



# THE MIDWEST BOOK REVIEW

---

JAMES A. COX  
Editor-in-Chief  
mwbookrevw@aol.com  
<http://www.midwestbookreview.com>

278 Orchard Drive  
Oregon WI 53575  
(608) 835-7937  
mbr@execpc.com

Reviewer's Bookwatch: September 2014  
James A. Cox, Editor-in-Chief  
Midwest Book Review  
278 Orchard Drive, Oregon, WI 53575

## Mason's Bookshelf

Edge Of Valor  
John J. Gobbell  
Naval Institute Press  
291 Wood Road, Annapolis, MD 21402  
[www.nip.org](http://www.nip.org)  
9781612515199, \$34.95, 344pp, [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

Synopsis: Todd Ingram is the commanding officer of the destroyer USS Maxwell (DD 525) who saves his ship when it is hit by a kamikaze off Okinawa. For repairs, they pull into Kerama Rhetto, Okinawa, where they receive news of the war's end. Ingram expects to be shipped home like the rest of his crew but instead receives orders to fly to Manila, where he is met by Brig. Gen. Otis Dewitt, an Army buddy from his days on Corregidor who is now intelligence aide to Gen. Richard K. Sutherland, chief of staff to General MacArthur. On Ingram's C-54 are sixteen Japanese senior military and civilian diplomats who meet with Sutherland to discuss formal surrender arrangements. Two days later the terms are settled and Ingram is working with one of the Japanese delegates to ensure that mines laid in Tokyo Bay are neutralized, allowing for safe passage of more than two hundred Allied ships. While Ingram is promised that he can attend the surrender ceremony on board

the USS Missouri (BB 63), DeWitt, in concert with the State Department, has an ulterior motive and sends Ingram to Karafuto (Sakhalin Island, according to Soviet maps) to defuse a Soviet attack on Hokkaido, the northernmost home island of Japan. Ingram's old adversary, Edward Dezhnev, is the brigade commander responsible for laying siege to a Japanese holdout garrison in Toro, a natural jumping-off place for an attack on Hokkaido.

Critique: This is author John J. Gobbell's fifth action/adventure novel set in World War II and continues the exploits of Todd Ingram. A deftly crafted and complexly woven storyline populated by memorable characters all presented by an extraordinarily talented writer, "Edge Of Valor" is a compelling and wonderfully entertaining read which is highly recommended for community library collections. It should be noted that "Edge Of Valor" is also available in a Kindle edition (\$16.99). For those to whom this is their first introduction to this talented author, his previous and highly recommended World War II combat novels includes: "A Code for Tomorrow" (9780312205119, Kindle \$7.95); "When Duty Whispers Low" (9780312986759, Kindle \$7.95); "A Call to Colors" (9780891418900, Kindle \$7.95); "The Neptune Strategy" (9780312988401, Kindle \$7.95).

Jack Mason  
Reviewer