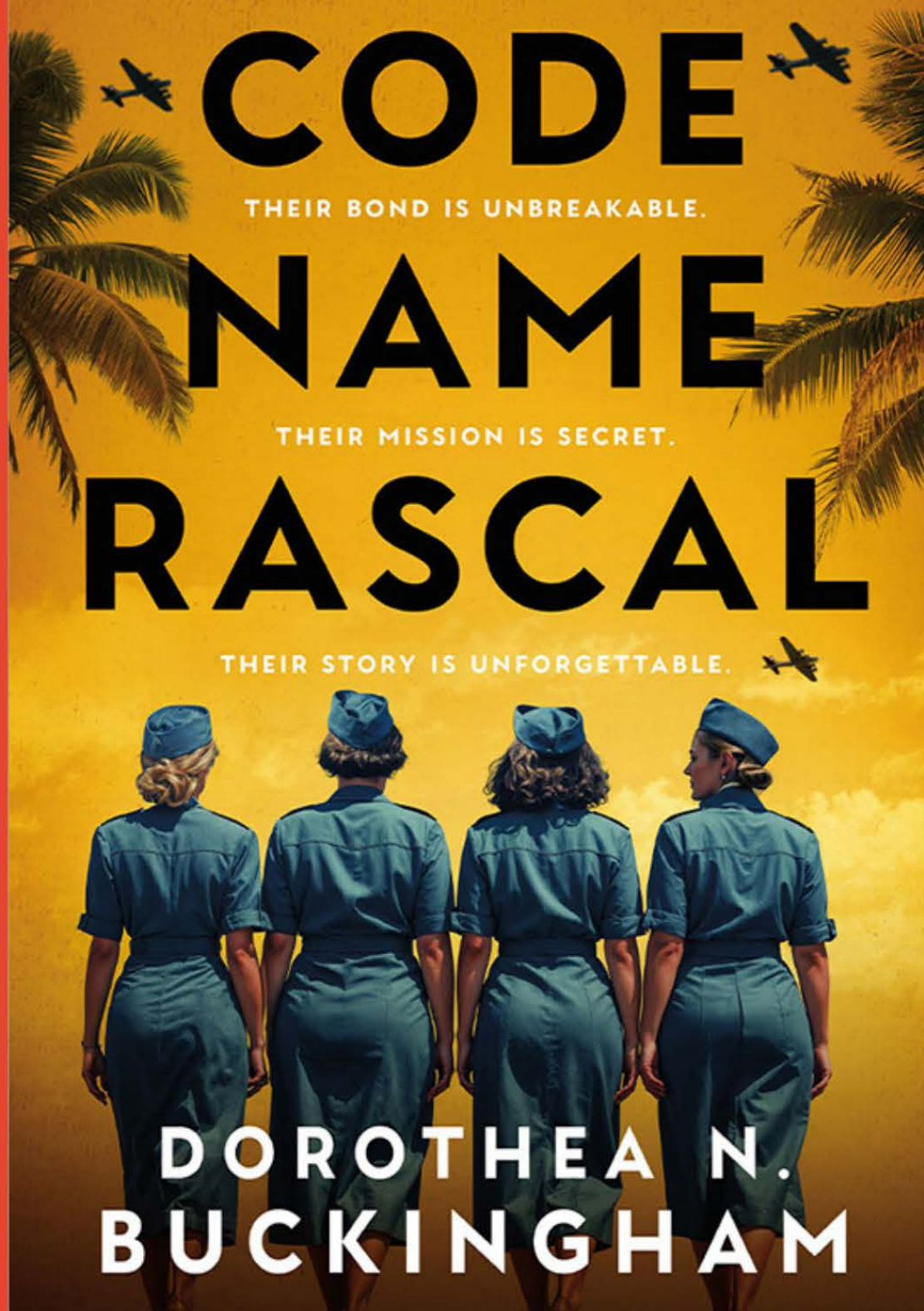


BOOK CLUB KIT

A LOOK BEHIND THE SCENES

Buckingham's wartime novel fits snugly beside such genre benchmarks as James Jones' *From Here to Eternity* (1951) and Herman Wouk's *The Winds of War* (1971)
—KIRKUS REVIEWS



FROM DEE



Dear Reader,

If I were sitting right next to you as you read *Code Name Rascal*. I'd be tugging at your sleeve, saying things like, "That really happened. It's even a scene in the movie *Tora! Tora! Tora!*" "Oh! You should see the Royal Hawaiian Hotel! It looks just like it did then, let me show you a picture."

