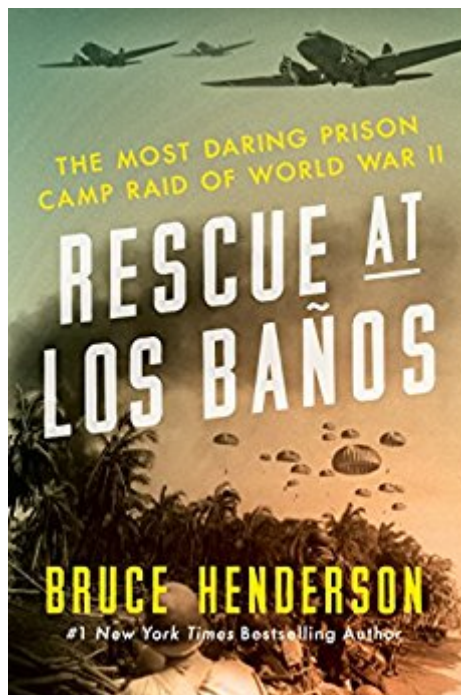




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Rescue At Los Banos: The Most Daring Prison Camp Raid Of World War II



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

And that's what happened to the sadistic Japanese camp commander, Sadaaki Konishi on April 30th, 1949. He was found responsible for a systematic starvation of the internees at Los Banos--a starvation that left some dead, and many near death. RESCUE AT LOS BANOS was a real education for me. Prior to reading this book, I had no idea there been such a terrific internee camp there; nor had I heard about this well-planned rescue. The author does a good job at telling the story from the vantage point of different people. This included people from all different walks of life who would eventually become internees together at Los Banos. For the internees, their life at Los Banos didn't start off that bad. But after a while, a sadistic commander took over the camp, and from there things just got worse and worse. Meager food rations were reduced, even though there was plenty of food available, and the camp itself was located in an area of great agricultural productivity. It was touching to hear how many of the internees helped each other out. The rescue plan was very complicated, involved in lots of different troops. The planners were especially concerned about a Japanese infantry division that was just a short ways from the camp. Of course the rescue attempt worked marvelously well, and in fact would actually be cited as an example of perfect planning. As a result of the rescue, over two thousand men women and children were rescued. The rescue occurred with an incredibly low number of allied casualties, and no civilian fatalities. There are wonderful pictures showing the thin internees after their rescue. There is one particularly endearing photo about a woman and her two young sons eating their first meal after being liberated.

Magnificent update to the successful WWII raid and liberation of over 2100 internees at Los Banos Prison Camp; Luzon, Republic of the Philippines. The author, Bruce Henderson, effectively dissects the intricacies that played out on that fateful day, 23 Feb 1945. He also sheds some light on the controversy surrounding the execution date and place of an Imperial Japanese Army officer, (Warrant Officer Sadaaki Konishi), who was second in command at Los Banos Internment Camp. Sadaaki was charged with, and convicted of war crimes against humanity for his direct part in systematically starving numerous internees to death. Also under this Warrant Officer's direction he and his minions corralled hundreds of local Filipinos and slaughtered them wholesale. This took place just days after the liberation. It was reported that the Japanese wanted to eradicate all suspected Filipino guerrillas and their extended families -- so they rounded-up and killed an

estimated 1,500 Filipino's in neighboring villages. Court records show that the sadistic Sadaaki Konishi, orchestrated these and other atrocities. At war's end he was found guilty, and hung for his inhumanity. The book, 'Angels At Dawn', authored by retired Lt Gen Edward Flanagan, (former 11th Airborne paratrooper), stated Konishi was hung on June 17, 1947, however this book 'Rescue At Los Banos', updates the execution timeline; stating that Konishi met his maker, (by way of the noose), on April 30, 1948. Either way, a war criminal was adjudicated in a military court of law. Something he, Konishi, never granted the internees, or neighboring Filipinos. The raid involved a diversionary attack column. Unfortunately three Americans died with that task force.

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