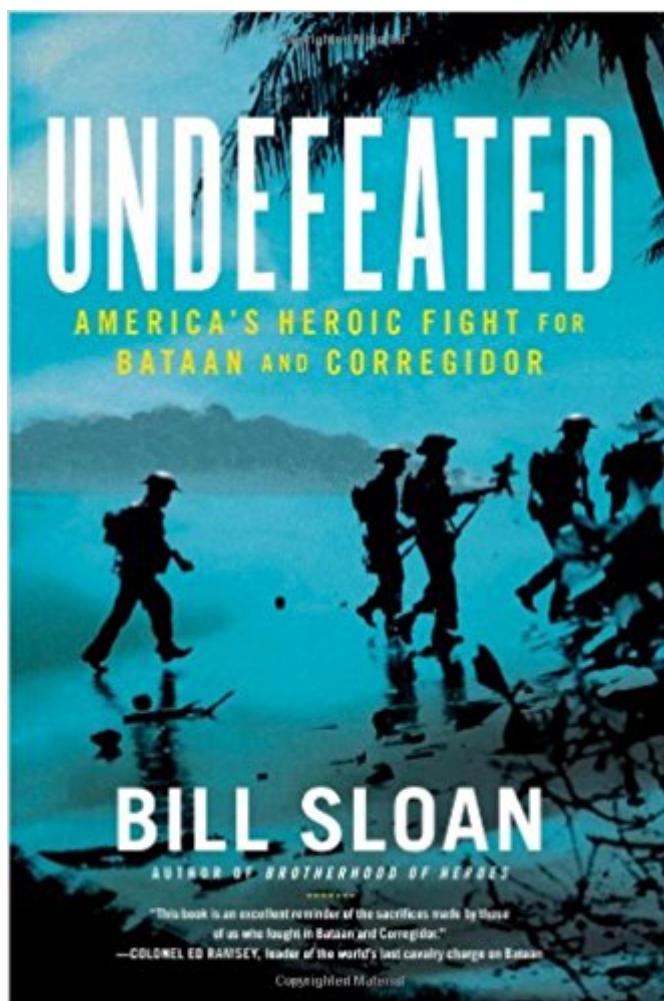


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# Undefeated: America's Heroic Fight For Bataan And Corregidor



## **Synopsis**

An epic story of exceptional valor, and based on exclusive interviews with more than thirty survivors, *Undefeated* tells in gripping prose how outnumbered and outgunned American soldiers and airmen fought against invading Japanese forces in the Philippines at the beginning of World War II and then continued to resist through three harrowing years as POWs. Based on exclusive interviews with more than thirty survivors, *Undefeated* tells the courageous story of the outnumbered American soldiers and airmen who stood against invading Japanese forces in the Philippines at the beginning of World War II, and continued to resist through three harrowing years as POWs. Bill Sloan, "a master of the combat narrative" (Dallas Morning News), captures the valor, fortitude, and agony of the American defenders of the Philippines. Abandoned by their government, the men and women of the U.S. garrison battled hopeless military odds, rampant disease, and slow starvation to delay the inevitable surrender of the largest American military force ever. For four months they fought toe to toe against overwhelming enemy numbers "and forced the Japanese to pay a heavy cost in blood for every inch of ground they gained on the Bataan peninsula. After the surrender came the infamous Bataan Death March, where up to eighteen thousand American and Filipino prisoners died or were murdered as they marched sixty-five miles under the most hellish conditions imaginable. Rather than picturing these defenders as little more than helpless victims of a powerful and sadistic enemy "as have most previous books about the Philippine campaign" *Undefeated* tells the full story of the remarkable courage and indomitable will that cost the Japanese invaders thousands of casualties on Bataan and Corregidor. Interwoven throughout this gripping narrative are the harrowing personal experiences of dozens of American soldiers, airmen, and Marines. Sloan also provides vivid portraits of the officers who led the American forces, such as General Douglas MacArthur, who escaped to Australia as the situation on Bataan worsened, and General Jonathan Wainwright, who succeeded him as top U.S. commander in the Philippines and himself became a prisoner of the Japanese. *Undefeated* chronicles one of the great sagas of World War II "and celebrates a resounding triumph of the human spirit.

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

"Sloan demonstrates that if captivity is a state of being, defeat is only a state of mind." ---Publishers Weekly --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

Bill Sloan is a respected military historian and the author of more than a dozen books, including Brotherhood of Heroes and The Ultimate Battle. A former investigative reporter and feature writer for the Dallas Times-Herald, where he was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize, Sloan lives in Dallas, Texas.

