

Living History – Dick Rohde

Description

I had the honor of spending yesterday afternoon with a man who was a part of the last naval battle: The Battle Off Samar. I blogged about this battle [here](#) on the 60th anniversary of the battle.

Richard Rohde was a radioman aboard the [USS SAMUEL B ROBERTS \(DE-413\)](#) on Oct 25th, 1944. The battle is well documented in ["Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors"](#) by James Hornfischer.

Imagine running at full speed towards the [YAMATO](#), all 68,000 tons, in a 1745 ton destroyer escort. It's somewhat of a skewed battle, taking 2 5⁷/₃₈ caliber guns up against 9 18.1" guns.

The battle is the last naval battle to have taken place, and it was a fierce one. Dick was there, and was wounded, and then suffered through two days in the shark infested waters off Leyte Gulf before being rescued. He graciously spent almost 5 hours with me, sharing some stories, and listening to a few of mine, and it's amazing how so much of Navy life is still the same.

One man killed that day aboard the "Sammie B" was [Paul Henry Carr](#). I was XO aboard [USS CARR \(FFG-52\)](#), which is what has made the opportunity to meet Dick a special occasion, as I have heard something of Paul, who won the [Silver Star](#) for his heroism that day and to get a sense of the battle that day.

It was a great way to spend a Saturday afternoon.

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