



# **Frozen in Time: An Epic Story of Survival and a Modern Quest for Lost Heroes of World War II**

*Mitchell Zuckoff*

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On November 5, 1942, a U.S. cargo plane slammed into the Greenland ice cap. Four days later, a B-17 on the search-and-rescue mission also crashed. Miraculously, all nine men on the B-17 survived. The U.S. military launched a second daring rescue operation, but the Grumman Duck amphibious plane sent to find the men vanished.

In this thrilling adventure, Mitchell Zuckoff offers a spellbinding account of these harrowing crashes and the fate of the survivors and their would-be saviors. *Frozen in Time* places us at the center of a group of valiant airmen fighting to stay alive through 148 days of a brutal Arctic winter until an expedition attempts to bring them to safety. But that is only part of the story. In present-day Greenland, Zuckoff joins the Coast Guard and North South Polar Inc. on a dangerous expedition to recover the remains of the lost plane's crew.

*Frozen in Time* is a breathtaking blend of mystery, adventure, heroism, and survival. It is also a poignant reminder of the sacrifices of our military personnel and their families—and a tribute to the important, perilous, and often overlooked work of the U.S. Coast Guard.

## **Frozen in Time: An Epic Story of Survival and a Modern Quest for Lost Heroes of World War II Details**

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# From Reader Review Frozen in Time: An Epic Story of Survival and a Modern Quest for Lost Heroes of World War II for online ebook

**Mara says**

Thanks to *Coach Gordon Bombay* and the *Mighty Ducks* (D2 to be specific), I already knew that "Greenland" was a bit of a misnomer. **Greenland**, of course, is covered in ice, while Iceland is allegedly quite lush (although their hockey players are jerks). However, during World War II, suddenly everyone wanted in on Greenland's oft-forgotten frozen expanse. Not only did the location make for a nice little fueling spot for **B-17s** en route to either side of the Atlantic, it also could have served as a missile launching pad for axis forces with their sights set stateside.

## **The Setup**

For those of you who have read *Lost in Shangri-la*, you're probably aware that WWII plane crash survival stories are kind of Mitchell Zuckoff's thing (in addition to the use of extremely long subtitles). This time around there's a sort of meta story of how the story itself was researched and modern day obsession with what happened in the past (much like in David Gran's *The Lost City of Z*). I was not a fan of the frame-tale for this one, but it wasn't poorly written, it just didn't add much to the thrill of the read. Also, there are a lot of names involved in this story. I had trouble keeping track of them, so I'm not going to really use them in this review, but Zuckoff's site details the cast of characters.

## **Disaster Part One**

If any of you have been lifeguards, EMTs or have taken basic first aid, then you'll know that a sure fire way to fail your practical is by not "surveying the scene" before attempting to help. The principle behind this is pretty basic- it's easier to rescue one person than it is two, two than three *et cetera*. Well, in the Coast Guard/military, that's not how things work- their m.o. is more **no man left behind**. So, when an American **C-53** cargo plane went down with five survivors tapping out distress signals, everyone was all like "*of course we'll go rescue them on that crazy-weathered iceberg.*"

So, after a bit of scouting involving motor sleds and possibly some dogs, a group of brave Coast Guard men, set out in their **B-17 PN9E** to do some rescuing.

## **More Disaster**

Guess what? The B-17 crashed too. This added another nine to the count of men stranded in -40 degree weather with few supplies and low-visibility. If you're a fan of multi-national aeronautical disaster, then this is the book for you, because a Royal Air Force **A-20** with a **Royal Canadian Air Force** crew, also had to make a forced landing on the same east coast ice cap.

