now deceased). The book (hardcover edition) is well illustrated, complete with diagrams of the ship and the bomb strikes. It is important that the reader grasp the enormous explosive nature of fully armed and fueled aircraft both on the flight deck and especially the hangar deck. It is not the power of a single 500kg bomb or a second 250kg bomb that can destroy a ship of this size, it is the fire and sustained explosions from all of those armed and fueled planes that nearly blew the USS Ben Franklin out of the water on March 19, 1945. The heroic efforts of the crew of the USS Ben Franklin and the crew of the USS Santa Fe for fighting the fires until they were under control are the primary reason that Franklin survived the day. My father was the ordnance officer for VMF-214 VMF-452. This book will go down as the definitive edition on the subject. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent! By LACARE Excellent. Extremely well researched and the author tells the story well. It's not often I find a "history" book that I can't put down. Was looking for information about a friend I had who was on the USS Franklin and the book even mentioned a buddy of my friend who had been one of those died in the bombing. I wish he could have been around to have read the book because in his later years he liked to talk about that event. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Awesome!! By Irish Lady This book was very close to home for me and my family. My Mother's 2nd oldest brother was on the USS Franklin for the duration of the war. He was a Fireman, and also worked in the boiler room, that's where he was when this happened to the Franklin. I could think of his experience through the whole book. My Uncle was on the ship when it sailed into NY harbor and he came home to upstate NY. The metal pieces in his head left him with terrible headaches, and the pictures in his mind of men jumping overboard with their helmets strapped under their chins only to have their necks broken when they hit the water. How many he saved by taking the strap or the helmet off, but the many he couldn't save, gave him nightmares for many years after. The one thing my Uncle never did, was to talk about this Inferno.

Known throughout the fleet as "Big Ben," the USS Franklin was christened for the legacy of the four prior U.S. Navy ships named after Benjamin Franklin. The Franklin was a creation of World War II, one of twenty-four Essex-class fast carriers built during the conflict, forming the backbone of the U.S. Navy's war against Japan. By the time the war had moved to Okinawa in the spring of 1945, "Big Ben" had already seen substantial combat, having participated in the island campaigns of the central and western Pacific and the Battle for Leyte Gulf in the Philippines, where she sustained heavy damage from the new and deadly Japanese kamikaze. On March 19, 1945, the Franklin was launching her aircraft against Honshu, the Japanese mainland, including the shipping industry in Kobe Harbor. Suddenly, a single enemy aircraft pierced the cloud cover and made a low level run on the ship, striking it with a 250kg bomb which pierced the deck and set off a chain reaction of exploding ordnance and aviation fuel. The aircraft carrier, now on fire, listing heavily to starboard, and with over 1,000 casualties, appeared to be mortally wounded. *Inferno* tells the heroic tale of the efforts that saved "Big Ben." It is a tremendous story of endurance and seamanship, told in harrowing detail in the survivors own words. *Inferno* makes for gripping reading.

Naval History, December 2007 (circ.: 60,000) "Joseph Springer brings to life one of the most exciting stories of World War II as seen and told from the perspective of officers and Sailors who served on board the Essex-class aircraft carrier USS Franklin. The author has crafted a well-researched and easy-to-read oral history that not only pays tribute to the men who sailed in the Franklin but to the legacy of naval service and its values of honor, courage, and commitment ... This book is a fitting tribute to the crew members of the Franklin and all the Sailors who fought during World War II." World War II Database, November 2007 (vpm: 30,000) "I was immediately impressed by Springer's writing style, which was straight-forward but was done without sacrificing detail. He professed that his interest in the history of USS Franklin had been nearly life-long, and it showed. The book delivered in clear detail everything encompassing the ship's history, configuration throughout the war, and the environments she had been in. Springer also succeeded in providing just enough information about the Pacific War so to shine light on why Franklin engaged in actions that she did ... With this book, the men of Franklin, along with their courage in the face of disaster and their accomplishment of bringing the devastated ship back home on her own power, were made known. I highly recommend *Inferno*, a history told with harrowing and gripping detail."