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We Remained: Three Years Behind Enemy Lines In The Philippines



Synopsis

An adventure-packed narrative, unique in American military history. "We remained" was the answer to General MacArthur's famous promise, "I shall return." It was the answer of the American-Filipino guerrillas of Northern Luzon. It was the motto of those who refused to surrender and who escaped to carry on the fight behind enemy lines. Colonel Russell W. Volckmann commanded this guerrilla force. This is Colonel Volckmann's account of his personal experiences in guerrilla warfare and in the resistance movement against a ruthless enemy. He tells of the many events that led up to the final open conflict with the Japanese occupation forces. Colonel Volckmann recounts for the reader the fateful decision not to obey the surrender order at the fall of Bataan; the tortuous escape from the Japanese and the long flight through the jungle to the north; the friendship of the headhunting Igorots and the dead-shot Hugaos who provided hideouts; the slow building via the underground from the original four men to a guerrilla force of over 20,000 Filipinos and Americans which crushed the Japanese forces in Northern Luzon. This book reveals a side of modern warfare about which little has been told. It is a phase of war that calls for unusual devotion to cause, unswerving determination and courage, true patriotism, and the ingenuity to overcome insurmountable obstacles.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

R. W. Volckmann was brought up in Clinton, Iowa. He graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1934 and from Infantry School in 1938. After World War II he attended the Armed Forces Staff College and the National War College. Colonel Volckmann's decorations include the

Distinguished Service Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Distinguished Service Star, Philippine Republic

Great read...ashame so much history was never taught in schools.

I have been trying to find this book since 1971 and I'm very happy.

This is a great book about a little known, but fascinating, segment of WWII in the Philippines. When Bataan and then Corregidor fell in April and May of 1942, it is an undisputable fact, painful as it may be to today's reader, that the U.S. government abandoned more than 10,000 of its own military and an additional estimated 70,000 Filipino soldiers who had been nationalized into the U.S. Army in mid-1941. The U.S. government was simply overextended and could not support both the war in Europe and that in the Pacific, and the Pacific war lost out in the debate in political and military circles in Washington. In the process, the U.S. suffered the most humiliating defeat in the history of our country. There followed the infamous Bataan Death March and equally infamous imprisonment at Camp O'Donnell of those who survived the march, where many more died under the most cruel and inhumane conditions. However poignant the story of those prisoners may be, perhaps equally poignant (and equally worthy of recognition) are the stories of a hundred or so U.S. military personnel who escaped, either from the Bataan Peninsula around the time of the surrender, from the Death March or from Camp O'Donnell itself, or a very few who never quite reached the Bataan Peninsula and then later categorically refused to surrender to the Japanese. Russell Volckmann, along with Donald W. Blackburn, Martin Moses, Arthur K. Noble, and a handful of others, managed to escape from Bataan at the time of its surrender and made their way back into the mountains of North Luzon. Among those who never quite caught up with the retreating allied forces in Bataan were Captain Parker Calvert and Lieutenant Arthur Murphy. All of these men, in one scenario or another, made their way back into the mountains of North Luzon, where they managed to raise a large guerrilla force right under the noses of the Japanese occupation forces, gathered intelligence, conducted raids to harass the enemy in every way they could, and greatly assisted the allied forces who ultimately reclaimed the Philippines. Not all of them survived the war, but Russell Volckmann and perhaps a dozen others did survive this harrowing three-year period of guerrilla warfare behind the Japanese lines. My only complaint with *We Remained* is that Volckmann was somewhat self-serving and personally took credit for just about every guerrilla success during this period. While

his has become the most recognizable name of the genre, he wasn't the only American officer who participated in these remarkable events. As it happened, he kept the best records and so has claimed a more prominent role in the annals of history. Keeping in mind all of the above, *We Remained* is a great read. I prize my copy and would recommend the book to anyone who'd like to know a little bit more about what really happened during WWII in the Philippines.

Disputed Farther of American Special Forces This book is a memoir of Volckman's role as head of the United States Armed Forces behind the lines in the Philippines during World War II. The book details the establishment and employment of intelligence networks, auxiliaries, guerrilla action arms and other special forces that constituted the underground that operated on Luzon during the Japanese occupation. Of note, the last chapter of this book is a treatise on the relationship of psychological warfare, guerrilla warfare and special operations that was ahead of his time when published. Overall, I have found this book to be highly readable and although the material is dated it is still historically significant in the study of modern special warfare. I believe that this title will appeal to the professional and armchair military historian and serving military personnel.

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