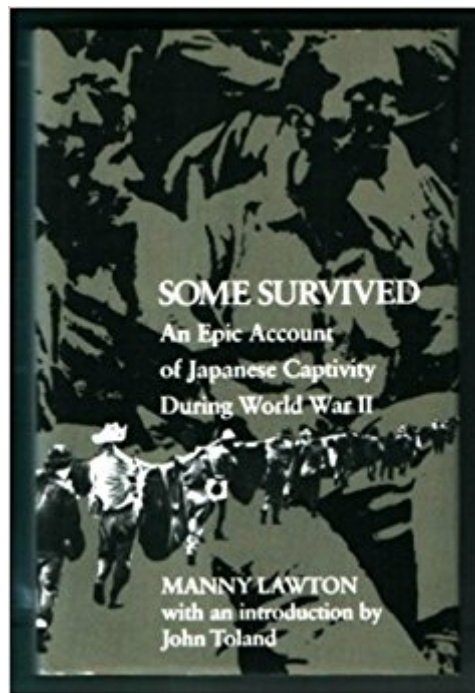




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Some Survived: An Epic Account Of Japanese Captivity During World War II



Synopsis

Manny Lawton was a twenty-three-year-old Army captain on April 8, 1942, when orders came to surrender to the Japanese forces invading the Philippine Islands. The next day, he and his fellow American and Filipino prisoners set out on the infamous Bataan Death March--a forced six-day, sixty-mile trek under a broiling tropical sun during which approximately eleven thousand men died or were bayoneted, clubbed, or shot to death by the Japanese. Yet terrible as the Death March was, for Manny Lawton and his comrades it was only the beginning. When the war ended in August 1945, it is estimated that some 57 percent of the American troops who had surrendered on Bataan had perished. But this is not a chronicle of despair. It is, instead, the story of how men can suffer even the most desperate conditions and, in their will to retain their humanity, triumph over appalling adversity. An epic of quiet heroism, *Some Survived* is a harrowing, poignant, and inspiring tale that lifts the heart. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

"Shows that the human spirit can soar like an eagle from the depths of hell on earth."

—[Charleston News & Courier](#) --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Manny Lawton was a twenty-three-year-old army captain on April 8, 1942, when orders came to surrender to the Japanese forces invading the Philippine Islands. The next day, he and his fellow American and Filipino prisoners set out on the infamous Bataan Death March--a forced six-day, sixty-mile trek under a broiling tropical sun during which approximately eleven thousand men died or

were bayoneted, clubbed, or shot to death by the Japanese. Yet terrible as the Death March was, for Manny Lawton and his comrades it was only the beginning. When the war ended in August 1945, it is estimated that some 57 percent of the American troops who surrendered on Bataan had perished. This is the story of how men can suffer even the most desperate conditions yet, through their will to retain their humanity, triumph over appalling adversity. An epic of quiet heroism, "Some Survived" is a harrowing, poignant, and inspiring tale that lifts the heart. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

This man lived through all the years of World War II as a prisoner of the Japanese. He and thousands of others were starved, beaten, denied any medical care and moved around continually in a successful effort to hide him and his fellow prisoners from the Americans. During the long years of captivity most of the men who were captured with him lost their lives, from disease, starvation or from being shot, or drowned when the ships that were carrying them were bombed by the Americans who had been denied information that American POWs were on the ships. The Bataan Death March occurred just after his capture. His descriptions of the horrors of this single action should be required reading for anyone who has questions about what actually happened in the orient. during WWII. Manny Lawton was a true hero. I was a child during this time, and remember vividly all the conversations around our dinner table about the War. With 6 cousins in service, Manny and his family from the area, and the depth of feeling about capture, I am delighted to add some information about a true American hero. Manny Lawton was from South Carolina, as I was, and his name was revered in our area.

