

Long Way Back To The River Kwai Memories Of World War Ii

James D. Hornfischer

Long Way Back To The River Kwai Memories Of World War Ii:

Long Way Back to the River Kwai Loet Velmans, 2011-09 He survived brutality sickness and war but he refused to give up hope Loet Velmans was seventeen when Germany invaded his native Holland in 1940 He and his family escaped to London just before the Dutch army surrendered and German U boats began their deadly patrol of the North Sea Deciding they would be safer in the Far East the Velmans family sailed to the Dutch East Indies now Indonesia where Loet joined the Dutch army In March 1942 the Japanese invaded conquered the colony in a week without firing a shot and imprisoned all Dutch soldiers For three and a half years Loet toiled in slave labor camps building the railway made famous by The Bridge on the River Kwai which would supply the Japanese invasion of India Some 200 000 POWs and laborers died building this Railway of Death Loet suffered malaria dysentery malnutrition and unspeakable abuse but never gave up hope Almost sixty years later he returned to the place where he nearly died and where he buried his best friend in a burlap sack From that emotional visit comes this stunning memoir Back cover Long Way Back to the River Kwai Loet Velmans, 2011-09-01 Loet Velmans was seventeen when the Germans invaded Holland He and his family fled to London on the Dutch Coast Guard cutter Seaman s Hope and then sailed to the Dutch East Indies now Indonesia where he joined the Dutch army In March 1942 the Japanese invaded the archipelago and made prisoners of the Dutch soldiers For the next three and a half years Velmans and his fellow POWs toiled in slave labor camps building a railroad through the dense jungle on the Burmese Thailand border so the Japanese could invade India Some 200 000 POWs and slave laborers died building this Death Railway Velmans though suffering from malaria dysentery malnutrition and unspeakable mistreatment never gave up hope Fifty seven years later he returned to revisit the place where he should have died and where he had buried his closest friend From that emotional visit sprung this stunning memoir Long Way Back to the River Kwai is a simply told but searing memoir of World War II a testimonial to one man's indomitable will to live that will take its place beside the Diary of Ann Frank Bridge over the River Kwai and Edith s Story A Study Guide for Pierre Boulle's "The Bridge over River Kwai" Gale, Cengage Learning, 2016-06-29 A Study Guide for Pierre Boulle's The Bridge over River Kwai excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Novels for Students This concise study guide includes plot summary character analysis author biography study guestions historical context suggestions for further reading and much more For any literature project trust Novels for Students for all of your research needs Ian Watt Marina MacKay, 2018-11-22 Before his masterpiece The Rise of the Novel made him one of the most influential post war British literary critics Ian Watt was a soldier a prisoner of war of the Japanese and a forced labourer on the notorious Burma Thailand Railway Both an intellectual biography and an intellectual history of the mid century this book reconstructs Watt's wartime world these were harrowing years of mass death deprivation and terror but also ones in which communities and institutions were improvised under the starkest of emergency conditions Ian Watt The Novel and the Wartime Critic argues that many of our foundational stories about the novel about the novel's origins and development and

