

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Author Finalist

WARRENTON, Ore. – Local Author, Brian D. Ratty, announced today that his book, ***Dutch Clarke: The War Years***, has become a finalist in ForeWord Magazine's 2008 Book of the Year Awards. With more than 1400 books entered in 61 categories, ***Dutch Clarke: The War Years*** was one of only 14 historical-fiction novels selected. The final winners will be determined by a panel of librarians and booksellers and announced at BookExpo in New York City on May 29. ForeWord Magazine is the trade journal for Independent Publishers and is distributed nationally to libraries and booksellers. The complete list of all finalists can be found at: www.forewordmagazine.com

Dutch Clarke: The War Years, published by AuthorHouse, is a follow-up to Ratty's 2002 release, *Dutch Clarke's Journals: The Early Years*. This action adventure story is based around WWII combat photography and the infamous Office of War Information (OWI).

According to Ratty, "OWI was the propaganda arm of the military during the war years, and produced thousands of films, images and stories about the war." This little-known government agency also recruited, conducted war bond drives and helped Hollywood produce many features films with war themes.

Ratty says that, as a professional photographer, he had always wanted to do a story about combat photography:

When I started doing the research, I kept finding interesting information about OWI, with all of its shady behind-the-scenes activities. The further I went, the more these two subjects just seemed to fit together, so I developed my story around them both. To my knowledge, this is the first novel about OWI and combat photography, so it was a challenge to research and write the story accurately. When I completed the manuscript, some three years later, I decided to dedicate it to all the men and women who gave their sweat and spilled their blood during the struggle of World War II. No greater generation ever walked the face of this Earth. We share our tomorrows because of their yesterdays.

Praise for ***Dutch Clarke: The War Years***:

"What a great story. This book takes Dutch, and us, from the glitz of 1940s Hollywood to the fury of combat in the far-flung Pacific, to the numbing despair of a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp. Wrapped richly in the legend created by the US Marine Corps in World War II, it is a tale of this country's shaky start in this great conflict, its recovery and seizing of the initiative in the Pacific Campaign, and the inevitable triumph of the Allies over the Empire of Japan. It is also a wonderful tale of the triumph of the human spirit over staggering odds. The author gets a grip on the reader at the beginning and doesn't let go until the final page. In a word, read it!" **John Wirch**

"Writing this series is a great adventure for me," Ratty writes. "I don't write for profit or praise; I just enjoy telling a good story. If others find Dutch's chronicles interesting, informative and entertaining, my rewards will have been realized."

An internationally known photographer and educator, author Brian D. Ratty is a graduate of the Brooks Institute of Photography and holds an honorary Master of Science degree. He has authored many instructional DVDs, videos and magazine articles on photography. For more information on ***Dutch Clarke: The Wars Years*** and the other books in the Dutch Clark series, visit www.DutchClarke.com.

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