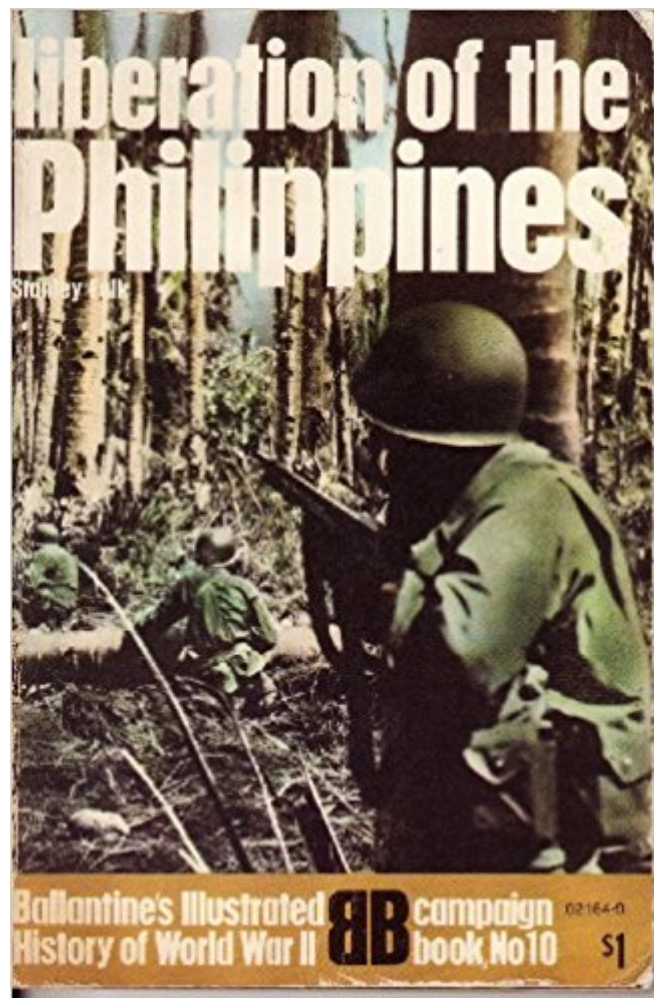




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Liberation Of The Philippines (Ballantines Illustrated History Of World War II, Campaign Book #10)



Synopsis

Returning once again to the beach, MacArthur stepped before the microphone of a portable radio set. His voice reflected the deep emotion behind his words as he began: "This is the Voice of Freedom, General MacArthur speaking. People of the Philippines: I have returned!"

Book Information

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Ballantine Books (1971)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0345021649

ISBN-13: 978-0345021649

ASIN: B0006CTGT8

Package Dimensions: 8.1 x 5.3 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #716,283 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #104 in Books > History > Asia > Philippines #6032 in Books > History > Military > World War II

Customer Reviews

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great buy

McDonald Publishing and the Imperial War Museum teamed up back in the late 1960s and early 1970s to publish this tight series of illustrated paperbacks on the history of World War I, World War II (and a few other conflicts of the 20th century), which were picked up by Ballantine in the United States. They were all divided into subjects: battles, campaigns, weapons, war leaders, politics in action, human conflict, and regalia, by color bands on the bottom, enjoying common editing and artwork, and a fairly common collection of well-known historians. They cost \$1 at the time (a good deal of money) and a lot more now (being out of print). The series as a whole is slightly outdated by the disclosures from Allied codebreaking, and suffered from being whipped together in a hurry, but they remain then and now a fine introduction to conflict in the 20th century -- if you can find

them. This volume covers the second-largest campaign the US fought in World War II (northwest Europe being larger), the redeeming of General Douglas MacArthur's pledge to the Philippine people that he would return and liberate the islands. He did indeed, and the campaign saw two great military minds hard at work: Japan's Tomoyuki Yamashita against MacArthur. The campaign itself was pretty much decided at Leyte by the US Navy smashing the Japanese fleet and the Army smashing the bulk of Yamashita's best troops. After that, Yamashita knew all he could do was fight a long delaying action, and he did. The Americans knew they had to liberate a great many of their countrymen, and they did. Oddly enough, the American liberation of Luzon began where the Japanese invaded Luzon in 1941, Lingayen Gulf. However, in 1941, Manila was abandoned as an "open city." This time, it saw some of the heaviest and most ghastly fighting of the war, the only major urban battle of the Pacific War. Stanley Falk, an official historian of the campaigns and a fine writer, covers the campaign briskly in the limited space he's given, with fine photographs and good maps. The focus is heavily on the major moves and larger arrows on the maps, not as many personal stories, but that's a limitation of space. Overall, you can hardly do better to find a good introduction to the often-forgotten liberation of the Philippines.

Ballantine Illustrateds provide concise, readable, informative looks at major battles from World War II. In this edition readers get a solid look at this horrid battle to recapture the Philippines. By October, 1944, the U.S. military held the initiative (particularly at sea and in the air) and was rapidly re-capturing the Pacific from the Japanese. Still, Japan's army remained a tough, vigorous opponent. Some felt the Philippines should have been bypassed, but General Douglas MacArthur (and FDR) disagreed. Readers see how the U.S. chose to invade at certain spots (Leyte, Luzon), and learn about the tough but unsuccessful Japanese defense. We also see the challenges of supply and weather, and the destruction of much of Japan's remaining sea power at the Battle of Leyte Gulf. Readers should understand that while the U.S. occupation of the Philippines from 1898-1942 wasn't 100% fair (despite promising independence in 1946), Japan's brutal occupation led many civilians to help the Allies. Readers benefit from Ballantine's pleasing mix of readable prose, photo's, and illustrations. My uncle landed on Leyte in 1944 (and griped about MacArthur for the next 50 years), while my father served at Clark Field where the main hazard while not flying were armies of mosquitoes. At least both returned alive - as did a Japanese veteran who hid in the jungles until 1974. I also met an aged woman who as a teenager rubbed dirt into her face to make herself unappealing to Japanese soldiers. Not a pretty story, but this book tells it in gripping detail.

I read this book here in Brazil. This book is concise, short and easy to read. This book is about the biggest Douglas Mac Arthur's victory: the liberation of the Philippines. "I Shall return", he told in 1942. This book is exactly about this return. Maps are a little weak, in this book.

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