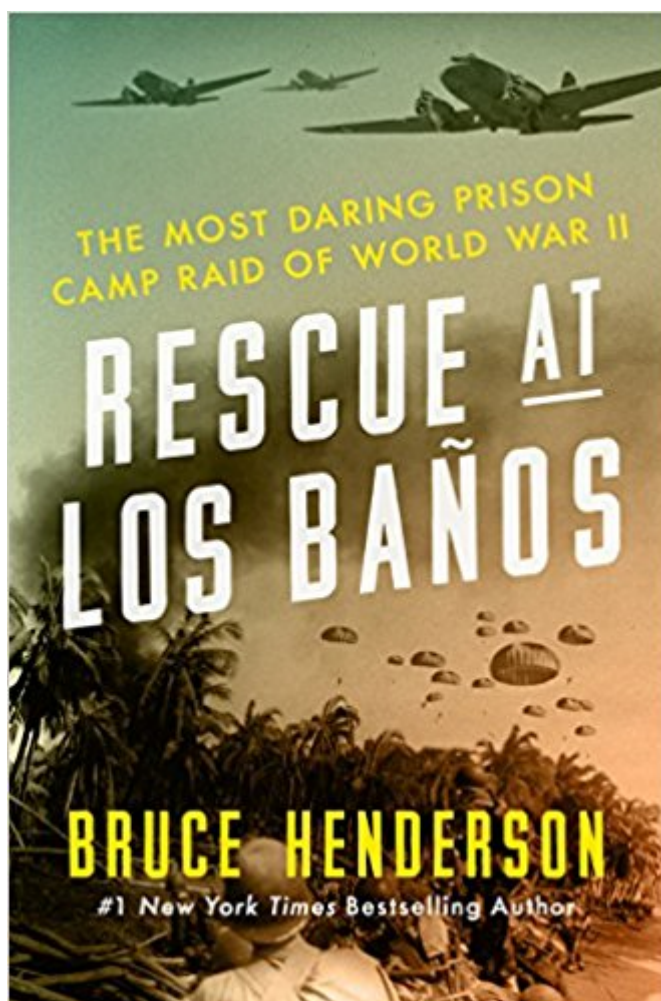


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Rescue At Los Baños: The Most Daring Prison Camp Raid Of World War II



Synopsis

From the bestselling author of *Hero Found* comes the incredible true story of one of the greatest military rescues of all time, the 1945 World War II prison camp raid at Los Baños in the Philippines—a tale of daring, courage, and heroism that joins the ranks of *Ghost Soldiers*, *Unbroken*, and *The Boys of Pointe du Hoc*. In February 1945, as the U.S. victory in the Pacific drew nearer, the Japanese army grew desperate, and its soldiers guarding U.S. and Allied POWs more sadistic. Starved, shot and beaten, many of the 2,146 prisoners of the Los Baños prison camp in the Philippines—most of them American men, women and children—would not survive much longer unless rescued soon. Deeply concerned about the half-starved and ill-treated prisoners, General Douglas MacArthur assigned to the 11th Airborne Division a dangerous rescue mission deep behind enemy lines that became a deadly race against the clock. The Los Baños raid would become one of the greatest triumphs of that war or any war; hailed years later by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Colin Powell: “I doubt that any airborne unit in the world will ever be able to rival the Los Baños prison raid. It is the textbook operation for all ages and all armies.” Combining personal interviews, diaries, correspondence, memoirs, and archival research, *Rescue at Los Baños* tells the story of a remarkable group of prisoners—whose courage and fortitude helped them overcome hardship, deprivation, and cruelty—and of the young American soldiers and Filipino guerrillas who risked their lives to save them.