In this historical, eyewitness account, Manny Lawton offers us a sober, even-keeled story with facts, names, and anecdotes to mesmerize the reader. Lawton first chronicles the Bataan Death March and its horrors with steely, matter-of-fact details. He then allows us to enter the incredibly horrendous hell holes that were the Japanese prison camps of O'Donnell, Cabanatuan, and Davao. The author provides the story of the slavery, starvation, debilitating diseases, brutal beatings, and humiliation experienced by those American, Filipino, British, and Dutch prisoners-of-war. This story is not for the light-of-heart, but through its horrors, one is inspired by the character and strong will to survive by Lawton and his fellow POWs. Additionally, Lawton describes the three escapes from Davao Penal Colony (Dapecol) on the Philippine's most southern island. He obtained much of that information from meetings with the surviving escapees after the war. But the most egregious experiences shared in this book are those of the hellships that carried the prisoners from the

Philippines to Japan. Over 1600 POWs started the voyage, but less than 300 survived. The lack of potable water, unsanitary conditions, starvation rations, extremes of temperature, absence of medical treatment, and callous actions by the captors contributed to those deaths. However, many of the POWs were killed by American bombs or torpedoes because the Imperial Forces, dishonorably it should be noted, painted over the red crosses on their troop transport ship's smoke stacks, thus making the freighters legitimate military targets. Many of these examples of inhumane treatment of Americans are chronicled in a number of other books including *Battle for Bataan*, *Unbroken*, *Undeclared*, *Buckshot Pie*, *A Buckshot Pie*, *A Family's Struggle Through Homesteading, the Great Depression, and World War II*, *Tears in the Darkness*, and *Give Us This Day*. I highly recommend the reading of Lawton's account as well as these other equally informative, captivating, and inspiring books. *Some Survived: An Eyewitness Account of the Bataan Death March and the Men Who Lived Through It*

Wonderful account done of terrible trial to be an American soldier who surrenders to the Japanese in Philippines in the 40's. Good won out against a very evil force in the culture of the enemy.. Let's hope we never come to the point of treating our enemies with such inhumanity. I had heard about the death march but not the brutality experienced, expressed and recorded by the survivors. A lesson worth communicating to the next generation.

I am a little biased as Manny Lawton was my cousin. I thought the book was very good. Excellent detail as to the suffering they endured. Amazing that any of them survived. Manny Lawton is also mentioned, and quoted, in the book "Ghost Soldiers" which is excellent read about the rescue of POWs.. Very uplifting.

I am reviewing the 1984 hardback edition of this book which was entitled "Some Survived. An Epic Account of Japanese Captivity During WWII." Although this is not the first book on The Death March I have read, it is probably the best. It is well written and easy to read. The thing I liked best was the fact that not only did it give, in great detail, an eye witness account of the atrocities committed by the Japanese on American POW's in the Philippines, it went on to describe life in the camps after the march, then on to a very detailed description of their treatment on the 'Hell Ships' that took the prisoners to prison camps in Japan. This is not a book of despair only. It is also of faith, guts, determination, and final victory by Manny Lawton and a few others that survived this horrible period of time. It also prompts us to remember those that didn't. God Bless them.

I have personal interest in anything dealing with the Philippines and POW of the Japanese in WW II- my dad was with the 803rd Aviation Engineering Battalion of the US Army Air Corps at Clark Field Philippines when it was attacked on 8 December 1941 and he helped to defend Bataan. he surrendered along with the rest of the US and Filipino forces on Bataan on 9 April 1942 and spend the next 3 1/2 years in Jap prison camps first at Cabanatuan Philippines and then on Kyushu Island in the Japanese home islands. He was in a POW camp Keisen-23 and was used as forced labor to mine coal for the Japanese.

Very good read. Read this because my grandfather's brother was one of the few that made it to Japan. Unfortunately he died shortly afterwards so we never got his account of what it was like. The details in the book, including the military trial information at the end really drove home the trials the men faced. Editor missed a few errors with dates

Another fantastic read about WWII in the Pacific .A lot of history here. The Death march is only part of the story.

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