about the social moral and psychological work that the novel accomplishes can be traced to the crises of the Second World Ship of Ghosts James D. Hornfischer, 2009-03-25 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER Son we re War and its aftermath going to Hell The navigator of the USS Houston confided these prophetic words to a young officer as he and his captain charted a course into U S naval legend Renowned as FDR s favorite warship the cruiser USS Houston was a prize target trapped in the far Pacific after Pearl Harbor Without hope of reinforcement her crew faced a superior Japanese force ruthlessly committed to total conquest It wasn t a fair fight but the men of the Houston would wage it to the death Hornfischer brings to life the awesome terror of nighttime naval battles that turned decks into strobe lit slaughterhouses the deadly rain of fire from Japanese bombers and the almost superhuman effort of the crew as they miraculously escaped disaster again and again until their luck ran out during a daring action in Sunda Strait There hopelessly outnumbered the Houston was finally sunk and its survivors taken prisoner For more than three years their fate would be a mystery to families waiting at home In the brutal privation of jungle POW camps dubiously immortalized in such films as The Bridge on the River Kwai the war continued for the men of the Houston a life and death struggle to survive forced labor starvation disease and psychological torture Here is the gritty unvarnished story of the infamous Burma Thailand Death Railway glamorized by Hollywood but which in reality mercilessly reduced men to little more than animals who fought back against their dehumanization with dignity ingenuity sabotage will power and the undying faith that their country would prevail Using journals and letters rare historical documents including testimony from postwar Japanese war crimes tribunals and the eyewitness accounts of Houston's survivors James Hornfischer has crafted an account of human valor so riveting and awe inspiring it's easy to forget that every single word is true BONUS This edition contains an excerpt from James D Hornfischer s Neptune s Inferno The Encyclopedia of Indonesia in the Pacific War, 2009-12-14 An obvious hiatus amidst the abundance of Pacific War studies is the story of Indonesia during that period The Encyclopedia of Indonesia in the Pacific War edited under the aegis of the Netherlands Institute for War Documentation now fills that gap This state of the art work reflects the different experiences and historiographic traditions of Indonesians Japanese and Dutch The aim is to present the developments in the Indonesian archipelago in as much a rational and dispassionate way as possible taking into account regional and social variations and interpreting them within the international context of pre and post war trends With due acknowledgement of different perspectives ambiguities unresolved issues and conflicting views it sets out to enhance mutual understanding and academic dialogue Historical Dictionary of Thailand Gerald W. Fry, Gayla S. Nieminen, Harold E. Smith, 2013-08-08 Throughout its history Thailand has shown remarkable resiliency adaptability and creativity in responding to serious threats and crises and this since much earlier times when it was known as Siam This book while focusing on the modern period does reach back to ancient kingdoms but also shows the impressive rise to a modern democracy although still endowed with a king and even more impressively an economic tiger Moreover it has become a prime tourist destination and

is thus known to vast numbers of foreigners as a sort of instant Asia The Historical Dictionary of Thailand now in its third edition covers this amazing story in various ways First the chronology traces the most significant events from year to year The introduction then provides a good overview of the land and people the history and traditions and where it now seems to be heading The dictionary which by now has hundreds of detailed and cross referenced entries looks more closely at important persons places institutions and events as well as more generally its politics economy society culture and religion So this is an excellent reference work not only for scholars but many others who have visited the country and were fascinated Only Birds Above Portland Jones, 2022-03-01 This is the story of Arthur Watkins blacksmith who leaves his beloved young wife Helen to serve with the 10th Light Horse Battalion in the Middle East in World War I He returns without his horse a man forever changed by what he has seen and suffered Years later Arthur's children Ruth and Tom are still feeling the effects of the first war when Tom is sent by his father to work in Sumatra Tom Watkins is there in 1942 when the Japanese invade and is taken prisoner This is the story of two wars that divide and unite a father and son and all the years that lie in Forgotten Captives in Japanese-Occupied Asia Kevin Blackburn, Karl Hack, 2007-12-14 Using archival oral between and literary sources Blackburn and Hack along with an impressive team of international contributors rectify the obscured picture of the Japanese captive by bringing together for the first time a collection of essays covering an extremely broad range of forgotten captives Battlefield Events Keir Reeves, Geoffrey R. Bird, Laura James, Birger Stichelbaut, Jean Bourgeois, 2015-10-16 Battlefield Events Landscape Commemoration and Heritage is an investigative and analytical study into the way in which significant landscapes of war have been constructed and imagined through events over time to articulate specific narratives and denote consequence and identity The book charts the ways in which a number of landscapes of war have been created and managed from an events perspective and how the processes of remembering along with silencing and forgetting at these places has influenced the management of these warscapes in the present day With chapters from authors based in seven different countries on three continents and comparative case studies this book has a truly international perspective This timely longitudinal analysis of war commemoration events the associated landscapes travel to these destinations and management strategies will be valuable reading for all those interested in war landscapes and events

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Long Way Back To The River Kwai Memories Of World War Ii Introduction

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