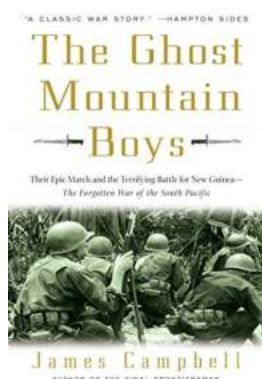


The Ghost Mountain Boys: The Most Incredible WWII Rescue Mission You've Never Heard Of

On January 11, 1945, in the closing months of World War II, a group of fearless soldiers embarked on a mission that would forever be etched into the annals of military history. With the enemy closing in and the lives of 218 men hanging in the balance, the Ghost Mountain Boys set out on a daring rescue mission that would test their strength, courage, and unwavering determination.

Widely considered one of the greatest tales of heroism and survival, the Ghost Mountain Boys' story is a testament to the human spirit and the bond between brothers in arms. Their incredible journey takes us from the treacherous jungles of New Guinea to the unknown dangers lurking in the heart of enemy territory.

The Ghost Mountain Boys were a unique unit within the 32nd Infantry Division, made up of volunteers from the Wisconsin National Guard. These brave men were handpicked and trained for the specific challenges they would face in the Pacific theater. Though they were not initially meant for combat, fate had other plans.



The Ghost Mountain Boys: Their Epic March and the Terrifying Battle for New Guinea--The Forgotten War of the South Pacific

by James Campbell (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5
Language : English
File size : 3297 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 410 pages



Stationed in the unforgiving terrain of New Guinea, the Ghost Mountain Boys soon found themselves engaged in fierce battles with the Japanese army. The unit's main objective was to maintain control of Japanese strongholds in order to secure vital supply lines for Allied forces. But as the tides of war shifted, so did their mission.

On December 15, 1944, disaster struck when a Japanese raiding party infiltrated their camp and captured several men. Among them was Lt. Colonel Henry A. Skipton, the leader of the Ghost Mountain Boys. With their commanding officer taken hostage, the men knew they had to act swiftly to save their comrades.

Thus began the daring rescue mission that would become one of the defining moments in the Ghost Mountain Boys' history. Determined to bring their leader back, the remaining soldiers faced daunting challenges every step of the way. Battling through dense jungles, hazardous terrain, and hostile enemy forces, they pressed forward against all odds.

Over the next eight weeks, the Ghost Mountain Boys carried out an extraordinary trek, covering over 150 miles of treacherous terrain. They endured hunger, fatigue, and constant enemy threat. Their harrowing journey took them across rivers, through swamps, and up steep mountain slopes, pushing their physical and mental limits to the extreme.

But the Ghost Mountain Boys never wavered. Their resilience and unwavering spirit served as a beacon of hope to their comrades left behind. Determined to fulfill their promise of bringing Lt. Colonel Skipton safely home, they pressed on with unyielding determination.

Finally, on February 15, 1945, after nearly two months of grueling hardship, the Ghost Mountain Boys successfully rescued their captured comrades in an audacious raid. Though they suffered casualties during the mission, their determination never faltered. Their bravery and sacrifice were duly recognized, and their story became a symbol of heroism and camaraderie.

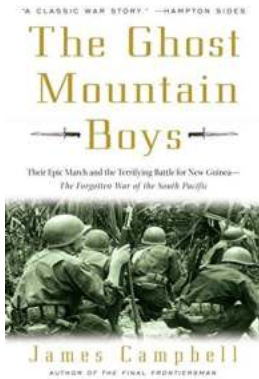
Their incredible rescue mission serves as a reminder of the countless untold stories of heroism that emerged from World War II. The Ghost Mountain Boys' unwavering dedication to each other and their mission in the face of extreme adversity is a testament to the strength of the human spirit.

Today, the legacy of the Ghost Mountain Boys lives on as a testament to the sacrifices made by countless soldiers during the war. Their story serves to inspire future generations and reminds us of the true meaning of brotherhood and bravery.

As we look back on the events of WWII, let us never forget the extraordinary feats of the Ghost Mountain Boys and their unparalleled bravery in the face of insurmountable odds. Their names may not be widely known, but their courage will forever be etched into the fabric of history.

