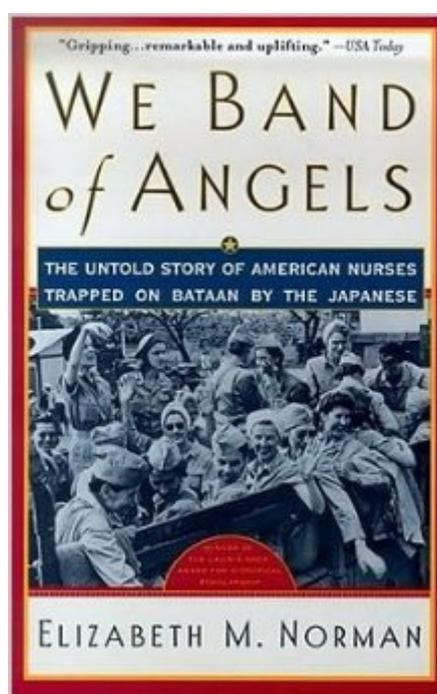


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We Band Of Angels: The Untold Story Of American Nurses Trapped On Bataan By The Japanese By Norman, Elizabeth M. Published By Atria Books (2000)



Synopsis

We Band of Angels: The Untold Story of American Nurses Trapped on Bataan by the Japanese by Elizabeth M. Norman. New York : Pocket Books, 2000.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Good view of the treatment of non-combats by the Japanese in WWII. Real world of treatment of non-combats by Japanese in WWII. Eye opener to conscious neglect and cruelty of Japanese with first person story by extremely brave women fighting to remain civilized in a dogworld of internment. I liked the book. History tells you what man can do and is capable of doing today.

This is a rare glimpse into the courageous women nurses who served in the Philippines. Prisoners for three years, they suffered deprivations that lingered with them years later. The author and her husband have recorded their ordeal for the world to see.

This book is so difficult to read. It has so much information and the hopes and prayers of all the people who died on Corregidor and Bataan. It also seems like they were left without help by our government. So the book is Correct but what happened is not right.

Well researched. I especially was very interested as I was an Army Nurse, stationed in the Phillipines just after WW2, I learned first hand the sufferings of the Americans, Filipinos, and many foreign nationals during the Japanese occupation. This is a bit of American history that should not be forgotten, not the cruelty of humans to one another, but rather the spirit of survival.

The history of our wars and the effects of war on the people caught in the middle of political conflicts are often dry reading. Elizabeth Norman has managed to capture the history of WWII through telling about how a group of nurses managed to survive the invasion of the Philippines and subsequent interment as prisoners of war by the Japanese in 1942. Her careful research brought their story to life for me. Each war has its own type of injury and lasting imprint. We would do well to reflect on lessons from wars rather than tuck them into a forgotten folder. The final member of that group of nurses died in 2013. The New York Times commemorated her passing. This is a rare tribute in our modern world of a 24 hour news cycle.

Read this for a book club. Soooo awesome. I never knew this incredible piece of history, which is why the book was written. To think all these women were trapped. The bravery and courage they showed was inspiring. I wonder how many women today could go through what they did, only to be ignored upon returning. I loved the follow-up portion at the end. Bittersweet for some. Awesome read for those who love to read "true" and "undiscovered" history. Debra Easterling
easterlingdebraeasterling.com

Outstanding coverage of an important, but little known part of the Pacific theater of WW 2. The United States is indebted to the courage and devotion of this band of angels.

A fascinating subject, but I didn't really care for the author's writing style. At times, she seems a little condescending toward certain people (Ruth Straub comes immediately to mind). Ruth is painted as too sentimental and ill-equipped to handle war. I was waiting for her to suffer an immediate breakdown and need to be cared for by the other nurses. Never happened. She did her duty under fire for over five months until being evacuated. I thought the sense of shaming employed was regrettable on the author's part. Norman also initially paints most of the nurses under 40 as having no sense of "esprit de corps", as if their military service is merely a lark while also reinforcing the most negative stereotypes that the women serving in military units during WWII endured, that they were oversexed and "easy". To me, there are plenty of better and more nuanced books about WWII nurses and the other branches of the services. Check out "And If I Perish", "They Also Served", "They Called Them Angels" and "Too Close For Comfort". And I disagree with a point made repeatedly throughout the last quarter of the book. To me, the nurses are heroes. Norman doesn't agree. To each his (or her) own opinion. Nice touch at the end, acknowledging all the nurses by listing their names. Try not to miss it. The list is stuck in between the appendix and the bibliography.

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