I'd be telling you about real-life villains and secrets behind the scenes. It's a good thing I can't!

Instead I compiled this sit-down-next-to-me kit for your book club. I live on Oahu, so an in person visit is doubtful, but there is Zoom!

Email me. Let's get this started!

Dee Buckingham

It took me over
twenty years to
write Code
Name Rascal. I
suffered from
hero worship

I SUFFERED FROM HERO WORSHIP

and couldn't write characters that were flawed,
interesting or even unlikeable. I researched for all
that time, writing non-fiction pieces on the role of
women during the war. Finally, I had to let go of
the respect and admiration I had for these women
and write flawed, intriguing, conflicted character.



THE BEGINNING



THE WOMAN WHO STARTED IT

I first met Ruth Cope in the late 1980s at the Pearl Harbor Memorial. She and her husband Bill were sharing stories of World War 2 in the islands, and of the Women's Air Raid Defense.

Ruth and Bill Cope were married in November 1941. They were officially still on their honeymoon when the war started. Bill---Lieutenant William S. Cope, was an Army Air Corps bomber pilot during the war. Ruth and Bill were weekly volunteers at Pearl Harbor telling their stories, well into their eighties.

BILL AND RUTH



A LOVE STORY FOR THE AGES

Ruth and Bill's love story has been told in magazines, documentaries, on my Substack newsletter at <https://dorotheanbuckingham.substack.com/p/billand-ruth> and on this website <https://dorotheabuckingham.com/essay/>

What started as an interview about World War 2, developed into a long friendship between Ruth, Bill, my husband and myself.

RUTH COPE WAS THE FIRST WARD I MET.

THE HISTORY OF THE WARDS AND THE WAR

In the middle of writing CODE NAME RASCAL, my husband and I collaborated on a photo book of World War 2 Hawaii. The cover is of a tank parked in a high school football field.

Hawaii was not only the homefront, it was a war zone and an invasion by the enemy was a very real danger.

