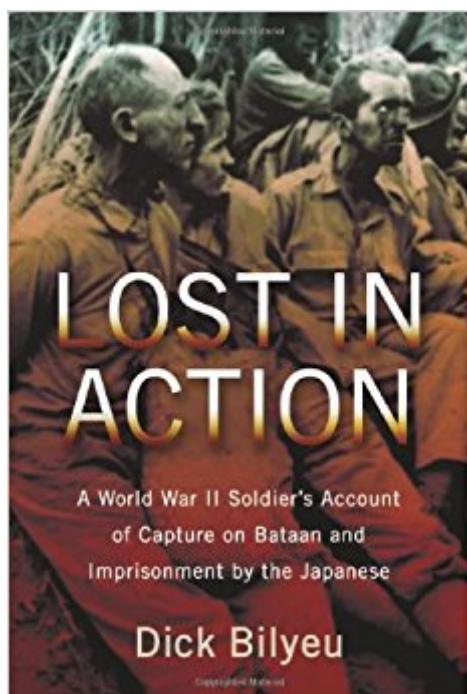


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Lost In Action: A World War II Soldier's Account Of Capture On Bataan And Imprisonment By The Japanese



Synopsis

"Lost in action," a term used to account for soldiers last seen in combat but not identified as killed or captured, was applied to the author for years following his capture by Japanese in the Philippines after the fall of Bataan. The three and a half years after capture were a time of torture and slave labor. At war's end the author weighed 95 pounds, down from his normal 160. A year was spent in military hospitals before he was fit to return to normal activities.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"must read"--Military.

The late Dick Bilyea went on to serve in Korea and retired from the army in 1961 as a chief warrant officer. He lived in North Highlands, California.

When you read a book based on actual events, you can not help being touched in your very soul. This man is a true American hero. How he endured and survived is a testament to our soldiers in every branch of service. I am glad I read this book and recommend it to anyone who wants to learn more about the history of what POWs went through.

It was so graphic and intense. I have watched Band of Brothers and many 'war' movies but I didn't really comprehend the torture of just staying alive as a prisoner until I read this true account.

Very interesting book with lots of facts and truth. It was recommended by a friend and I'm glad we got it.

This man avoided being killed so many times. He either led a charmed life or..... I do believe he spared us many sordid details.

A dynamic and humbling account of a typical young man, unprepared for the horrors of war, thrust into a maturity beyond his years or of any experience of a reader, lest they were also a participant. A first-hand account of the horrors and atrocities of Japanese soldiers in the Philippines during WWII, aboard relocation ships, most of which were literally sunk beneath him, then finally his account of being interred as a prison "mine worker". He credits the final saving of his life to the atomic bombs dropped on Japan, one of which he witnessed from his final prison camp location in Japan. I was fortunate to have known the author, and had an opportunity to hear first-hand accounts of truths of these atrocities. Dick's book is an invaluable testimony which needs to stand against the "political-correctness" of today that continually re-writes history.

After I started reading *Lost In Action* I could not put it down, it is well written and comes very close to my father's accounts of the Philippines, the Bataan Death March, the various camps and Japan. There are many coincidences, that make me wonder if the author knew my Dad? I wish the author had included maps, photographs, even the insignia from the Coast Artillery, but I have many of those to refer to. This is not to criticise the verbal descriptions which are very visual. I feel that this book was very difficult for the author to write for men like my father had a great difficulty discussing the atrocities and the effects upon their fellow prisoners. I am grateful to the author for his courage and the perseverance that it evidently took to write this book which I highly recommend.

I just read this 343 paged story of the account of my dad's first cousin's experience as a soldier and prisoner of war, and I will never think the same about the sacrifices made by soldiers as I did before reading this. One can also glean insight into the human heart or nature, when it is threatened, or starved, alone and isolated or in a pack or group. And for me personally, this story makes me proud of the contribution Bilyeus have made to the United States, not only in wars but many other ways, since the first Billiou (later Bilyeu) landed at what was then called New Amsterdam back in 1661, as Huguenots sailing here from Leyden, Holland, just 41 years after the Pilgrims.

I normally wouldn't pick up a book about war to read. I knew Dick and that it took him decades to get his story the way he wanted. I sensed he was someone who's story i wanted to read. I too, couldn't put it down. This is a story that truely tells the horror of WAR and what "Man's inhumanity towards Man" really is. Dick's book made me a more appreciative American.

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