So, to sum it all up, we've got three planes down in Greenland in already horrible conditions and, not to get

*all Game of Thrones-y on you, but winter really was on its way. There's a lot of provisioning going on, near misses with crevasses and the thrill (for me at least) of **dogs to the rescue** .*

### **Duck Hunt**

*The words "duck hunt" immediately make me think of the annoyingly inaccurate "zapper" and smug, snickering, pixelated dog from the 1980s Nintendo game. The duck hunt in this story, however, deals with a bird of a different feather (I make no apologies for my puns).*

*Thanks to Rip Riley, everyone should by now know that a **seaplane** looks like an airplane had a baby with a boat.*

*If we run with Rip's metaphor, then the **Grumman Duck** would be the phocomelia thalidomide scare poster child because it is one weird piece of aeronautical equipment.*

*However, the duck and its operators proved their mettle when they were able to successfully land and rescue two of the men stranded in the B-17. The duck too, alas, was lost with its two heroic airmen to the arctic environs on the return trip, never to be seen again...unless, of course, the **modern quest for lost heroes** were to succeed.*

### **My take**

*It's a decent adventure story that will fascinate you if you're into planes. I am not really a plane person (feel free to correct any misnomers or whatever in this review, although I already know that the pictured J2F is the wrong version, but I thought it looked cool), so this wasn't my favorite disaster and discovery tale.*

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### **Judy says**

Frozen in Time: An Epic Story of Survival and a Modern Quest for Lost Heroes of World War II froze me to my seat. I seriously resented getting up for anything like eating, using the facilities, thirst...Finding out what happened to 9 plane crash victims on the snow and ice covered surfaces of Greenland riveted my attention like permafrost on the wing of a WWII B-17 bomber. The only thawing that took place occurred during the chapters about the locate/recovery expedition that Zuckoff partially funded and took part in to recover the remains of 3 brave men and their Coast Guard Grumman Duck plane that crashed in an attempt to rescue the 9 plane crash survivors. However, not much melting took place in these sections as I found it amazing what is required to put together such a mission and how glacier-ly slow the U.S. Government moves. (Okay, that part wasn't surprising.) I found the unique personalities, stubbornness and commitment of these men and women interesting and in some cases, inspirational.

Who would like this book? Memoir readers, WWII history buffs, adventure aficionados, and anyone else that doesn't mind vicariously sitting on the edge of an ice crevice or walking over a deceptively thin ice bridge.

4.5 stars

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## Carlos says

This was such a good follow up book to my first disappointing book of the year (Persepolis rising) , after that I needed something different. This book is about a perilous ice rescue in Greenland, many things go wrong and the story takes it from there . If you like adventure, ice and exploration this book will satisfy you for sure .

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## Lou says

The Planes went down not in the sea, or the woods, and not somewhere that could easily be located by a rescue team or on a land that they could arrive safely on.

The bleakest of environments the remotest of places, Greenland.

Not just one crash, but many, lives lost in the rescue effort.

Greenland will host men that represent bravery, determination and great willpower for survival, all in cause for the greater good of their fellow men, while a war raged with men an even greater war took hold, with a lethal and power force that does not discriminate, nature.

The rescue of the men in Greenland became a great challenge and proved to be a disastrous and terrible beauty, unforgiving to its denizens with the accumulating snow and snow storms, its unstable shifting icy surface and no exact crash position, time held the most paramount importance, every second counted and was a second closer to a grim end, in freezing conditions people would loose something if not their minds or starvation then possibly limbs.

What happened to the Grumman Duck amphibious plane and the three men it carried?

At the end of this book the author writes,

"This book tells two true stories, one from the past and one from the present.

The historic story revolves around three American military planes that crashed in Greenland during World War II," and

"I played a role in the Duck Hunt, and I appear in the book, but it isn't about me. It's about ordinary people thrust by fate or duty into extraordinary circumstances, one group in 1942 and another group seventy years later. Separated by time but connected by character, their bravery, endurance, and sacrifices reveal the power of humanity in inhumane conditions. I hope I've done them justice."

Well you have Mitchell Zuckoff done a great justice in this wonderful story of truth, you have done research that truly goes beyond the norm for writing non-fiction and will be like ancient carving on a tree, for many a reader etched in the mind.

A story, a rescue that would prove to present "a miracle on ice."

