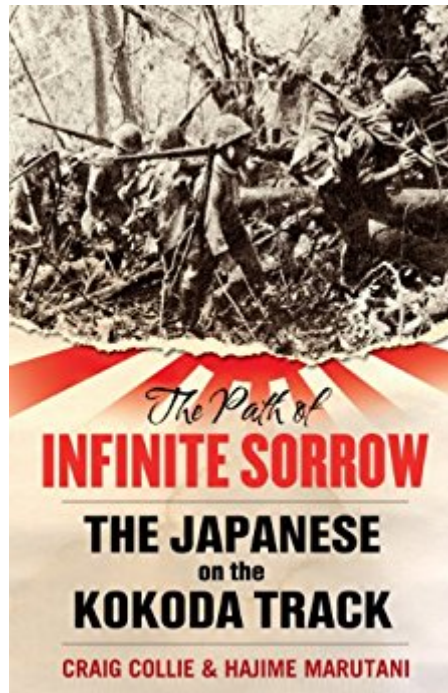




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The Path Of Infinite Sorrow



Synopsis

The story of the bloody Kokoda campaign, told for the first time through the personal experiences of the Japanese soldiers. 'We were all skin and bone, as if our stomachs were stuck to the inside wall of our back.' Two armies, Japanese and Australian, each in turn pushing the other back along a muddy, precipitous track over the mountainous spine of New Guinea. Few prisoners were taken, most were shot. War conventions were routinely flouted, by both sides. Troops were reduced to a primal level, such were the inhuman conditions in which battles were waged. This was the Kokoda campaign of 1942. The Australian experience of Kokoda has been told often and told well. The Japanese, however, remain the shadowy enemy lurking in the dense undergrowth, better known for atrocities than their participation in battle. The Path of Infinite Sorrow tells for the first time the story of the campaign from the Japanese point of view. Based on personal accounts and the recollections of six Japanese soldiers, captured diaries and unit, this powerful re-examination of Kokoda brings a new perspective to one of the most brutal conflicts in Australian war history. Craig Collie has been a television producer for over 35 years. Hajime Marutani is a translator-interpreter and was a researcher for the Australian War Memorial's Australia-Japan Research Project. They met when working on the production team of Beyond Kokoda, the award-winning documentary series screened on The History Channel in Australia. Craig and Hajime live with their families in Sydney and Tokyo respectively.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a WWII buff, I find myself particularly interested in the Pacific Theater. The Papua New Guinea area under General MacArthur has always seemed a bit on the under reported side to me so I jumped at the chance to buy this book. As a good readable tome on the conflict, it does not disappoint and it is written in an interesting and readable format with many firsthand accounts from mostly the Japanese side. It readily explains the perceived Japanese need for the operation and how it was conceived following the inconclusive Battle of the Coral Sea in May of 1941. It also gives some insight into the command climate of General MacArthur and his staff in Australia. The author follows the lives and experiences of several Imperial Japanese Army and Imperial Navy soldiers from their school days, through initial military training and into China and finally their experiences in New Guinea with the South Seas Force. While the title would lead you to believe that it deals only with the Kokoda Track over the Owen Stanly Mountains between Port Moresby and Buna, it also takes into account actions at Milne Bay as well as decisions made at the Japanese HQ at Rabaul. The book also nicely articulates the competing needs between the Japanese forces on Guadalcanal and those on New Guinea as well as the changing strategies and thought processes of soldiers coming to the realization that their wild successes at the start of the war were doomed to failure.

A LOOK AT THE OTHER SIDE THANK THE USN FOR THE CORAL SEA VICTORY. AFTER THAR WE NEVER LOOKED BACK. I remember those days well. Australia and the US are still in it together.

I have been fascinated by the war in the New Guinea area of the Pacific for a long time having a US marine relative who fought at Guadacanal. Having just read Fortress Rabaul (an excellent book), I was disturbed by the stilted language and poor flow of the narration of this story line. Have a dictionary handy because some of the words I don't think are English. The story almost appears to have been published in Japanese initially and translated by someone who is weak in English. The story is really interesting but hard to read. I know some of you want me and others to point out factual errors in the narration but I can't enjoy the book enough to concentrate that hard. Subject

very interesting, deducting two stars for putting me to sleep more than once.

The Path of Infinite Sorrow is a book based on the research done for a documentary on the History Channel. This goes a long way to explaining my praises and condemnations of this book. The authors need to know their audience. Anyone who has heard about Kokoda will be well versed in Pacific War history. Chapters 2 and 3 are unnecessary and a worthless addition to the book. These chapters had some glaring mistakes (only the Akagi was involved in the first wave and only the Zuikaku was involved in the second wave at Pearl Harbor for example) that damaged the respectability of the rest of the book. These chapters are a brief history of Japan all the way back to Commodore Perry. Anyway, I cannot explain why they were included unless it was at the insistence of the editor. The book shines when you actually get to the real story. The first-hand accounts of the survivors are priceless and worth the cost of the book. The narrative is excellent and detailed maps abound. It is a very appropriately titled book. I recommend this book, but do yourself a favor and skip chapters 2 and 3 and you will have a rewarding experience.

I had a friend tell me about this book. It's a great reference on this particular ww2 campaign. It took part at the same time as the Guadalcanal campaign. The book covers the regiments that participated including their histories. The book covers the many hardships suffered by both sides, the sometimes grisly remains of battles fought weeks before & the battles fought up to date. Tells about both enemies. Which ever side a soldier fought on he had his fight against other humans as well as the weather & climate. No easy thing. A great read.

Whoever said that war was hell, must have been in New Guinea. I read this while reading A Bastard of a Place, and Ultra, and it was quite a ride. It was fascinating to compare the perspectives from each of the combatants. There are some soft spots in this book, but certainly worth the time.

A terrific book and offers a wonderful insight into the Kokoda campaign from the Japanese perspective.

Item as advertised and delivery very prompt.

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