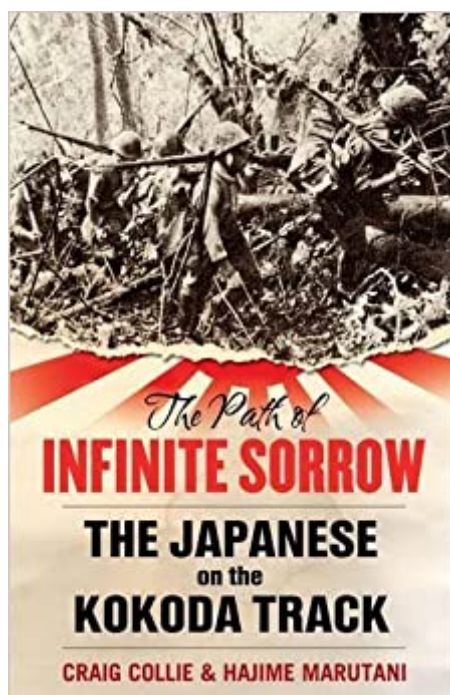


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The Path Of Infinite Sorrow: The Japanese On The Kokoda Track



Synopsis

The story of the bloody Kokoda campaign, told 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. The Australian story of Kokoda has been told often from the perspective of the Australians. Now, for the first time ever, the full Japanese story of Kokoda is told, a poignant tale of comradeship and heartrending suffering. This is a very human story of the other side, told through the eyes of Japanese soldiers who were there. It draws from a range of firsthand sources—interviews with survivors, diaries that soldiers left behind, memoirs written after the war, and what has survived of the records of the Japanese military. Full of painful recollections and startling wartime revelations, this is the lesser-known story of a tragic battle that continues to haunt survivors from both sides.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A major contribution to the literature of the war in the Southwest Pacific."—The NYMAS Review

Craig Collie is a television producer and director and the author of *Nagasaki*. Hajime Marutani is a translator, an interpreter, and a researcher for the Australian War Memorial's Australia-Japan Research Project. They worked together on *Beyond Kokoda*, an award-winning documentary series on the History Channel.

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 Stanley 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 THAT 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 Guadalcanal. 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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