**"A more immediate worry was the cold. They had no heat, no light, no stove. They had no sleeping bags, no heavy clothing, no Arctic survival gear. A few seconds outside would coat a man's face with frost. In minutes, blood would rush from his extremities to his**

**core. Exposed skin would die. In the sky, the men on a B-17 were warriors. On the ground, they were frozen sardines in a busted-open can."**

**"The war would wait, but freezing American airmen wouldn't."**

**"In a world where size generally matters, Greenland's doesn't. The island is globally overlooked despite being enormous: more than sixteen hundred miles from north to south, and eight hundred miles at its widest point. Greenland could swallow Texas and California**

**and still have room for a dessert of New Mexico, Arizona, Florida, Pennsylvania, and all of New England. It's three times the size of France, and it occupies more than twice the area of the planet's second-largest island, New Guinea.**

**Yet Greenland is the world's loneliest place. With fifty-eight thousand residents, it has the lowest population density of any country or dependent territory. Only Antarctica, with no permanent residents, makes Greenland seem crowded. If Manhattan had the same population density as Greenland, its population would be two."**

**"To fight cabin fever, they played word games. They named all the countries, rivers, capitals, islands, and every other geographical feature they could think of. They told and retold their life stories and talked about whatever came to mind. Still they ran out of things to say, so they spent long periods in silence. The isolation, the wind, the moving glacier beneath their feet, and the relentless cold preyed on their nerves. They seemed to take turns breaking down, wishing their ordeal were over, one way or another. Each time, the other two would comfort the crying man. When the cycle unraveled, all three sank into despair at the same time. They hatched a suicide pact."**

Review also @ <http://more2read.com/review/frozen-in-time-an-epic-story-of-survival>

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## **Laura says**

Have you ever read a thriller novel where extraordinary and harrowing things happen to the characters but somehow they get through it against all odds? Well, that's what it was like reading *Frozen in Time*, except that it's not fiction, it's the true-life thrilling story of how a handful of WWII officers crashed into the barren and frozen Ice Cap of Greenland and survived for months. The story also alternates with the present story of a quest to find the lost Grumman Duck plane and the frozen remains of three officers.

Just as he did with *Lost in Shangri-La*, Zuckoff once again blew me away with his writing, bringing to life through narrative prose these valiant men, their adventures, their survival stories, and their families. By the end of the book, I felt like I knew these people personally. This is the gift of Zuckoff's writing. He allows the reader to truly get to know the people he writes about—not just facts, but their hopes and dreams—making the reading experience a touching one.

I didn't know a thing about Greenland, but Zuckoff makes sure the reader understands what kind of land it is just so one could appreciate all the obstacles the survivors encountered and how miraculous their survival really was. There were several times I choked up with tears as I read about these men's self-sacrificing acts

and their mental anguish.

This was a suspenseful read. I could feel the relentless cold, hear the howling wind through the many snowstorms and feel the fear as the men had to trudge through snow and watch out for hidden crevasses that were bottomless. I kept marveling at the men's resilience and ingenuity. One of the things that kept the men's hope alive was the power of prayer. Zuckoff writes that they prayed daily, stating, "There were no atheists in their ice hole."

Zuckoff makes it clear in his note to the reader that he takes no liberties with facts, dialogue, characters, details or chronology. This nonfiction work is based on his thorough research in the form of declassified documents, maps, photographs, interviews and previously unknown journals. He also joined the expedition team that travelled to the remote glacier in Greenland in search of the lost Grumman Duck plane. He tells us firsthand all about it.

I am counting this book as a favorite of 2013. I am a big fan of Zuckoff and will read anything by him, knowing that I am in for a well-written, exciting, and grand story.

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### **Karen says**

What an absolutely amazing, riveting and incredible book. Mitch Zuckoff does an amazing job telling two interwoven stories that take place almost seventy years apart. I was so absorbed in this book I almost forgot it is really an historical record of real life and death events. I was so engaged in the book I actually felt cold as I read about the conditions the survivors faced, cried when someone died, cheered (and cried) for every rescue. I physically jumped when Dunlop's plane engine exploded. My nerves were strained and frayed by the time I finished Chapter 23- Some Plan In This World. This is a situation that makes me wish I could talk to the Author. I cannot praise this book, this story and this author enough. Everyone should read this one. It is just amazing.

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### **♥ Marlene♥ says**

So good. So excellent so great!

This is why I love reading non fiction.

It does not happen often. That you start a nonfiction book about a subject you do not know much about.