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Customer Reviews

“Riveting. ... Opens our eyes to... amazing bravery in the midst of a greater war. ... Readers [will]

be both shocked by the conditions that POWs had to endure and appreciative of the bravery and ingenuity of that generation we have come to call the greatest.â€• (Washington Post)â€• Bruce Henderson has told a wonderfully exciting story of one of warâ€™s greatest rescues with verve, style, and panache. I didnâ€™t even stop for coffee during my reading: it was so classically unputdownable.â€• (Simon Winchester, New York Times bestselling author of *The Men Who United the States*)â€• Rescue at Los Banos will swell your chest. Bruce Hendersonâ€™s powerful account has earned a place on the top shelf of World War II nonfiction narratives.â€• (Mitchell Zuckoff, New York Times bestselling author of *13 Hours and Lost in Shangri-La*)â€• An epic survival story of men and women held captive in a Japanese internment camp in the Philippines until their remarkable rescue by U.S. paratroopers and Filipino guerrillas three years later. Fast-paced and compelling, *Rescue at Los Banos* is as gripping as any suspense novel.â€• (Vincent Bugliosi, author of *Helter Skelter* and *Reclaiming History*)â€• Rescue at Los Banos hits the drop zone. Extensively researched and extremely well-written, Bruce Hendersonâ€™s riveting account of the historic events of 23 February 1945 finally does justice to the greatest airborne operation in U.S. military history.â€• (John D. Lukacs, author of *Escape from Davao*)â€• Rivetingâ€• Bruce Henderson does it again with his account of the prisoners at Los Banos. I felt their agonies, sacrifices, and exhilaration. Any reader would love this account of individuals triumphing over seemingly impossible obstacles.â€• (John Wukovits, author of *Hell From the Heavens*)â€• The agony and anguish for the Japanese-held Los Banos internees - all civilians and including children and small babies - is almost beyond belief. The raid by U.S. paratroopers that set them free is breathtaking.â€• (Bill Sloan, author of *Undeclared*)â€• Bruce Henderson has managed to pull one of the most daring rescue missions in military history out of obscurity and turn it into a solid book of passion and fascinating detail. He has done his readers - and military history buffs in general - a great service.â€• (Captain Dale Dye, USMC (Ret), author of *Contra File* and other Shake Davis novels and Hollywood military adviser)â€• Riveting. ... Achieves a high standard of popular history. *Rescue at Los Banos* artfully blends vibrant character sketches with equally clear military fact, all rendered in vivid color.â€• (Kirkus Reviews)â€• Gripping. ... A heartrending tale of... survival.â€• (Library Journal)â€• Reads like an adventure thriller and sheds new light on one of the most compelling stories of World War II. ... Anyone who enjoyed Laura Hillenbrandâ€™s *Unbroken* or Mitchell Zuckoffâ€™s *Lost in Shangri-La* should check this one out.â€• (Military.com)

Rescue at Los Banos is the spellbinding survival story of more than two thousand American and Allied civilian prisoners of warâ€”men, women, and childrenâ€”held in the Philippines by the

Japanese during World War II, and the elite 11th Airborne Division's heart-pounding mission in a race against the clock to rescue them from behind enemy lines. As U.S. victory in the Pacific drew near, Japanese soldiers at the Los Baños Internment Camp became increasingly sadistic and began systematically starving, beating, and killing their captives. Fearing the loss of more innocent lives, General Douglas MacArthur gave the 11th Airborne Division the dangerous mission of freeing these beleaguered men, women, and children in a deadly race against the clock. *Rescue at Los Baños* deftly weaves together dramatic accounts of the prison camp with detailed analysis of the complex military operation being planned and carried out, documenting the incredible story of the prisoners and those who risked their lives to save them.

What an AMAZING account of so many strong and courageous people. I knew very little about what went on in the Pacific theater of WW2. Most of my knowledge was filled with accounts of the European countries where my Dad had fought. I now know there were thousands of regular American citizens that suffered terribly at the hands of a savage Japanese army in the Philippines. What an eye opener this book was to me. The author tells this true story through the eyes of several people who lived through it. I know there were probably hundreds of prisoner accounts he could have chronicled but to follow so closely the people he chose gave me an understanding what it was like emotionally to be in that camp. He also gives great details of a very well planned rescue mission by our military. Truly a GREAT read!

