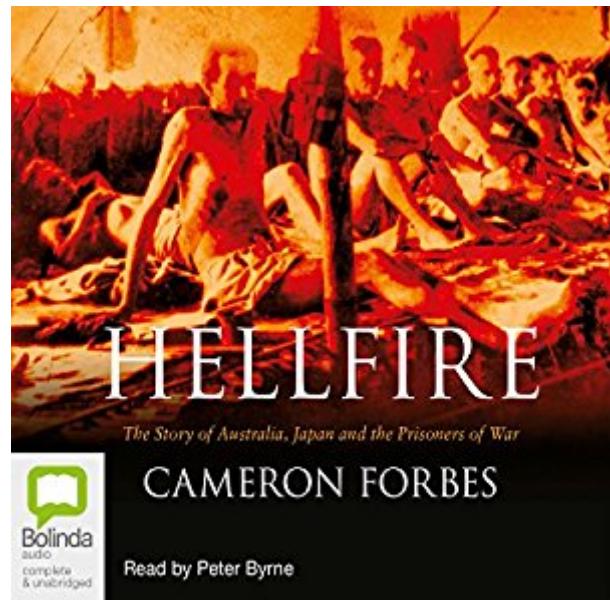


The book was found

Hellfire



Synopsis

The acclaimed, definitive, best-selling account of Australia's prisoners of war held captive by the Japanese. For months during 1943 there was no night in Hellfire Pass. By the light of flares, carbide lamps, and bamboo fires, men near-naked and skeletal cut a passage through stone to make way for a railway. Among these men were some of the 22,000 Australian soldiers taken prisoner by the Japanese during World War II. In camps across Asia and the Pacific, they struggled, died, and survived with a little help from their mates. Their experiences became a defining feature of the war, just as Hellfire Pass was to become a defining symbol of what every prisoner experienced. Hellfire details the individual stories of those caught up in history: the Hudson bomber pilot attacking the Japanese invasion force on Day One; the prisoner of war who refused to be blindfolded for his execution, and another who coped with misery and death by sketching plumbago flowers; the man the atom bomb didn't kill in Nagasaki and whose homecoming helped change Australia. Hellfire was researched in Australia, Japan, and across South-East Asia. It draws on 50 first-person interviews, ranging from former prisoners to an old Mon villager deep in the Burmese jungle, and from Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew to veterans of the Imperial Japanese Army. The result is a tour de force, a powerful and searing history of the prisoners of the Japanese.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Cameron Forbes takes you on a journey way beyond where others fear to go. For any Australian not to know the history of Hellfire Pass is simply un-Australian. Forbes explains the campaign and its subsequent repercussions for both sides fluently, intimately and passionately. We will be visiting

this area next month to pay our respects. Having read Hellfire, it's as though we've already been there.

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Hellfire

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