In my case Greenland and what happened there during WW2 and that the author makes you really understand how it was and makes you interested in the subject and you wanting to learn more. For me that is why I love to read non fiction and Mitchell Zukoff managed all of the above.

Now I also love survival stories and if you like to read about those too I highly recommend this book but to be honest I recommend it to everyone.

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### **Ryan says**

Before I sat down to write my review of Frozen in Time, I went back to read the review I did of Lost in

Shangri-La, the last book I read by Mitchell Zuckoff. Boy, did I like that book. I'm not sure I've given such a glowing review to another nonfiction book since I've started blogging. I droned on and on about how masterfully the author was able to not only bring the events alive, but to humanize the the men and women involved, making them feel three dimensional in ways most authors can't do with historical figures. I had paragraph after paragraph lauding the author's narrative voice, his attention to detail, and his ability to make history as easy to read as fiction. It would be far easier for me to cut/paste my review of Lost in Shangri-La, changes a few names around, and have the review over and done with. Since that's cheating, I won't do that.

What I do want to say is how much I appreciate books like this. There is so much of our history, heroic stories that seem to be forgotten in a rather short amount of time. They may capture the news of day, or even a month or two, but new events slowly force them back in time, into a miasma of obscurity that tends to swallow them whole. Rarely, and only after an untold amount of dedication brought to the story, do the men and women history forgot, get a chance to be remembered again. Zuckoff is brilliant at being able to pluck a instance of history and bring it back to life in all it's glory. He doesn't just tell the story, he makes his readers live the story along side those he is bringing back to life within the pages of his books.

Parts of me, felt every moment these men spent on the ice. I put myself in their shoes, and I honestly don't know that I'm man enough to fill them. What they went through, the physical and mental anguish brought forth by the circumstance they found themselves in could easily break most of the men I know. I gasped out loud as men who survived a plane crash onto a desolate Arctic wasteland, who survived for untold weeks upon the ice, succumbed to the dangers all around them. Whether they were plunged into the bottomless depths of an icy crevasse, or lost for over 70 years entombed in ice after a plane coming to rescue them, is lost to a storm, I can only imagine the anguish they most of felt, right before they slipped away. It's a horror I'll never feel, but it's a horror I can now sympathize with.

The way he weaves the three crash stories together, two of which are a direct result of the first, is seamless. There is a rhythm to the events and to his narrative that carries the reader along, never allowing them to get bogged down in confusion or apathy for what they are reading. When the narrative switches to the present, where he is not only finding himself personally, but financially as well, invested in the search for the doomed rescue plane, and it's three passengers, it fits in with the rest of the story. So often, there is a jarring sense of dislocation when a historical narrative jumps time periods, Zuckoff pulls it off perfectly.

One of his fellow explorers, as they were searching for the plane in Greenland, would ask Zuckoff how the book would end. I'm not sure this book has a proper ending, and given the circumstances of what he was writing about, I think that's appropriate. I'm looking forward to discovering the end, when it happens.

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## **Carol says**

A compelling addition to World War II stories, Frozen in Time is a story of endurance, survival and determination. This account of the ill fate of a crashed US cargo plane in Greenland in 1942 and its nine crew members, is a brutal read as the men struggle to survive while others try to rescue them. Not all is successful but for those that do survive their lives are owed not only to their own stamina but to the dedication of those who would not give them up. Zuckoff weaves this rescue mission with the present day assignment to recover the rescue plane and its heroic crew that did not make it home. A truly riveting read. Truly humbling as you read the conditions these men endure while awaiting rescue. Imagine 148 days in this Arctic element!



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## Elyse says

EXCELLENT.....4.5 stars!!!!

I did find the reading (itself), a little more challenging for me (than "Lost In Shangri-La)--yet I was deeply moved at the same time. In my mind THIS book...(this story), had to be more challenging to write than "Lost In Shangri-La" also. The dedication (physical dedication to boot), which the author put himself through is flooring....(it HAD to be dangerous) ---

Really--I would have been petrified if my husband's job involved THIS type of research!

I learned a part of history I knew nothing about --

I even now have a deeper appreciation for this (chilly) country ---LET ALONE the heroes (characters), which this book is written about!

