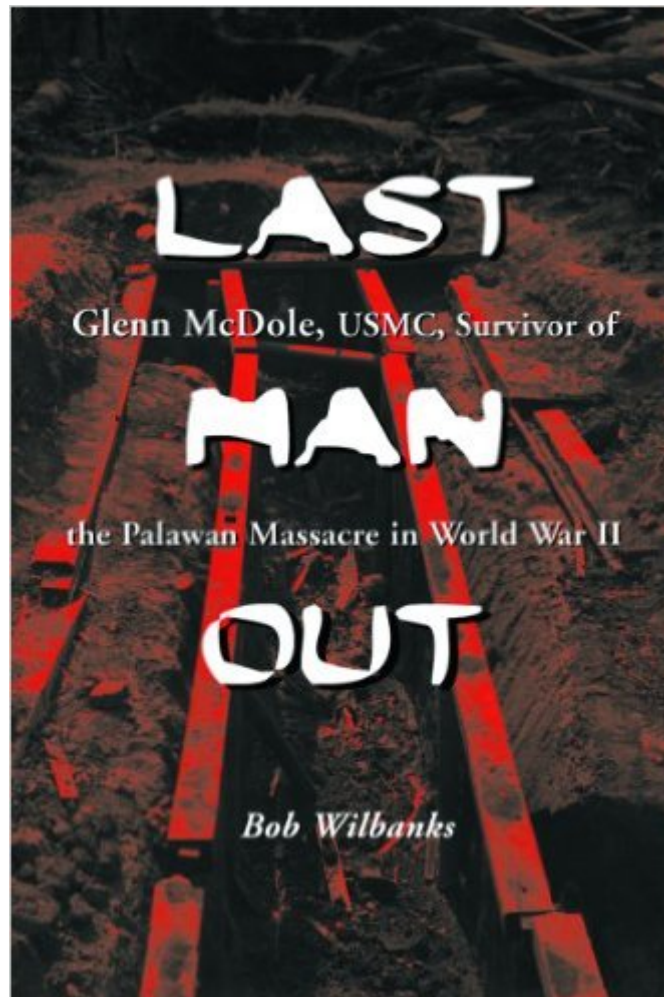


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Last Man Out: Glenn McDole, USMC, Survivor Of The Palawan Massacre In World War II



Synopsis

On December 14, 1944, Japanese soldiers massacred 139 of 150 American POWs. This biography tells the story of Glenn (Mac) McDole, one of eleven young men who escaped and the last man out of Palawan Prison Camp 10A. Beginning on December 8, 1941, at the U.S. Navy Yard barracks at Cavite, the story of this young Iowan soldier continues through the fighting on Corregidor, the capture and imprisonment by the Japanese Imperial Army in May 1942, Mac's entry into the Palawan prison camp in the Philippines on August 12, 1942, the terrible conditions he and his comrades endured in the camps, and the terrible day when 139 young soldiers were slaughtered. The work details the escapes of the few survivors as they dug into refuse piles, hid in coral caves, and slogged through swamp and jungle to get to supportive Filipinos.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book should be required reading for every high school student in America - most people have no idea what many ordinary young men endured as prisoners during World War II, how they behaved under the unbelievable burden of watching their friends die and how they overcame the horror of being POWs of the Japanese in the Philippines - this book is extremely well-written, simple and concise without self promotion concerning one of the worst atrocities in modern warfare - it's an easy although uncomfortable read - it'll make you proud to call McDole and other POWs fellow Americans

This is a great story of a survivor who makes it and also the story of others who perish. All of whom

are heroes under conditions we hope will never again be faced by POW's. This book tells the story of their sacrifice which should never be forgotten.