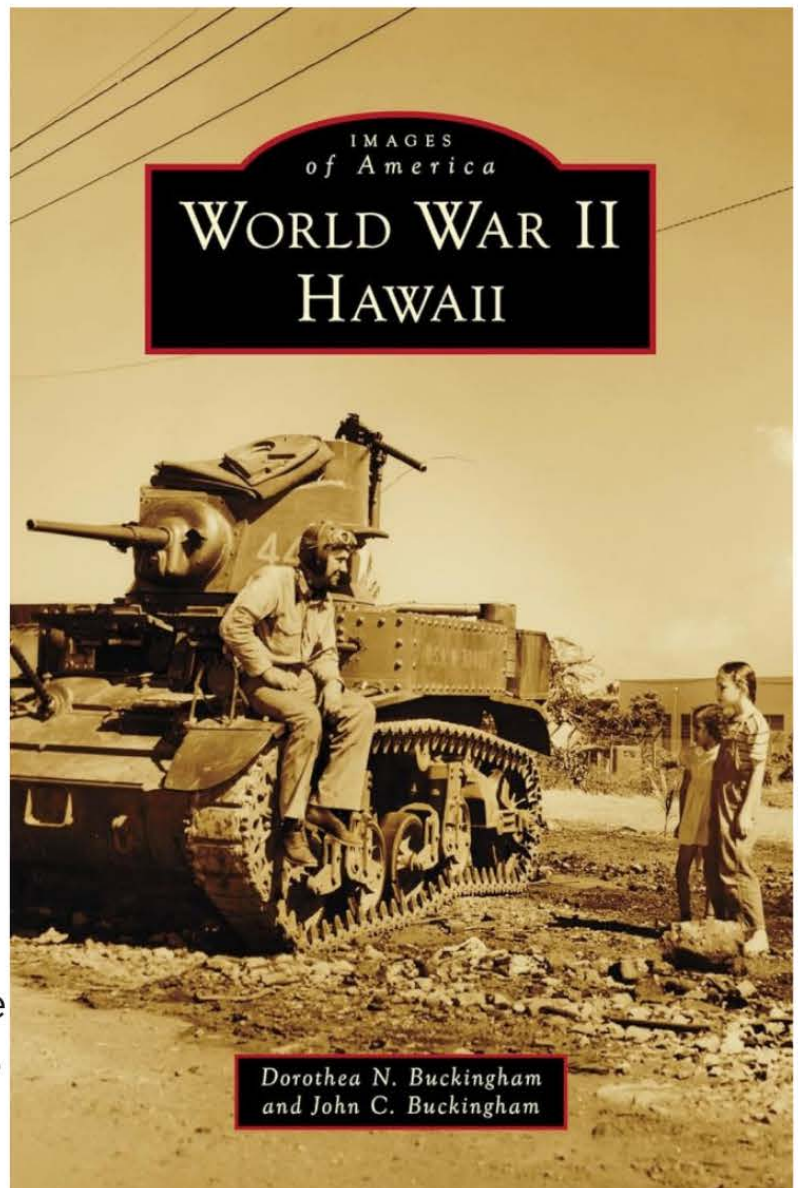
Martial law was imposed. Censorship was severe and every man, woman, and child was expected to support the war effort.

It was under these conditions that the WARDe lived the first six months of the war.

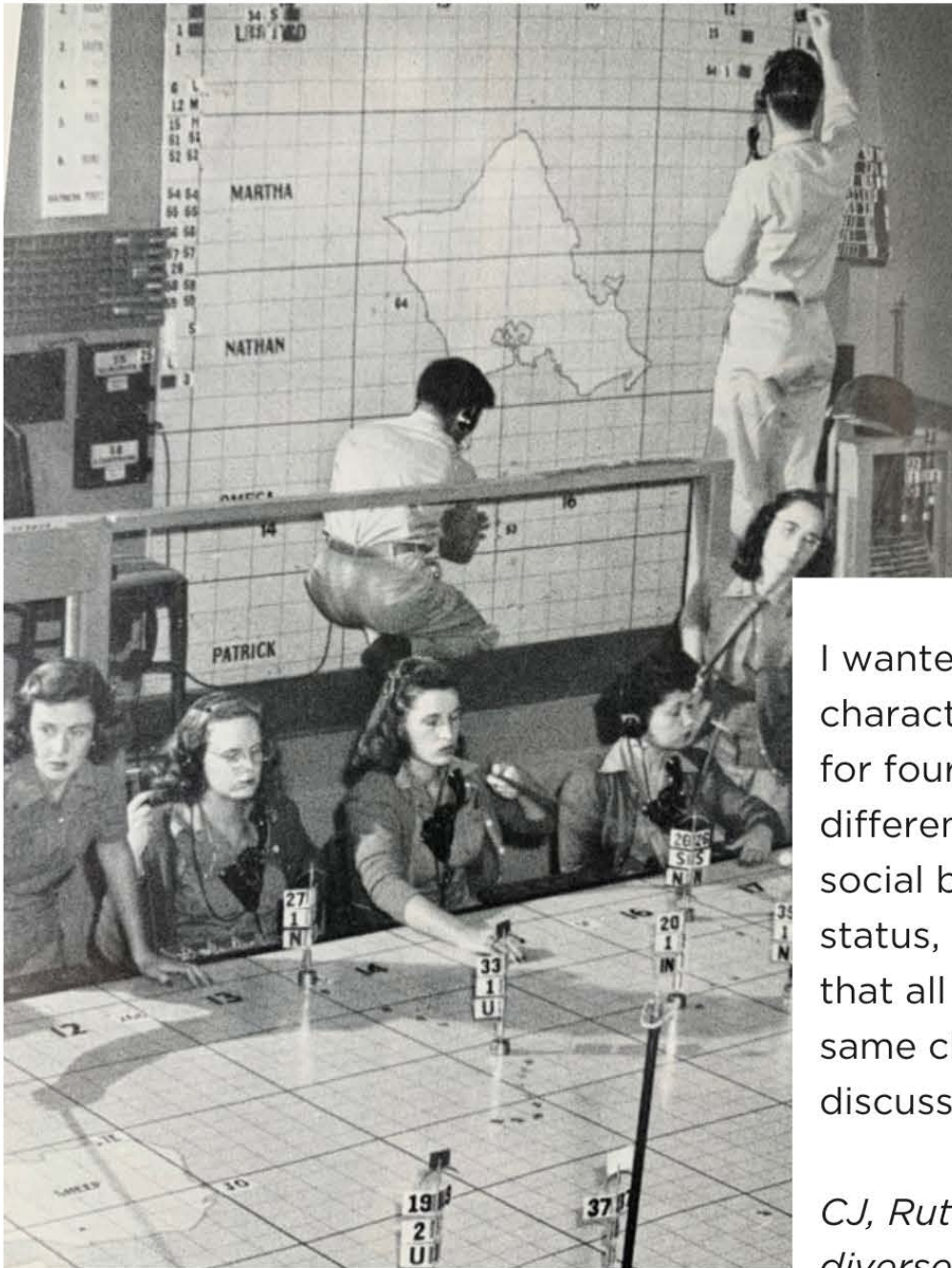
For more information about the book, [click here.](#) to take you to a section of my website.