Mitchell Zuckoff just might be my personal 'go to' when I KNOW its time for me to read about areas of history that I've many holes in my own education.

If history had been taught the way HE writes books ---I may have enjoyed my own history classes more.

As an old far 'woman' I'm aware I am 'growing' into my own natural desire to fill in a few more of those holes.

I've been enjoying Historical Fiction books for many years ---but would often shy away from NON-FICTION history books --- but after reading Zuckoff, Laura Hillenbrand, & Jon Krakauer also -- authors like these have helped WANT to read more (look up things I don't know, ask more questions, not shy away from being 'stupid'...and so on).

I still 'need' comfort reading --(don't get me wrong) ---but I'm DEEPLY thankful to authors like Zuckoff. (I was a late bloomer to reading even for enjoyment) ----

So---I hope Zuckoff does NOT get hurt on any of these projects he takes on (dangerous little plane rides)....lol, because I will look forward to his next book also --and the book after that!

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## Marialyce says

This was truly an amazing story of courage, determination, and the willingness of some to risk their lives to save another. In 1943, a cargo plan on a regular flight slammed into a Greenland ice cap. In an attempt to mount a rescue, a B-17 became lost because of a phenomena called "flying in milk" and this plane crashed. All survived the crash, all nine of them miraculously Another plane called the Grumman duck mounted a rescue but it faced a storm and vanished. It also was a story told of the efforts of a group from the Coast Guard and the North South Pole, led by a man named Lou Sapienza, to find the place and try to solve the mystery of why the Grumman duck went down. The expedition to do so occurred in 2012. By that time the

Duck was buried under twenty feet of ice. How they eventually find the Duck forms an integral part of the story.

The book tells of these disasters and the efforts of a number of courageous people who were both lost and those who took part in the rescue efforts. It is hard to fathom the amount of courage it took to be a part of the mission to rescue these men in temperatures that went to forty degrees below zero and winds that clocked in at one hundred fifty miles per hour. It was unbelievable that men were able to survive for one hundred and forty-eight days in those conditions. There was no GPS, no radar, and surely no sophisticated planes/ships at that time as is today. These rescue pilots risked their lives to save their fellow man. Surely, no greater courage was there then to place oneself in the pathway of the Antarctic hell. The men who survived, those who perished, and those who rescued them were the epitome of bravery. This book was a tribute in part to our military and made one realize the important and often perilous work done by our Coast Guard.

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### **David V. says**

Received as an ARC via my employer Barnes & Noble. Wowee! What an adventure story, and it's all true. This book is so real in its description of the weather on Greenland that it would probably be perfect to read on a 95 degree day in July for cooling off. But the dangers are frightening!!!! It's the story of crashed aircraft during WWII, and the failed and successful missions to rescue the crews. And the modern story of a mission to recover one of the planes and the buried crew under 200' of snow and ice.

I read Mr. Zuckoff's earlier book *Lost in Shangri-La* and really enjoyed it. This one is just as exciting---read it in 3 days!!!

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### **Stella Fouts says**

Mitchell Zuckoff's *Frozen in Time: An Epic Story of Survival and a Modern Quest for Lost Heroes of World War II* is the account of a series of mind-boggling tragedies that occurred in Greenland in the 1940s. Beginning in November 1942, a U.S. cargo plane slams into a Greenland ice cap. Four days later, a B-17 searching for the plane becomes lost in a blinding storm and also crashes. A second rescue attempt is launched, and that plane flies into a severe storm and vanishes. Men and dog sled teams also put themselves at peril attempting to reach the crash site.

Zuckoff immerses himself in the researching of these events and recounts the heroic attempts that were made to bring men home from the ice cap. Some men from the original cargo plane survived. Some didn't. Some rescuers survived. Some didn't. Many of the men suffered terribly from the severe cold and deprivation, while others fared only slightly better.

Zuckoff's book flips between the 1940s and today as he also writes about a modern-day, daring attempt to locate, and bring home, the bodies of three of the rescuers. It is especially interesting to read of their zany activities preparing for that excursion, with Zuckoff actually participating in the search and recovery efforts in Greenland. We soon see that the party is at peril as they try to find the remains of the plane and the three bodies. All of the modern equipment and technology at the party's fingertips can't stop the storm that is bearing down on them – threatening to halt their efforts and keep them in Greenland forever.

