



You'll Die in Singapore: The True Account of One of the Most Amazing POW Escapes in WWII

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Weakend by hunger, thirst and ill-treatment, author Charles McCormac, then a World War Two prisoner-of-war in Japanese-occupied Singapore, knew that if he did not escape he would die. With sixteen others he broke out of Pasir Panjang camp and began an epic two-thousand-mile escape from the island of Singapore, through the jungles of Indonesia to Australia. With no compass and no map, and only the goodwill of villagers and their own wits to rely on, the British and Australian POWs' escape took a staggering five months and only two out of the original seventeen men survived. You'll Die in Singapore is Charles McCormac's compelling true account of one of the most horrifying and amazing escapes in World War Two. It is a story of courage, endurance and compassion, and makes for a very gripping read.

You'll Die in Singapore: The True Account of One of the Most Amazing POW Escapes in WWII Details

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From Reader Review You'll Die in Singapore: The True Account of One of the Most Amazing POW Escapes in WWII for online ebook

Jo Tant says

I was given this book to read when I wanted to know more about the war in the Pacific during WW2. This is a really good account of a WW2 escape that also happens to be a great story.

Steve Else says

I loved this book and highly recommend it. It is a great testament to the multi-faceted aspects of humanity, accentuated by crisis. The book is wonderfully narrated and will be unforgettable.

I loved this book and highly recommend it to anyone, except perhaps Japanese (since they were the strong and menacing protagonists in this book).

The story represents a great testament to the multi-faceted aspects of humanity, accentuated by crisis.

Gill Schell says

3.8 stars : An amazing account of a POW's escape from Japanese-occupied Singapore, and the hardships he endured over 5 months to reach Australia. I feel that more factual detail about the escape and less literary description would have made this account work better.

Rebecca says

Written from Charles McCormac's own memories of his amazing escape from a prisoner of war camp in Singapore, and the harrowing march to freedom in Australia, 'You'll Die In Singapore' does paint a bleak picture of the cruelty of war, However, like many accounts of this type, much is lost of the reader because you just cannot imagine that sort of situation to it's full extent. McCormac doesn't help this as his descriptions of the pain, starvation, thirst, and desperation sometimes fall short. Such an adventure is worthy of a much fuller account, but it does seem like it's been skipped over n places. Don't get me wrong, to have to recall such memories is a task indeed, and McCormac should be given much credit for going there at all, I just wonder if some readers not in touch with historical events won't read this and see the horror for what it was.

Jo Locke says

A fascinating account of survival under the Japanese WWII

This is a fascinating insight into the Japanese invasion of Singapore and what life under their rule was like in the POW camps. Their escape was brave and brilliant. A very worthwhile read.

Fergus Cruickshank-McSwiney says

This book was recommended to me by my dad and I have to say I'm glad I read the book. Once you read this book it is hard to imagine it really happened!

The categories that this book fills on the bing board are:

A male main character as the writer Charles McCormac is also the main character because the book is about his escape from a P.O.W camp.

This book also teaches you about another time in history. It teaches you how the Japanese fought wars, what the P.O.W camps looked like, how they were treated there and about cultures of the natives around Singapore and Java.

This book teaches me about other cultures of the natives around Sumatra and Java. The book told me how much hospitality they gave and the fact that you have to accept what they give you as a sign of respect and politeness.

My favorite quote from this book is: "Too bloody true" this is said many times through out the book and it shows the harsh reality of them being stuck in an unfamiliar country.

I learned about how the Japanese treated their prisoners of war and how the natives treated their guests with such respect and politeness.

The setting for this book is interesting to me because it makes the theme of being all alone more intense to the reader.

Mike R says

WWII RAF officer and Australian escape from Singapore to Malaysia to Sumatra to Java

Pamela Huxtable says

I don't really know much about the Pacific war in WWII. The invasion of Singapore as told in this memoir is a horrific, unprecedented event, bewildering to the Europeans in the city.

McCormac's story is a brutal account of his escape from a POW camp in Singapore and his subsequent trek through Malaysia. He and his companions try to make their way back to the Allies, narrowly avoiding Japanese patrols and troops.

The author and his companions suffer illness, hunger, thirst, and all the dangers the jungle can throw at them. Their encounters with the people they meet are just as harrowing as the jungle dangers - can they trust the Javanese and Malaysians they meet? Are the villages helping the Japanese? Why are they being helped - is there an ulterior motive?

You'll Die in Singapore was a revelation to me, giving me a personal viewpoint of the war that affected me deeply. The author's style is blunt and clipped, but very descriptive at the same time. While reading, I felt anxious and fearful for McCormac and had to put the book down a few times to calm down.

Thomas Andrikus says

Taking place in then-occupied Singapore and Indonesia, "You'll Die in Singapore" autobiographical chronicle of an escape involving 17 POWs, mostly Brits and Australians, from a prison camp in Japanese-occupied Singapore during the end of World War 2.

A gripping read, I say. A recommended read for anyone who is familiar with Singapore and Indonesian history in general.

Stephanie Lin says

I really like this book because the author was a prisoner under the Japanese in Singapore and the book explains everything of how he escapes with his friends to Australia and surviving in the jungle with no food and water. The author describes the events that he was in with lots of smilies, metaphors, descriptions etc, how he felt and acted in that situation. The book has diagrams of the escape route he and his friends used to get to Australia with lots of labels to label everywhere he went to. This book is great to read because it shows and tells us how people in the war felt and how they survived in World War 2. I would recommend this book to my friends who really like survival and adventure stories.

Scott says

I read this to completion because it was a great story but it was not great literature. Naturally, the dialog had to be reconstructed from memory, taking place months or years before under extremely harsh conditions. Still, this is how the conversations read; artificial not natural. There were a couple of factual errors. Also irksome were at least 7 typos; I rarely encounter that many in a small book.

Wenny Wibisono says

This book is an really awesome book that presents bravery and risk of life. This book tells about a group of men who escaped from the prison camp in Singapore and used no map and no compass and escaped from Singapore to Indonesia to Australia.

Based on a true story!

Scott Hayden says

You can count on one hand the number of successful escapes from POW camps in Asia during World War 2. The author of this book was one of those men. A combination of sheer willpower, friendly Sumatran and Javanese natives, and a fair amount of luck ensured his escape.

It could have gone the other way. Illness, hunger, thirst, and the fact that Caucasian prisoners couldn't blend in with the native population made recapture more than likely. Being recaptured by the Japanese always resulted in the same fate - execution.

Marilyn Silva says

Very smart guy

Really exciting and amazing how clever and level-headed the guy was. It was also early in the war when the Japanese weren't as careful. He was so astute. A really exciting story

Lucas Moctezuma says

My father bought me this book, mainly because my grandfather was a civilian internee in a Japanese concentration camp in North Borneo, and he knows that I am particularly interested in this topic because of my family history. My grandfather, like the author, suffered brutalities under the Japanese, and so I could easily connect with this book as I read it.

Charles McCormac's tale of escaping from a Japanese POW camp in Singapore to Australia is a fascinating one, and provides a very gripping read. Whilst not great literature, the book still effectively captures the chaos of war whilst keeping readers engaged in a thrilling plot and compelling characters.

The structure and characterization of the story is hard to judge, because the events depicted actually happened. I am not sure as to the extent to which the facts were dramatized to make a good story, but even if they were dramatized, it would not matter because often the emotional toils suffered in war cannot be adequately explained in plain words. Sometimes drama is needed. And this book does it well, for it had me almost in tears by the end.
