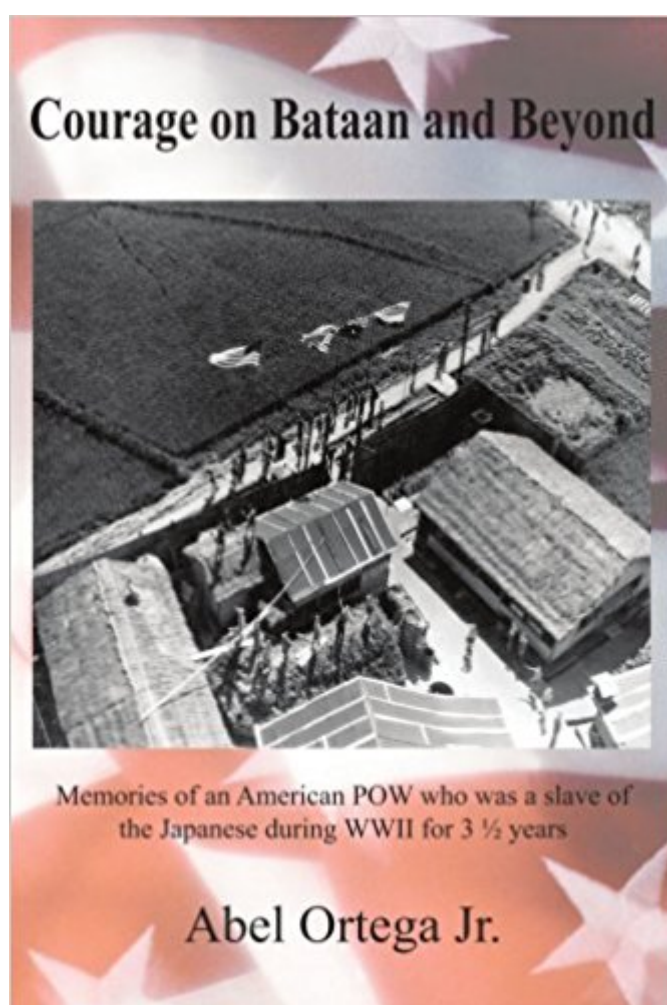


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Courage On Bataan And Beyond: Memories Of An American POW Who Was A Slave Of The Japanese During WWII For 3 1/2 Years



Synopsis

"Courage on Bataan and Beyond" is a comprehensive story about Abel F. Ortega's life during the Bataan Death March and Japanese imprisonment written by his son. Abel will take the reader with him from his childhood days when he would sit in a rocking chair and dream about the Far East to defending the Bataan Peninsula in a last ditch effort to keep the Japanese from taking the Philippines. Abel narrates how his family's prayers and his faith in God helped him to survive the infamous Bataan Death March, three-and-a-half years as a POW and two Hell Ship Voyages. This book will evoke both laughter and tears as one follows Abel from captivity to liberation. In his three-and-a-half years as a POW, he endured near starvation, hard labor, torture and the indescribable and inhumane cruelty from his captors before being set free August 15th, 1945. There were very few POW's who survived the Japanese brutality of Bataan and their following captivity, and of these, not many are still with us. Today at 85, Abel feels his story needs to be told so that the brave soldiers of Bataan will not be forgotten once again.

Book Information

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: AuthorHouse (September 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1420863843

ISBN-13: 978-1420863840

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.4 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #714,282 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #199 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Japanese #159662 in Books > Textbooks

Customer Reviews

Abel Ortega Jr., the second youngest of seven children of Naomi and Abel F. Ortega, was born in 1964 and raised in San Antonio, Texas. As a child growing up, he would enjoy listening to his father's POW experiences from WWII not fully understanding the true meaning of those stories. As he became a man, he finally understood and realized what his father went through. Those stories brought forth an obligation out of respect for the man he calls his "Hero" to compile his father's experiences in a book so that they would not be forgotten. Those feelings would inspire him to spend two-and-a-half years researching the Prison Camps and Hell Ships. Abel Jr. currently lives in

San Antonio with his wife Lorrie and two sons, Justin and Austin.

The Japanese attacked the Philippines within hours of Pearl Harbor in December of 1941. America was not prepared in either place. About twenty-five thousand Americans had earlier been sent to assist in the anticipated need to defend this island nation located seven thousand miles west of California and about six hundred miles south of Japanese-controlled Formosa. Most of these men had been activated from National Guard forces and arrived only a few months or weeks before the war commenced. The odds were close to hopeless for the Filipino-American forces, for in most cases they had been given outdated equipment and ammunition stockpiled from WWI with which to fight. The Japanese military was modern and battle-tested from years of fighting in China and for the most part had quality equipment. No relief from the east was possible, and the Filipino-American forces soon came to realize that they were expendable. After four months of fighting on the Bataan Peninsula, and another month on Corregidor, the surrender of Corregidor Island became necessary. Unlike Hawaii, the war for these far-flung American and Philippine forces continued for months. Then, as prisoners of war, it continued for years. These men had given five valuable months of fighting for the necessary buildup of supplies in the United States. This military buildup and delaying action may have prevented a Japanese invasion of Australia.

Best book of its kind. I recomend everyone to read it.

Not a good read

Many folks are unaware of the inhumanity of the Japanese during the Bataan Death March and imprisonment of Americans, British, Filipinos, and others during World War Two. Those who endured it and those who died as a result of it are true heroes!

This well-written book evinces the love of a son for his heroic father. I applaud Abel Ortega, Jr. for his diligent, well-researched accomplishment. His father was among about 15,000 American soldiers and an estimated 80,000 Filipino scouts and troops under the American Flag; they were young men abandoned by the executive branch of our federal government -- abandoned with barely any food, medicine, arms, or ammunition. They fought the Japanese Imperial Forces without replacements for over a hundred days. They were forced onto the deadliest force march in modern history, and the survivors were imprisoned, starved, and tortured for over 30 months before forced

onto the hellships. I won't attempt to describe those inhumane conditions. My uncle, Charles Gregory, Jr., was there with Abel at almost every step of the way on Bataan and the tortuous prisons of O'Donnell, Cabanatuan, Lipa, and Bilibid; however, he lost his battle aboard the Hokusen Maru on October 12th, 1944. I, too, have been inspired by those brave young men and have written a World War II history of my father and his four brothers. I highly recommend *Courage on Bataan and Beyond*. Everyone should read this story!

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I have to say, this book is just amazing. Abel Ortega Jr. did a fantastic job and has obviously spent much time and dedication writing this book. Abel Ortega Sr. is one of the last surviving POW's and probably has the best account of the events ever recorded. There are such amazing stories and many testimonies of how God protected him through all the unbearable circumstances. There are actual copies of documents and photos throughout the book. It is worth every penny, especially if you are a history buff.

I have read over fifty books on Bataan, this is one of the most descriptive of the horror the Japs placed our men under. Good read and excellent content.

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