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## Janet says

4.5 stars rounded up to 5.

Another gripping tale of inspiring fortitude and courage from the author of *Lost in Shangri-La*, one of my all time favorite books.

This true life saga revolves around the efforts to rescue WWII American military personnel stranded in the unforgiving terrain of Greenland. That story alternates with the present day efforts to retrieve the remains of the soldiers who didn't make it.

I'm the last person in the world to be enthralled by technical descriptions of airplanes, and computers, and putting together the gear needed for a trip to arctic cold. But Zuckoff writes in a way that made me willing to follow him through such details because the payoff was his accompanying portraits of the people involved in this story. They leap off the page and you experience the highs and lows of their emotions as they experience setbacks, despair, then get back up and keep trying.

Just a thumping good read. Highly recommended.

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## Will Byrnes says

Winter is coming.

Mitchell Zuckoff seems to be making a habit of looking into the travails of crash victims. His prior book, *Lost in Shangri-la*, followed three survivors of a WW II era plane crash in New Guinea. They faced the usual sorts of dangers, a step back to the Paleolithic, and a diverse assortment of possible ways to die; cannibals, elements of an enemy army, all sorts of predatory and/or poisonous critters, microscopic invaders that could ruin your day, and help see that it is your last. The whole world was watching and cheering for *their* safe return.

Reversing his orientation a bit this time Zuckoff, in his latest WW II opus, *Frozen in Time*, has substituted brutal cold, and a particularly unwelcoming landscape for those other hazards. I'll take the cannibals every time. (with a nice Chianti) In this instance, the whole world was unaware of the events until well after they had come to a conclusion. Upping his game, Zuckoff deals not with a single crash, but with several, in a cascade.

I suggest that if you have a choice between death by the fire of a predatory jungle or the ice of an arctic wasteland, you would do well to choose the former. You'd have a better chance of making it. At least you would not have to worry so much that the ground on which you were standing might open up and swallow you whole, that you might lose body parts to the relentless cold of Arctic winter, that you might lose your mind waiting to be brought home, while blizzard-driven snow seeps into your shelter. And of course there is always the danger of becoming a GI-sicle for a prowling polar bear. There are survivors of this experience who lived through 148 days worth of cold days in hell.

There is a saying that bad things come in threes. It might have been nice if that had been the case in Greenland, in 1942. Greenland seems to have the same effect on powered vehicles as the Bermuda Triangle. There were at least a dozen crashes there in 1942. The trouble under scrutiny here began on November 5, when a military cargo plane, a C-53 Skytrooper, [above] the equivalent of a civilian DC-3 airliner, was returning to its base from Reykjavik after a “milk run” delivery of war materials. It was carrying a crew of five.

Shortly after the plane reached the southeast coast of Greenland, a location that defined the edge of nowhere, disaster struck: ...the Skytrooper went down on the ice cap. By some accounts, the crash occurred when one of the plane’s two engines failed, but other reports were silent on why the C-53 experienced what the military called a “forced landing.” The official crash report declared the cause “unknown and no reason given in radio contacts.” A handwritten notation added, “100 percent undetermined.”

The air over Greenland was a busy locale in those days, with dozens of flights transporting men and materials to the war every day, then returning home to do it again. But Greenland is the largest non-continental island on Planet Earth so, even with a lot of planes searching, locating a downed aircraft was no simple task. Here are some comparisons:

California – 163,696 sq miles

Texas – 268,820 sq miles

Alaska – 663,696 sq miles

Greenland – 836,302 sq miles

In other words, big frackin’ haystack.

On November 9 a B17F, a “Flying Fortress” redirected from its mission in Germany to participate in the search, ran into trouble

When they reached the end of Koge Bay fjord, [the crew] saw that everything outside was the same frightening shade of whitish gray. They couldn’t tell where the sky ended and the ice cap began...When the true horizon disappears in the Arctic haze, a pilot might as well be blind. Pilots fortunate enough to survive the phenomenon describe the experience as “flying in milk.”

