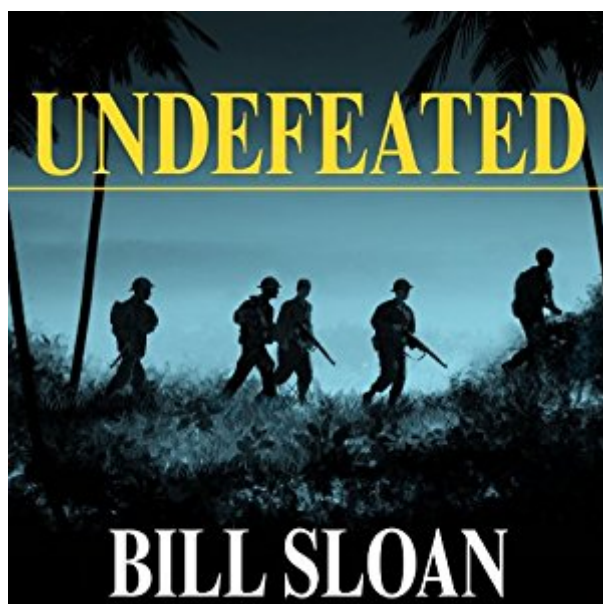


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Undeclared: America's Heroic Fight For Bataan And Corregidor



Synopsis

Called "a master of the combat narrative" (The Dallas Morning News), author Bill Sloan captures the valor, fortitude, and suffering of the American defenders of the Philippines as no other author has. Abandoned by their government, the men and women of the American garrison struggled against impossible military odds, rampant disease, and slow starvation to delay inevitable surrender by the largest American military force ever. Rather than picturing these defenders as little more than helpless victims of an overwhelmingly powerful and sadistic enemy-as most previous books about the Philippines campaign have done-Undeclared credits American troops with the unexcelled heroism and indomitable spirit they displayed under the worst imaginable conditions. Interwoven throughout this panoramic narrative are the harrowing personal experiences of dozens of American soldiers, airmen, and Marines. Sloan also provides intimate, in-depth profiles of General Douglas MacArthur, who evacuated to Australia as the situation on Bataan worsened, and of General Jonathan Wainwright, who succeeded him as top U.S. commander in the Philippines and himself became a prisoner of the Japanese.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Bill Sloan, author of such other great World War II books as "Brotherhood of Heroes" and "The Ultimate Battle", has written another fine book surely to be remembered with his others. In "Undeclared", Sloan tells of the heroic stand made by the American and Filipino forces on Bataan and Corregidor. Divided into two sections, this book takes a look at the Japanese conquest and later, the re-capture by the Americans. In the hours immediately following the Japanese attack on

Pearl Harbor, Japanese planes began bombing American installations in the Philippines. General Douglas MacArthur refused to let American B-17 bombers strike at Japanese bases on Formosa. Thus, the American planes became sitting ducks for the Japanese bombers. In the hours and days following, Japanese troops began landing. For the following four months, the under-equipped and malnourished Americans fought a desperate battle against the Japanese army. In April, 1942, the defenders of Bataan surrendered to the Japanese. Many thousands of Americans and Filipinos became POWs and were sent on a forced march by the Japanese which would become known as the Bataan Death March. Thousands died and the ones who survived were herded into run-down camps ran by sadistic Japanese guards. Thousands of these men died of starvation and merciless beatings by their captors. Others were placed on "Hell Ships"; Japanese freighters which transported POWs to Japan to become forced slave labor. Many of these ships were sunk by American submarines and aircraft and large numbers of POWs were killed in the sinkings. In the second half of the book, Sloan describes the return to the Philippines by the Americans in 1944. Included in this section is the daring raid on Cabanatuan prison camp which freed over 500 Allied POWs. I've read several of Sloan's previous books, and I've been impressed in how he incorporates participants' testimonies into his text. He has done this again in "Undeclared". Many survivor stories are included by men who fought and became prisoners of the Japanese. Along with these stories are the stories of MacArthur and Wainwright and the agonizing decision to surrender. "Undeclared" is a well-written book that describes how an initial tragedy turned into an ultimate triumph. I'll be anticipating Bill Sloan's next book. Highly recommended.

Bill Sloan's account of the Battle of Bataan, the events leading to it, and its aftermath, is truly an amazing story with accurate, incredible, and well-documented facts. Numerous eye-witness interviews were supplemented with first-hand accounts from a long list of books, articles, and websites. This story is a tribute to those thousands of Americans and Filipinos who abandoned by the Roosevelt Administration abandoned to hellish treatment and death! In my interviews with survivors, their families, friends, and the families and friends of those who perished. I have been intrigued by the extreme hatred of Roosevelt and especially MacArthur. Undeclared sheds light on the basis for such distain and blame. For instance, in Sloan's book, we discover that MacArthur "after the bombing of Pearl Harbor had received orders from Washington to attack Imperial bases. However, he refused to strike back hoping that The Philippines could remain neutral. In my opinion, MacArthur should have been relieved of command. But MacArthur was even more recalcitrant after junior grade officers insisted on a bombing raid of the Imperial

bombers on Formosa. By stubbornly refusing to make that strike, he led the American aircraft to their destruction in the Philippines. Sloan also revealed that the very capable Eisenhower was dismissed by MacArthur because the younger general was receiving more media attention. Having lost an uncle, Pvt. Charles R. Gregory, after 30 months of torture, starvation, slavery, and disease under the imprisonment of the Japanese Imperial Forces, it is difficult to learn that his life could have been saved. Bill Sloan has covered this largest surrender under the American flag, and the Bataan Death March – the most insidious treatment of prisoners in modern history – and he has covered it well. Congratulations to this author for another in a long line of his excellent accounts of military history. Highly recommended reading!

Having grown up near Maywood, I learned quite early about the Bataan Death March. In this interesting book, author Bill Sloan tells the story of the American defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, from the heady pre-war days, through the battle and the Death March, and on to their experiences as prisoners of war. Overall, I found this to be a pretty good book. I can't compare it to other books on the subject, as I have not read any. But, I found it to be full of interesting details, really bringing to life the experiences of the Fighting Bastards. It's not a very fun book, but it is an interesting one.

After reading the accounts of what the Japanese Empire did to Allied and Filipino prisoners during WW 2, I can't believe how we let a lot of them slide from war crimes trials after the war. ! After reading this book, I want to puke and turn in my Toyota Prius. !!!

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