In reading this excellent 165 page book I have walked with Glenn from his home in Iowa to his enlistment, to Corregidor, to Palawan, the war trials and back home to his funeral in 2009. This book gives you the complete experience of this brave marine up close and personal. You get to meet his friends, some of the Japanese guards and feel their experiences in vivid plain easy to read words. There was only 1 guard who I will look up on the computer who ever showed the prisoners any kindness, why do we as humans treat our fellow humans so wickedly? We will all die some day and answer to our creator so why mistreat people along the way? --Anyway if you like war stories get this book, you will not be disappointed.

I could not put it down. I really liked the book. I met Mr. McDole and his wife this last June. What an amazing family and how he overcame tragedy.

This book was very good even though it tells a terrible story. There is a lot of detail about the massacre of 139 American prisoners of war and the survival of just 11 as they hid in garbage and swam 5 miles in the ocean to safety. This is a great source for a national history day project. This book would be 6 stars if that rating existed.

One of the good stories to come out of World War II was the rescue of over 500 American prisoners at the CABANATUAN MILITARY PRISON CAMP. If you are not familiar with the story, 123 members of the 6th Rangers sneaked through enemy lines to the prison camp, killed all the guards and got the men out. It was not common for such breakouts to be attempted. And the reason for the rescue at Cabanatuan was the massacre at Palawan. Palawan was an offshoot of Cabanatuan, some 150 prisoners from Cabanatuan had been sent to Palawan as slave workers. They spent two and a half years working on the air strip. Then on December 15, 1944 the Americans landed on Mindoro. So the Japanese decided to execute the 150 prisoners. They missed eleven who managed to escape. This is the story of one young marine. From all the people in the USMC he became one of the 7,000 Americans captured at Corregidor, and one of the eleven to survive Palawan. As I read this book, my first thought was to damn the Japanese. Their culture of Bushido created an environment where such events happened. Then I thought of the Islamic terrorists, or cult or whatever you'd call it in Iraq who yesterday beheaded someone just to get it in the news. And

that lead me to the events in the prison in Iraq where we Americans didn't exactly act with honor. This is a book, not only excellently written, but tells of a side of the war not often reported. And forces you to think of other places, other incidents. Highly recommended.

As a teacher, I was appalled at the atrocities committed by the Japanese during WW2. There is not much mention of it in the history textbooks; most WW2 mentions consist of: the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor; Hitler & the Holocaust; Bataan Death March (maybe); America ushers in the Atomic Age when Hiroshima & Nagasaki were bombed. Mr. McDole's story was riveting, stomach-turning and blood-pressure-raising all at the same time. I had never heard of Palawan before reading "Unbroken", the story of Louis Zamperini and his odyssey as a POW in Japan. Mr. McDole writes about maggot-ridden rice balls - that was their food, prison guards who would brutally beat prisoners for fun, and setting prisoners on fire - then shooting them when they ran. This is a story of not only historical happenings, but also a story of the Marine spirit. I have never met a Marine personally (my family was Army), but the Marine attitude of never leaving anyone behind and overcoming, just to rub their captors' nose in it, is inspiring. I highly recommend this to anyone who is interested in military stories. I cried, I cheered, I became angry at times. Any book that can rouse so many emotions in me, deserves 5 stars.

I have just added the Kindle edition of this amazing book I can keep it with me. It was my great privilege to know the men in this book. Glen McDole, Rufus "Willie" Smith, Roy Henderson, my uncle Evan Bunn and my father Clarence Clough were my heroes and role models throughout my formative years. When I was a child, every family trip we took was routed to visit one or more of these men and their families. I hope enough of their integrity, loyalty and perseverance rubbed off on me to make them proud. I was certainly proud of them. I miss them all. Since Dad and Uncle Evan were not on Palawan at the time of the massacre, Mr. Wilbanks does not mention what happened to them after the war. Dad and Evan Bunn continued as POWs working in the mines in Japan until the end of the war. Evan had heard so much about dad's sister that he proclaimed he would marry one of them. When the two returned to the U.S., they stopped to see Evan's family then went on to Dad's home. Evan married Dad's sister Anita November 10 1945. Clarence Clough died September 6, 1985. Evan Bunn died May 12, 1989.

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