This book was heartbreaking for me because my great aunt and uncle were imprisoned here. To really understand what they went through from first hand accounts was eye opening since I never knew about it until my cousin took a picture of their names in the prisoner list in the back. This book was fascinating, emotional in good ways and bad, and if you like WWII or history you will like this book. As heart wrenching as it was to read what the people in Los Banos went through, as well as the men who rescued them, it made me so proud of all of them and my country. I feel blessed to have a better understanding of what my mother's family endured under the tyranny of the Japanese in The Philippines.

This book is a gem. Henderson's research and interviews with real people involved lead us to a wonderfully detailed account of the lives of the poor people in the camp, as well as a tremendous account of the history of the 11th Airborne (of which my father was a member of "H" Company in the 511th PIR of the 11th Airborne). I loved the writing style how Henderson is able to interweave the

details of the planning of the raid at the same time detailing the fate and thoughts of the prisoners. One truly wants to stand up and cheer at the end of the book. His research was done with real survivors both both the camp and of the rescue team. And this raid was one for the books as probably the most well planned and executed of the entire war in the Pacific Theater. The only reason we don't hear more on this is that it was conducted on the same day the flag went up on Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima. Any student of WW2 will love this book. So well written and researched....and it's just a GREAT STORY. Read this book.

So far in 2017, I've read over 15 non-fiction and fiction books. I haven't given out too many FIVE STARS, but RESCUE AT LOS BANOS by Bruce Henderson is very worthy of FIVE STARS. From the opening page to end, RESCUE AT LOS BANOS had me enthralled. It was so well written and researched. At first, I thought it would only be about the actual rescue, but instead the book gives readers the individual stories before, during, and after the war of the POWs / internees, the military men who conducted the rescue, and the Filipino guerrillas. It also gives a good, but limited insight, into the preparation and the actual land battles to liberate the Philippines. It does, however, give a very good insight into the preparation and the rescue at Los Banos. In addition to revealing what happened to the "good guys" after the war, Bruce Henderson also revealed what happened to the Japanese military officers who guarded the POWs / internees. I thought that this was interesting since my dad was captured on Wake Island and held by the Japanese in prison camps in China and Japan. My dad never talked about his POW experience to anyone. After he died in the 1980s, the internet allowed me to learn more about his experience. The one constant between what happened at Los Banos and my dad's POW experience is that the prison camps were run by cruel sadists. In my dad's experience, the Japanese prison camp commandant committed suicide and his successor, a Sgt. Major, was arrested for war crimes by the Japanese Military Police and turned over to US forces. One wonders if being a cruel sadist was a requirement to be given a duty assignment to a POW camp,

A well written, well documented account of a heroic rescue during the close of World War II. It was an easy and compelling read....hard to put down...I am a middle aged woman who didn't really want to read this book, but was on my book club list. I am so glad I read it....this story deserves to be told...

I was not familiar with this story, and only vaguely aware of the Japanese incursion into the

Philippines and the camps where Allied prisoners were held. I hadn't know of a raid on the prison at Los Banos. This book grabbed me from the beginning and is just a great read. A pretty unknown story, this is a really well written book. Recommended.

My mother was in Los Banos, along with two sisters and brother. Her sister Carmen is still alive. I learned so much from this well told story, more than my mother knew. Thank you to Mr. Henderson for his passion in telling this story.

I was drawn to this book because I had a relative that was in this camp. The author did a fantastic job of researching the facts and stories of life in the camp. By interweaving the characters and their stories he made the history come alive. I found that I didn't want to put it down. If you have an interest in history and the human spirit you will want to read this account of bravery, ingenuity, and courage presented in a way that keeps your interest and by its descriptive detail gives you a feeling for what the individuals went through.

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