You can read a history of the WARDe in the epilogue of CODE NAME RASCAL. As so often it is true, their real story is much more dramatic and inspiring than any fictional rendition.

They were ladies of grit and elegance.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



I wanted each of the four characters to show the challenges for four very different women—different ethnicities, economic, social background, and marital status, but I also wanted to show that all women face some of the same challenges. Let's start the discussion with a general question:

CJ, Ruth, Eve and Jane come from diverse backgrounds. Which woman did you relate to most and why?

This is a photo of Lizard Tunnel and the actual board the WARDs worked.



George Bush, Sr.'s World War 2 photo served as my model for Linc. And this home in Nuuanu was my pictured Russell estate.

Let's start with Eve.

I'm not sure I could trust Eve as a friend, but then again, she did come through at the most unexpected times.

When I was writing her character I had an image of Lauren Bacall. What did your Eve look like?

What role did class and privilege play in her story? Is she a tragic hero?



**No one else but
Amelia Earhart
could have
been my Jane!
What a sweet
young face.**

Jane's character explores women who venture outside the expected. In some ways, she's so tough she's a pilot and she's savvy, but when it came to a choice of husbands, she made a mistake and has to face those consequences.

Did Jane have an alternative choice?

Should she have stayed with Buck out of a sense of duty.

I thought about making Jane gay, but it seemed like a cliché to have a strong pilot required to be gay. To me it convoluted the decision she had to make—leave a disabled war veteran to pursue her ambitions. What do you think?



The character of CORNELIA FORT is based on a real pilot. She has no association with the WARD, but she was in the air over Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. FORT joined Nancy Love's Women's Auxilliary Ferrying Squardon. She died in a crash ferrying aircraft.

RUTH AND GORDON

Gene Tierney and Robert Taylor.



There were times I wanted to hug Ruth and tell her she didn't have to be perfect. There were other times, I wanted to shake her because she was so self-righteous.

I played with the idea of Ruth having an affair with Paul-- she would have regretted it and recognized it as a

desperate act. Do you think I should have pushed her into having an affair? Do you think she should have had her own baby after Song?

How does grief and loss shape the choices of the main characters and how did the other characters support each other?



CJ AND JOE



For CJ, I imagined a young Anne Bancroft. Bancroft's birth name was Anna Maria Louisa Italiano.