Or, ironically, the exact opposite of a *milk run*. It did not end well, and nine more servicemen were unwillingly grounded.

On November 29th, desperate to evacuate members of crews what had been stranded in an arctic wasteland for weeks, a pontooned Grumman seaplane know as a Duck, assigned to the Coast Guard ship *Northland* was making a second daring run, having already rescued some survivors.

It went back for more. But a storm blew in before the Duck could make it back to its base. The pilot was flying blind. The plane crashed into the ice. This is an image of the very plane, taking off. Not a lucky ducky.

There is more, but these are the big three bits of awfulness of this tale.

*Frozen in Time* tells the stories of how the crash survivors fared, how the rescue operations were planned and how those worked out, or didn't. These stories are both fascinating and chilling. There are many examples told of MacGyver-like creativity on the ground among the crash-ees, among the rescue teams and, decades later, in an expedition looking to bring 'em home. This last is a parallel tale that is given much less than half the book. Not all the men and not all the planes made it back in 1942. The author becomes involved with people who are looking to find and repatriate the remains of the crash victims who did *not* survive. There are a lot of personalities in play here and a fair bit of politicking. It is not as interesting as the core survival tale, but it *is* informative. A recovery mission does indeed take place, in 2012, and the author is a full participant in that.

It's tough enough finding a 60+ year old wreck that stands still, (not counting myself) but in Greenland the ice sheet is a very large moving target. Drop a flag on point A and when you return it could be at Points E, Q or X. And then there is the accumulation of more than half a century's worth of compacted snow.

Imagine searching for a diamond chip buried deep beneath a frozen football field; your best tool is a straw what makes tiny holes into the ground, through which you peer down to see what's below; if your holes miss by even a little, you'll miss it; and you have a brief window to explore ten potential locations before being kicked off the field.

The story of the attempt at recovering remains is certainly interesting. It is no surprise that there are sundry parties at Department of Defense meetings who offer a chilly reception to the contractor who was looking to undertake the mission. We get to be a fly on the wall for a few of these.

But the meat of the story is the tales of survival, how these men (all the crash-ees were men) contended with such a hostile environment, what they did to create livable living spaces, how they coped with hunger, as well as cold, and fear. Some fared better than others. It is a bit frightening to learn that a plane landing on a glacier is in danger of getting frozen to it, like a warm tongue to a frozen pipe. There are uplifting items as well in this dark tale. You will learn about the "Short Snorters Club," if you are not already a member, and the purpose of a *Snublebus*. You will also expand your vocabulary a tad with some arctic terms.

You will learn as well, about the dedication of the military to bringing home every reachable service member, and about some of the after-effects of the stranding experience on those who made it out.

Spencer's family knew him as warm and funny, and they'd remember him as a man who bought toilet paper in bulk long before warehouse stores. When his younger daughter Carol Sue asked why, Spencer explained: "I have been without toilet paper," he told her, "and I am never going to be without toilet paper again."

Not Scarlett O'Hara perhaps, but a telling indication of the permanence of the crash experience on the survivors. Many found themselves with increased susceptibility to cold. Not everyone had the luxury of such discomfort. One poor bastard survived a crash in the B-17 only to succumb to another as he was being flown away from the bomber in a rescue plane.

There are several crews to keep track of and I think it would have been useful for there to have been a section listing them by vehicle, rather than, or in addition to the straight alphabetic list provided in an appendix. That said, the volume I read was an ARE so there may be a difference or two between what I saw and what is in the final hardcover edition. Just in case it is not provided there, I have tucked the crew list by craft under this spoiler notice. (view spoiler)

You are on your own keeping track of other planes, ships and ground-based rescue teams that come into play in this story.

If you liked *Lost in Shangri-La*, it is a good bet you will find it worth the effort to search for a copy of *Frozen in Time* and bring it home. Read it in a warm place.

=====LINKS

The author's web page

The author's FB page for this book

Harper Collins promo video

Video of the downhole camera. (2012) Uncomfortably similar to a medical scoping

A Coast Guard page on an earlier attempt to locate the Duck

North South Polar - Lou's site

List of crashes - 1942-44

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Cross posted on my blog - all the intended images appear there

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