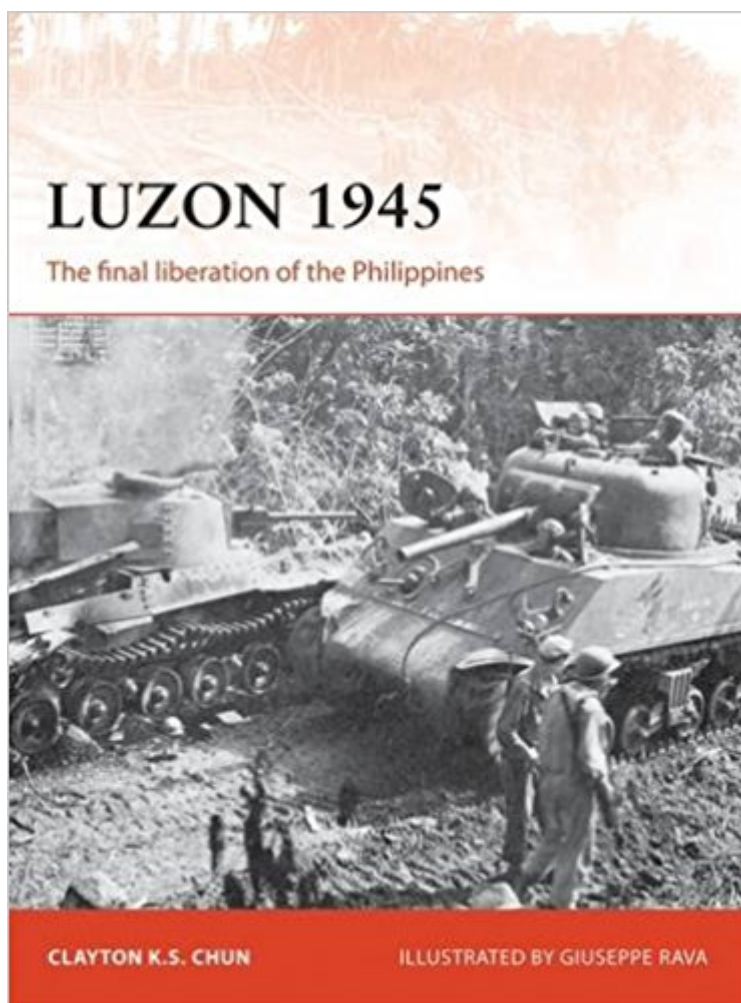


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# Luzon 1945: The Final Liberation Of The Philippines (Campaign)



## Synopsis

Driven from the Philippines in 1942, General Douglas MacArthur returned three years later to force the Japanese off of its main island of Luzon. Containing the capital of Manila and vital natural resources as well as thousands of Allied prisoners of war, the triumph at Luzon would be a crucial step on the road to victory as the Americans continued to island-hop their way toward the Japanese home islands. This new study details one of the hardest-fought campaigns of the Pacific War with Japanese fatalities alone on Luzon topping 200,000. Emphasizing the differences in Japanese and American strategy and detailing the combat operations of the campaign, this volume tells the story of how MacArthur kept his promise to return and liberate the Philippines.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Clayton K. S. Chun, Ph.D., is on the U.S. Army War College faculty at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, where he teaches courses on national security, strategy, and economics. He completed a military career in the U.S. Air Force and has published work in the fields of national security, military history, and economics.

Osprey, need I say more. Well researched, clearly written and beautiful artwork. A wargamer's dream

thank you

Overall, a good summary of the American campaign to retake the island of Luzon, where the capital of the Philippines is located. As usual, one of the great advantages of Osprey books are the plentiful maps showing how campaigns progressed, making it easier to follow the text. The book describes the overall campaign and limited details of the actual fighting. As is typical of this book series, 4 pages are devoted to the origins of the campaign, 4 pages are devoted to the commanders, 9 pages to the forces, 6 to the plans, the remainder to the actual campaign. The campaign to retake the Philippines was largely done for political purposes. However, another reason was to relieve the suffering of the civilian population. The one disappointment I had in the book was that it did not explain the depravity of the typical Japanese soldier in the Philippines. It was common for these soldiers to rape women, torture civilians for information even when they knew the civilians knew nothing, killing infants for fun, using civilians as shields, etc. In short, I believe you can label the typical Japanese soldier as a war criminal. Understanding this gives added clarity to the campaign. There are a few other books I like on the Philippine campaign. *Rolling Thunder Against the Rising Sun* describes US army tank actions in the Pacific. *Return to the Philippines* (by Time-Life) provides a good overview of the conquest of the Philippines (but is out of print). *Triumph in the Philippines* is a lengthy (800 pages) book describing the Philippine battles, good as reference. But the advantage of this Osprey book is it gives a clear summary of the campaign along with very good maps in 94 pages.

The Philippines became a major step on the way to Japan in the Pacific War, thanks in significant degree to the personality of U.S. General Douglas MacArthur, who convinced allied planners to accept his option over other possibilities. The campaign to liberate the Philippines proved to be harder than anyone expected, thanks to the distances, the terrain, and the Japanese themselves. Author Clayton K.S. Chun provides a surprisingly detailed account in this Osprey Campaign Series book. "Luzon 1945" introduces the strategic situation, the opposing commanders, and their forces and plans. The heart of the narrative is the description of the actual campaign, from Leyte to the invasion beaches in Luzon, to Manila, and finally to the jungles and mountains of northern Luzon. The author's account is precise and matter of fact. As another reviewer has noted, he passes lightly over the atrocities committed by the Japanese during the Battle of Manila, for example. This book is however a good introduction to a complex campaign, one which worked well despite its many moving parts. The text is nicely supplemented with lots period photographs, maps, and battle diagrams. Recommended.

I had suggested this title to Osprey years ago. I am so happy they produced this title! My grandfather was in the 38th ID, which was deployed north of the Bataan peninsula and was a key actor in the liberation of Luzon, and by extension, Manila. Excellent history of the US vs Jap battles in late '44/early '45. Good purchase for anyone interested in the Pacific theater of WW2, as the liberation of the Philippines is often overlooked, as Iwo Jima and Okinawa soon overshadowed such accomplishments. THANK YOU OSPREY!

A good solid book about the liberation of Luzon from the Occupying Japanese Army. I just wish it had more of their excellent illustrations. (My Old National Guard Division- The 40th ID was in this fight) Anyways I thought it was a good buy!

Good book

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