For Joe, I visualized the real World War 2 hero, Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone, United States Marine Corps, Medal of Honor winner.



CJ WAS THE HARDEST CHARACTER TO WRITE

CJ wanted it all--career, family and freedom. She had to be a trailblazer--a child of immigrants who was going to “make it” in America. Was she driven by her expectations to a point of imposing an ever-chasing disappointment in herself? Or, was she simply not sure how to focus her life?



I had so many alternative for CJ! I had her father having a stroke forcing her to decide to go home and help the family or stay in Hawaii.

I had her getting pregnant and staying in Hawaii.

I had her getting a job at the Stars and Stripes in Australia and becoming disillusioned by war and flawed journalis.

How would you have changed CJ's arc?



**How did the
experience of
reading this novel
change or deepen
your
understanding of
life in Hawai'i
during
World War II?**

**It's said all novels
are based on a
conflict of class
and privilege.
What are the
conflicts in Code
Name Rascal?**



HAWAI'I DURING WORLD WAR 2



If you'd like to know more about life in Hawai'i during World War 2, subscribe to my free newsletter, "Beaches, Brothels and Barbed Wire" at <https://dorotheanbuckingham.substack.com>

It's a look at things I briefly mention in Code Name Rascal, like burying \$200 million dollars in sugar mills, the sinking of the Christmas tree ship, the work the lei sellers took up during the war, dengue fever, bootleg liquor, and hula girl photos.

Take a look.



FRED ASTAIRE and PAULETTE GODDARD in "SECOND CHORUS" with ARTIE SHAW AND HIS BAND. Original story by Frank Cavett. Screen Play by Elaine Ryan and Ian McL. Directed by H. C. Potter. Produced by Boris Morros. Paramount Picture

Artie Shaw "Begin the Beguine" In the early drafts of the book, Cole Porter's "Begin the Beguine," was the first song mentioned. It is the story about a couple beginning an intimate dance. It's evocative language and themes of lost love, nostalgia, and longing made it a World War 2 favorite. (This is an instrumental.)

Youtube link is here.

Glenn Miller "Chattanooga Choo Choo" is a song in the first chapter (at Wo Fat's restaurant) when poor Linc can't get his best man's toast out over the singing along diners. Here are the Andrews Sisters singing with Glenn Miller's band.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FdrYYUuT07Q>



A WORLD WAR 2 PLAYLIST



In the first chapter of Code Name Rascal, Eve mentions Harry Owens Band playing at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. Here's Owen at the Royal.
[Here's a link to here Owens.](#)

Let's start with Glenn Miller's "In the Mood"
Who doesn't think of this song when they hear "Big Band" sound. It became an anthem of wartime swing. The first bars were instantly recognizable and got GIs and their ladies on the dance floor. Here's a colorized YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aME0qvhZ37o>

THE ONLY RECIPE YOU NEED



THE ROYAL HAWAIIAN MAI TAI

2 oz Pineapple Juice

1 oz Orange Juice

½ oz Orgeat Syrup

½ oz Orange Curacao

1 oz Old Lahaina Light Rum

1 oz Old Lahaina Dark Rum

Shake all ingredients except the Dark Rum with ice. Pour in a large “bucket” glass. Float the Dark Rum, garnish with a parasol with cherry, pineapple and lime wedge.

[LINK TO A HISTORY OF THE MAI TAI VIDEO](#)

MORE WAR SOUNDS



The Andrews Sisters “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy” is one of most beloved WW2 songs. It became a cultural and pop icon for troops and civilians alike. This clip is from the movie Buck Pirates.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8of3uhG1tCI>

“When the Lights Go On Again” I tried to sneak it in so many scenes, but it didn’t fit. It has a soft, hopeful sentiment about the war someday ending, and the blackouts ceasing.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vzIFaY0s_QI

THERE IT IS. THE END!



I told you I couldn't stop talking
about the WARD.

email me at
DorotheaBuckingham@gmail.com

**I'D LOVE
TO VISIT
YOU.**