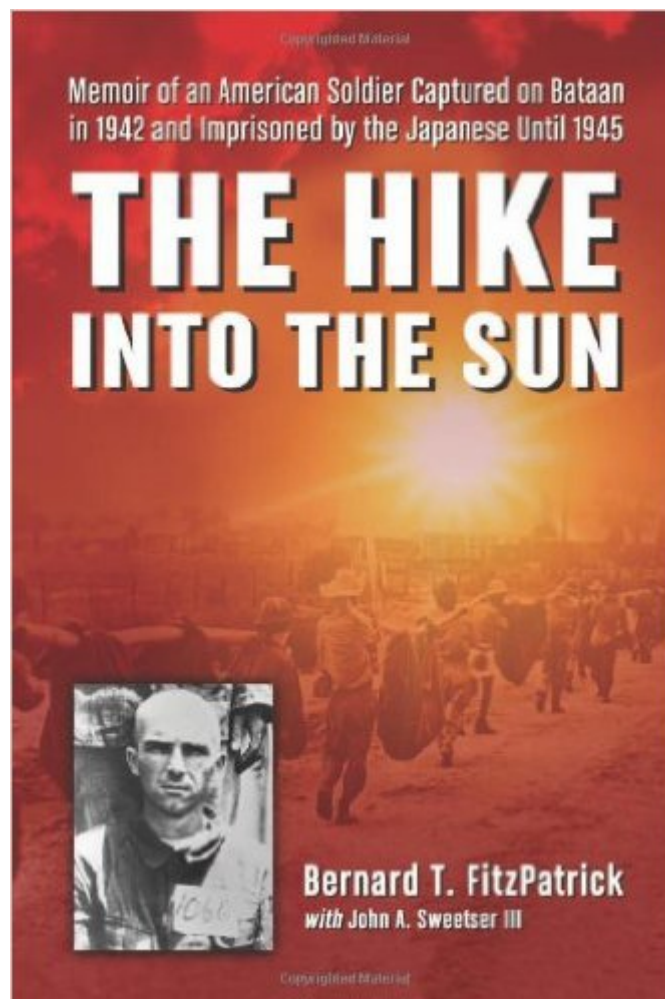


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The Hike Into The Sun: Memoir Of An American Soldier Captured On Bataan In 1942 And Imprisoned By The Japanese Until 1945



Synopsis

Sergeant Bernard T. FitzPatrick endured the long road to Japanese prisoner of war camps, an event known thereafter as the Bataan Death March. In Japan he was forced to work at the Yawata Steel Works at Kokura--the original target of the Allies' second atomic bomb. FitzPatrick's service at Clark Field in the Philippines, the brutal fighting on Bataan, and the harrowing details of his time as a Japanese POW are detailed. Interspersed are his thoughts on U.S. preparations for the Pacific war, his Japanese captors, and the American, Filipino and Japanese men and women who risked their lives to ease the harsh conditions in the camps.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Bernard Fitzpatrick is a Minnesota man and was drafted in April 1941. He left for the Philippines in September of 1941. He was captured when Bataan fell and eventually ended up in Japan. This is a good book, and is not unreservedly horrible. He tells of Japanese atrocities but also of human and good Japanese. The story is artlessly but engagingly told, and is a war memoir I am glad I had a chance to read.

I had met the author's son this summer and he told me about this book. After reading it I am amazed that anyone survived this awful war and being a POW. I would recommend this book for all ages especially for those of my generation who did not have to go to war. Incredible bookRichard Gormley

My teacher read this book to me in class. It's excellent! Especially if you're interested in Social Studies!! You have to read this!!

Having read many a POW memoir, I found this to be very interesting. As others have written, it is remarkable the dichotomy of kindness and barbarity displayed by the Japanese - and fortunately for Mr Fitzpatrick, his experience, while horrible, was not as bad as that of others, according to what they have written. I find particularly fascinating his almost casual referrals to other individuals met in captivity. One is "old Kliatchko" , a Jew who studies in Warsaw, fled the pogroms, joined the Army and fought in the Argonne (WW1). He stayed in the Army engineers, retiring at his place of last assgt, the Phillipines (gone "asiatic") in the late 30s. He married a phillipina and settled down as a farmer in Bulacan province, later sailing down the west coast of Luzon to volunteer to the doomed garrison at Bataan, and being captured with Fitzpatrick. A 62 year old man....while in captivity, the Japanese let him be the custodian of the carabao. Rest Easy, Good Soldier. At the end of the book, the author encounters another POW, Gerry Foley, a sgt who was a demolitions man. Charged to build shelters in mountainsides by the Japanese, he became a bit of an operator. At wars end he was being driven around by a chauffeured limo and was the Ichi Ban (Number One). Sort of like the anti-hero in King Rat.I recommend this book.

This is a soldiers perspective on the war in the Philippines and his subsequent captivity. A must read for WWII history buffs.

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