It was a great book. It covered the complete campaign of the defense of the Philippines through the initial Japanese attack and subsequent invasion on Monday 12/08/41 (Just hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor due to the International Date Line the Philippines are 1 day ahead). General MacArthur had the bulk of his Forces fall back to the Bataan Peninsula. MacArthur hoped to keep the Japanese at bay until help arrived. Unfortunately FDR had already decided that the War against Hitler was his top priority and the Philippines were expendable. Unfortunately the American and Filipino Forces were doomed. The book covers the fall and surrender of Bataan and the infamous "Bataan Death March" as well as the fall of the "Fortress Island" Corregidor about a month after the fall of Bataan (April & May of 1942). It also covers the transport of American POW's on the dreaded "Hell Ships" to work as "Slave Labor" in Japan as well as Manchuria. It is a great book.

Bill Sloan's account of the Battle of Bataan, the events leading to it, and its aftermath, is truly an amazing story with accurate, incredible, and well-documented facts. Numerous eye-witness interviews were supplemented with first-hand accounts from a long list of books, articles, and websites. This story is a tribute to those thousands of Americans and Filipinos who abandoned by the Roosevelt Administration were abandoned to hellish treatment and death! In my interviews with survivors, their families, friends, and the families and friends of those who perished. I have been

intrigued by the extreme hatred of Roosevelt and especially MacArthur. *Undefeated* sheds light on the basis for such distain and blame. For instance, in Sloan's book, we discover that MacArthur "after the bombing of Pearl Harbor" had received orders from Washington to attack Imperial bases. However, he refused to strike back hoping that The Philippines could remain neutral. In my opinion, MacArthur should have been relieved of command. But MacArthur was even more recalcitrant after junior grade officers insisted on a bombing raid of the Imperial bombers on Formosa. By stubbornly refusing to make that strike, he led the American aircraft to their destruction in the Philippines. Sloan also revealed that the very capable Eisenhower was dismissed by MacArthur because the younger general was receiving more media attention. Having lost an uncle, Pvt. Charles R. Gregory, after 30 months of torture, starvation, slavery, and disease under the imprisonment of the Japanese Imperial Forces, it is difficult to learn that his life could have been saved. Bill Sloan has covered this largest surrender under the American flag, and the Bataan Death March "the most insidious treatment of prisoners in modern history" and he has covered it well. Congratulations to this author for another in a long line of his excellent accounts of military history. Highly recommended reading!

This is the second book by Mr. Sloan I have read, the first being about the defense of Wake Island. He is a great writer, passing on the information in an excellent, easy way to read. This book, about America's worst defeat in World War 2, grabs the reader (as did his book on Wake), from the first to the last word. A great, great book, that deserves a place on every historian's Kindle or bookshelf. Mr. Sloan lets the reader know the people involved and does it without taking sides, allowing the reader to be part of this unhappy part of American Military history. Just a superb read.

Outstanding book, yet again by Bill Sloan. Well worth the time to read this, highly recommend it-

Sloan's account of the action of the US troops in the is up to his usual high standard, he tells it as it should be- the naked truth. He does not varnish over the warts and wrinkles of players. As a result I have come to seen Wainwright as the real hero and MacArthur as an overblown self promoting egomaniac who abandoned his troops. Harry Truman saved his bacon when he was "ordered" home to prevent a General from being captured by the enemy, otherwise he would have had to stay and fight in a hopeless situation as Wainwright did with, particular valour. Harry Truman is my hero. He saw through MacArthur as a fake who began to believe in his own press clippings. Thank God Truman saw thru the man and fired him in a future War (Korea) when he thought his position was

superior to the Presidents position. my only regret is that that i would like to have more details on why the Japanese War Criminals who were responsible for unbelievable atrocities were not hunted down and properly dealt with.

I really liked this book, I like the way Sloan writes about history, it really keeps you interested. Lots of new info for me and kind of lets you know how the poor guys who fought through all of this felt and what they went through. Once again you have to wonder at how MacArthur got to have such a great rep. Oh well still a good book.

An extensive overview from a number of eye witnesses, bring a new found perspective to the early days of World War II in the Philippines. Correcting several of my misinformed beliefs that MacArthur had prepared the Philippine Commonwealth for the "unthinkable" attack from the Japanese. And the fact that President Roosevelt would time and time again, refuse deviate from "Europe First", and make no effort to send aide to our armed forces and civilians in the Philippines. The crimes that the Japanese committed on humankind, is demonic and unparalleled in modern history. As the conflict unfolds, Sloan pulls the reader into the struggle for survival.

WELL RESEARCHED, COHERENTLY PRESENTED TO THE READER. THE SOLDIERS WERE SO WELL DESCRIBED AS WERE THE SITUATIONS THEY WERE CAUGHT UP IN. THE STORY WAS PIECED TOGETHER LIKE A PRIZE WINNING QUILT AND THE INTERVIEWS WITH THE SURVIVING SOLDIERS AT THE END OF THE BOOK BOUND IT TOGETHER. BILL SLOAN TOOK US THERE! THE READER COULD FEEL THE HORROR THAT SOLDIERS WERE EXPERIENCING, UNDERSTAND THE FRUSTRATION OFFICERS FELT IN BEING SO UNPREPARED FOR WAR AND WONDER WHY OUR HISTORY BOOKS DIDN'T DO THE SAME.

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