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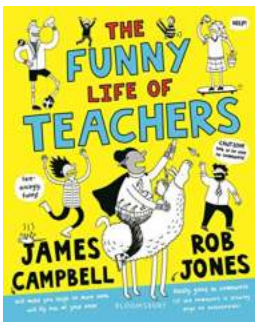
Lying due north of Australia, New Guinea is among the world's largest islands. In 1942, when World War II exploded onto its shores, it was an inhospitable, cursorily mapped, disease-ridden land of dense jungle, towering mountain peaks, deep valleys, and fetid swamps. Coveted by the Japanese for its strategic position, New Guinea became the site of one of the South Pacific's most savage campaigns. Despite their lack of jungle training, the 32nd Division's Ghost Mountain Boys were assigned the most grueling mission of the entire Pacific campaign: to march 130 miles over the rugged Owen Stanley Mountains and to protect the right flank of the Australian army as they fought to push the Japanese back to the village of Buna on New Guinea's north coast.

Comprised of National Guardsmen from Michigan and Wisconsin, reserve officers, and draftees from across the country, the 32nd Division lacked more than training—they were without even the basics necessary for survival. The men were not issued the specialized clothing that later became standard issue for soldiers fighting in the South Pacific; they fought in hastily dyed combat fatigues that bled in the intense humidity and left them with festering sores. They waded through brush and vines without the aid of machetes. They did not have insect repellent. Without waterproof containers, their matches were useless and the quinine and vitamin pills they carried, as well as salt and chlorination tablets,

crumbled in their pockets. Exhausted and pushed to the brink of human endurance, the Ghost Mountain Boys fell victim to malnutrition and disease. Forty-two days after they set out, they arrived two miles south of Buna, nearly shattered by the experience.

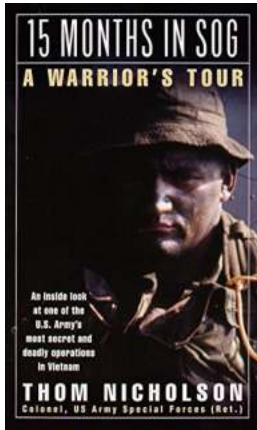
Arrival in Buna provided no respite. The 32nd Division was ordered to launch an immediate assault on the Japanese position. After two months of furious—sometimes hand-to-hand—combat, the decimated division finally achieved victory. The ferocity of the struggle for Buna was summed up in Time magazine on December 28, 1942, three weeks before the Japanese army was defeated: “Nowhere in the world today are American soldiers engaged in fighting so desperate, so merciless, so bitter, or so bloody.”

Reminiscent of classics like Band of Brothers and The Things They Carried, this harrowing portrait of a largely overlooked campaign is part war diary, part extreme adventure tale, and (through letters, journals, and interviews) part biography of a group of men who fought to survive in an environment every bit as fierce as the enemy they faced.



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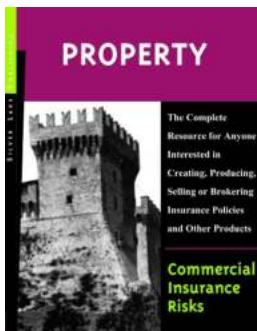
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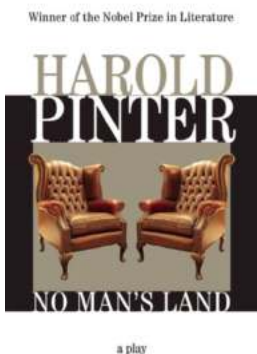
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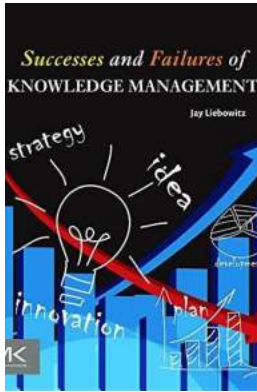
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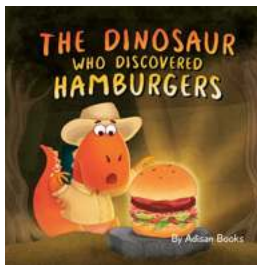
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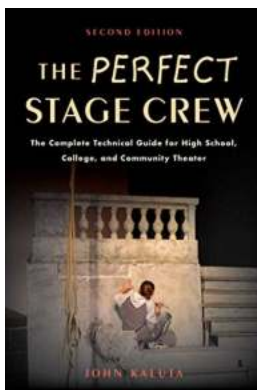
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