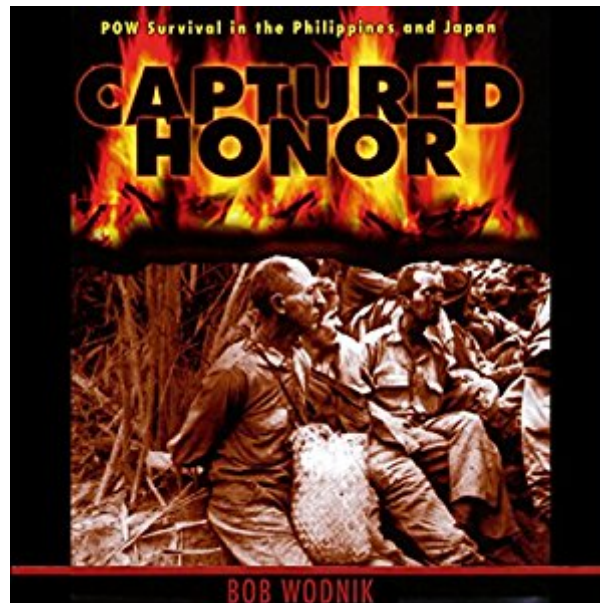


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# Captured Honor: POW Survival In The Philippines And Japan



## Synopsis

Author Bob Wodnik has masterfully compiled the stories of several World War II prisoners-of-war into a non-fiction historical work with the feel of a novel. Listeners glimpse the unrelenting physical agony and mental anguish of these young heroes as they struggle for survival, and then, following years of captivity, make the difficult and awkward return to civilization. Intertwined throughout these gripping descriptions are letters hoarded by a quiet night clerk at the seedy Strand Hotel in Everett, Washington, that supply a counterpoint of hometown life back in the states. The patriotism, the rationing, the blackouts, and the missing loved ones all indelibly altered those left stateside, and provide insight into a generation of Americans.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Fantastic book, a great & powerful read, highly recommended...

We knew the author. Gave it to our cousin who is researching an Uncle who spent time in a POW camp in Japan during WWII. This is a great book.

Look forward to reading this one.

This book was written by my friends Grandfather who actually lived this story. Many things you didn't hear in History books.

Wodnik is an outstanding writer and his research is meticulous. My father and 4 uncles grew up in Oakesdale and were best friends with Jack Elkins, one of the main characters of *Captured Honor*. Four of those boys went through experiences similar to those of Mr. Elkins. As detailed in my book *Buckshot Pie, A Family's Struggle Through Homesteading, The Great Depression, and World War II* ([...] two of those brothers survived prison camp and one of those survived the Battle of Bataan, the Bataan Death March and 30 months of Imperial Japanese internment on Luzon, but died aboard the *Hokusen Maru* hellship. Wodnik's account of the hellships mirrors that of Ernie Loy and Nels Quast who shared those 1st-hand tragic memories with my grandmother and our family. There are several horrendous narratives in *Captured Honor* that may be difficult to absorb or believe, but they are true and documented in this book and they've been documented - the same true stories - by hundreds of survivors. Like Jack Elkins, many of the Bataan Death March survivors wouldn't talk about their experiences for fifty years, but the stories eventually came out and they told of incredible pain, suffering, disease, torture, and slavery by the Imperial Forces. Everyone should read this account! *Captured Honor: Pow Survival in the Philippines and Japan* Additionally, Jack Elkins has shared his stories with me and moved me to the appreciation of all those young men. If one wonders why Tom Brokaw calls them "the greatest generation", Bob Wodnik's account will answer that question. This is a well written, outstanding read! Chris Gregory, Semper Pi Publishing, [semperpi@outlook.com](mailto:semperpi@outlook.com), *Buckshot Pie, a Family's Struggle Through Homesteading, the Great Depression, and World War II*

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In *Soldier's Home*, Hemingway's fictional account of a soldier returning from the Great War, the protagonist struggles to communicate his experience to the residents of his small town: "At first Krebs, who had been at Belleau Wood, Soissons, the Champagne, St. Mihiel and in the Argonne did not want to talk about the war at all. Later he felt the need to talk but no one wanted to hear about it. His town had heard too many atrocity stories to be thrilled by actualities." *Captured Honor*, a work of non-fiction, begins in similarly painful territory, with a moving description of Jack Elkins' homecoming after service in the War in the Pacific. Elkins had an extremely bad war as a prisoner of the Japanese in the Philippines and Japan, the details of which are frankly told in author Wodnik's compelling account. At war's end, Elkins finds himself pushed to the microphone on the stage of his small town church before an audience that includes his grammar school principal, old girlfriends, the hardware store clerk and his parents, among others. Their eyes search him for clues as to whether he remains the high school quarterback they remember, or has instead been transformed into "some sanitarium freak returned home to mom and dad." Like Krebs, Elkins finds words inadequate to describe the enormity of his wartime experience. "You either tell all, or tell nothing" he thinks, and elects to keep the awful details to himself for more than 50 years. Fortunately for us author Wodnik, a good listener and a fine writer, is able to engage Elkins and others who suffered as prisoners of the Japanese in their painful memories. Elkins, who fought bravely at Corregidor, survived the brutal Cabanatuan POW camp, and ended the war as a slave laborer working in the Mitsubishi shipyard in Yokohama, is a compelling subject, an ordinary man enduring extraordinary brutality in wartime. The book includes stirring memories of others including Fran Agnes, an apple picker turned Army aircraft mechanic who witnessed the Japanese destruction of Clark Field and survived the Bataan Death March and Henry Chamberlin, a medic, who is dispatched by his captors to Japan on a Hellship in conditions of unspeakable squalor. Wodnik's important history is interspersed with scenes from the home front in Everett Washington, such as Veronica Lake flying in to sell war bonds to the star-struck citizenry. The correspondence of Ed Fox, an Everett hotel clerk and book fiend whose deepest influence seems to have been Dashiell Hammett, shows us the underside of a town emerging from the Depression, and fully engaged in wartime production of Boeing aircraft.

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