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Bataan Diary



Synopsis

This is the story of the American soldiers who fought America's first ground battle of World War II--the Battle of Bataan. Includes maps and photos. Immediately after Pearl Harbor the United States Army Forces in the Far East, commanded by legendary general Douglas MacArthur, found themselves trapped on the Bataan Peninsula and nearby Corregidor Island. They held out for months, hoping for supplies and reinforcements from the United States, but eventually were starved out and forced to surrender to the Japanese. 70,000 American and Filipino soldiers became prisoners of war (POW) and were condemned to the Bataan Death March and horrible Japanese prison camps. However, a few Americans escaped into the jungle and vowed to continue the fight as guerrillas until they could be rescued. These men would be missing in action (MIA) for more than three years. Less than half of them survived. Bataan Diary is the true story of Lt. Col. Frank R. Loyd and a small group of soldiers who fought through the Battle of Bataan, then battled starvation, terrible diseases, and a Japanese manhunt sent to capture them. While the men lived by their wits and their survival skills in the jungles of the Philippines, their families in the States raised funds for the war, worked in government jobs, and prayed for their survival not knowing if the men were alive or dead. Bataan Diary is based on the wartime diaries of Frank Loyd, his wife Evelyn, and diaries, correspondence and interviews with other survivors. Bataan Diary delivers a whole new aspect of the war in the Pacific, and an inspiring glimpse into the determination of these soldiers and their families in the midst of terrible circumstances.

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Customer Reviews

I've read at least 20 books on World War Two in the Philippines. This is simply put, the best. An excellent read, exciting, well-researched, and a book you won't want to put down. It lacks the boastful, hard to believe accounts that pepper many books of this genre. It pulls you in and you start to really feel what it must have been like for these malnourished, ill-equipped guerrillas who were barely a step ahead of their Japanese pursuers, and in many cases - not.

Everyone knows how Bataan affected so many of our people. This tells both sides - a soldier on Bataan trying to evade the Japanese and his wife in the U.S. trying to believe he's still alive and will come home to her and their children even with no evidence to sustain that belief and the rumors to dispel it.

I am serious....this should be made into a movie. It is amazing with details and also incorporates other events in the war that we're going on to give the main story perspective.

I thought it was very informative

I have read many books about the Bataan death march. This was from another perspective. Very informative. God bless those that fought.

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