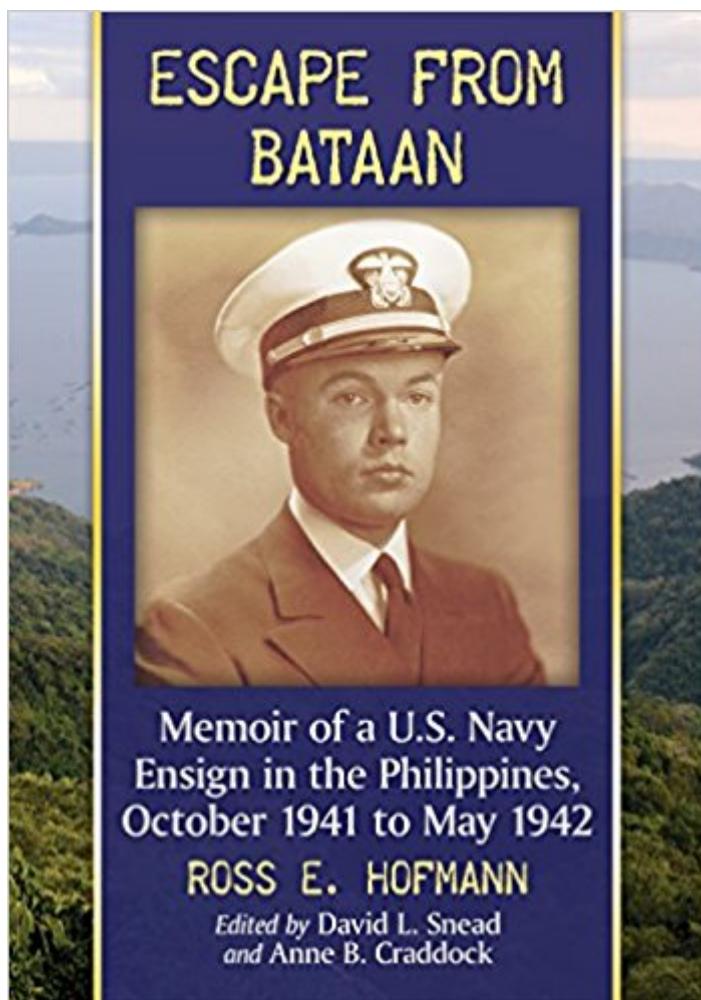


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Escape From Bataan: Memoir Of A U.S. Navy Ensign In The Philippines, October 1941 To May 1942



Synopsis

U.S. Navy Supply Corps Ensign Ross Hofmann had no idea what was in store for him when he arrived at Cavite Naval Base in October 1941. Two months later, Japanese forces struck the Philippines, destroying the base and forcing U.S. personnel to retreat to Bataan. There, Hofmann joined a makeshift unit of Army Aircorps ground personnel, U.S. Marines, U.S. sailors, U.S. Naval ground battalions and Filipinos to fight a Japanese force that landed nearby. In March 1942, with the fall of Bataan imminent, he traveled to Cebu to run supplies through the blockade of Bataan and Corregidor. Soon after his arrival, the Japanese landed on Cebu, forcing the Americans to retreat again. Hiking through jungles and crossing dangerous waters in barely seaworthy vessels, Hofmann avoided capture and reached an American base in Mindanao. He received orders to establish a seaplane base on Lake Lanao. As Japanese troops landed nearby, two seaplanes returning from Corregidor stopped to refuel, one of them hitting a submerged rock on take-off. In a harrowing race against the enemy advance, Hofmann and others worked feverishly to fix the plane and escape before the Japanese converged on Lake Lanao. This memoir recounts Hofmann's experiences in vivid detail. Instructors considering this book for use in a course may request an examination copy here.

Book Information

File Size: 5251 KB

Print Length: 228 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1476665680

Publisher: McFarland; 1 edition (August 19, 2016)

Publication Date: August 19, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01KU38M3S

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #419,624 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #97

Customer Reviews

After reading Michael and Elizabeth Norman's books Tears in the Darkness and We Band of Angels, I was glad to see that there was another book about Bataan's part in WWII. Once I began to read it I could not put it down. Having the additional knowledge of what happened there made it like a trilogy. It can stand alone as Ensign Hofman's story but his mention of places and events presented a larger picture for me. Need I mention that he was more than just a Navy supply officer. IMO these three books are a gift to the history buff and student who wants to know about the Japanese's part in WWII in the Philippines as told by people, mostly Filipinos and American military, who were there.

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