

# THE COLOR OF WAR

JAMES CAMPBELL

READ BY STEPHEN HOYE

"Campbell masterfully juxtaposes two searing WWII experiences . . . in a riveting story that makes your emotions, your indignation, and your adrenaline flow."

—DEAN KING, author of *Skeletons on the Zahara*

In the pantheon of great World War II conflicts, the battle for Saipan is often forgotten. Yet historian Donald Miller calls it "as important to victory over Japan as the Normandy invasion was to victory over Germany." For the Americans, defeating the Japanese came at a high price. In the words of a *Time* magazine correspondent, Saipan was "war at its grimmest."

On the night of July 17, 1944, as Admirals Ernest King and Chester Nimitz were celebrating the battle's end, the Port Chicago Naval Ammunition Depot, just thirty-five miles northeast of San Francisco, exploded with a force nearly that of an atomic bomb. The men who died in the blast were predominately black sailors. They toiled in obscurity loading munitions ships with ordnance essential to the U.S. victory in Saipan. Yet instead of honoring the sacrifice these men made for their country, the Navy blamed them for the accident and, when they refused to handle ammunition again, launched the largest mutiny trial in U.S. naval history. *The Color of War* is the story of two battles: one overseas and one on America's home turf. By weaving together these narratives, Campbell paints a more accurate picture of the cataclysmic events that occurred in July 1944—the month that won the war and changed America.

"In James Campbell's sure hands, we come to see . . . how fundamental freedoms are often born in the most explosive of events." —HAMPTON SIDES, author of *Ghost Soldiers*

**James Campbell** is the author of *The Final Frontiersman*, Amazon's #1 Outdoor Book of 2004, and *The Ghost Mountain Boys*. He has written for *Outside* magazine, *Audubon*, *Field and Stream*, and *Military History*, in addition to many other publications. James lives in Wisconsin with his wife and three daughters.

**Stephen Hoyer** has won thirteen *AudioFile* Earphones Awards and two prestigious APA Audie Awards. He has recorded such notable titles as the *New York Times* bestseller *Da Vinci's Ghost* by Toby Lester and Campbell's *The Ghost Mountain Boys*, an Audie Award finalist.



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