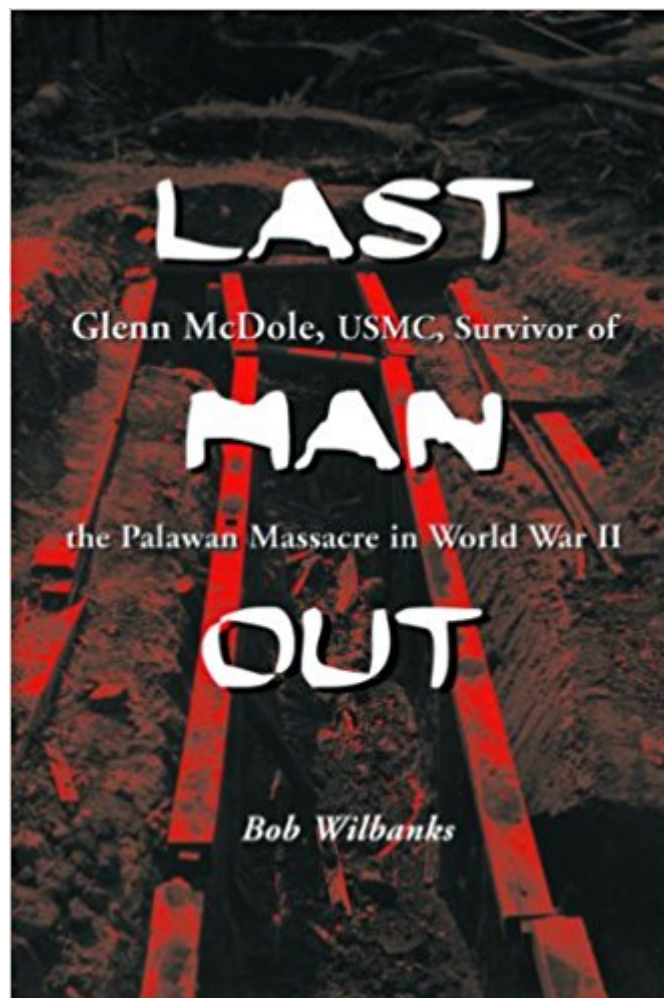




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Last Man Out: Glenn McDole, USMC, Survivor Of The Palawan Massacre In World War II



Synopsis

On December 14, 1944, Japanese soldiers massacred 139 of 150 American POWs. This biography tells the story of Glenn (Mac) McDole, one of eleven young men who escaped and the last man out of Palawan Prison Camp 10A. Beginning on December 8, 1941, at the U.S. Navy Yard barracks at Cavite, the story of this young Iowan soldier continues through the fighting on Corregidor, the capture and imprisonment by the Japanese Imperial Army in May 1942, Mac's entry into the Palawan prison camp in the Philippines on August 12, 1942, the terrible conditions he and his comrades endured in the camps, and the terrible day when 139 young soldiers were slaughtered. The work details the escapes of the few survivors as they dug into refuse piles, hid in coral caves, and slogged through swamp and jungle to get to supportive Filipinos.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"exceptionally researched and written...valuable...worth reading"--Military Review; "once started, it will be difficult for any reader to put down Last Man Out until the final page is read. Once finished, it will be difficult for any reader to forget the horrors that the American POWs at Palawan endured, or the triumph of the human spirit in the survival of eleven men who were supposed to die on December 14, 1944"--WWII Forums.

Retired journalist and reporter Bob Wilbanks was vice president of editorial at Stover Publishing Company for ten years. He lives in Urbandale, Iowa.

I have just added the Kindle edition of this amazing book I can keep it with me. It was my great privilege to know the men in this book. Glen McDole, Rufus "Willie" Smith, Roy Henderson, my uncle Evan Bunn and my father Clarence Clough were my heroes and role models throughout my formative years. When I was a child, every family trip we took was routed to visit one or more of these men and their families. I hope enough of their integrity, loyalty and perseverance rubbed off on me to make them proud. I was certainly proud of them. I miss them all. Since Dad and Uncle Evan were not on Palawan at the time of the massacre, Mr. Wilbanks does not mention what happened to them after the war. Dad and Evan Bunn continued as POWs working in the mines in Japan until the end of the war. Evan had heard so much about dad's sister that he proclaimed he would marry one of them. When the two returned to the U.S., they stopped to see Evan's family then went on to Dad's home. Evan married Dad's sister Anita November 10 1945. Clarence Clough died September 6, 1985. Evan Bunn died May 12, 1989.

As a teacher, I was appalled at the atrocities committed by the Japanese during WW2. There is not much mention of it in the history textbooks; most WW2 mentions consist of: the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor; Hitler & the Holocaust; Bataan Death March (maybe); America ushers in the Atomic Age when Hiroshima & Nagasaki were bombed. Mr. McDole's story was riveting, stomach-turning and blood-pressure-raising all at the same time. I had never heard of Palawan before reading "Unbroken", the story of Louis Zamperini and his odyssey as a POW in Japan. Mr. McDole writes about maggot-ridden rice balls - that was their food, prison guards who would brutally beat prisoners for fun, and setting prisoners on fire - then shooting them when they ran. This is a story of not only historical happenings, but also a story of the Marine spirit. I have never met a Marine personally (my family was Army), but the Marine attitude of never leaving anyone behind and overcoming, just to rub their captors' nose in it, is inspiring. I highly recommend this to anyone who is interested in military stories. I cried, I cheered, I became angry at times. Any book that can rouse so many emotions in me, deserves 5 stars.

This is a terrific book; read and share. I was fortunate enough to meet Glenn McDole when he was working at the Iowa Highway Patrol in the mid 80s. He was an impressive man, even in his later years. As a videographer for a Des Moines TV station -- my reporter and I interviewed Glenn and put together a feature story on his years as a POW and the tragic Palawan Massacre. What made the story so special and touching is that it was all in Glenn's own words. That feature story won a

state broadcasting award. Though heartbreaking, I have twice read "Last Man Out" and probably will again. Those POWs went through hell and so few made it out. I'm glad Glenn did, and that he was able to tell the story of the horrible war crimes against Americans. Bless his soul!

This was a great book, I couldn't put it down. My grandfather, William Balchus was one of the 11 survivors mentioned in this book. He would never talk about what happened in his almost 3 years as a POW, after reading this book I now know why

I've had a number of conversations in the past with POW's of the Japanese. I could listen to them tell their stories for hours. For some reason it is a part of WWII history that I don't believe has been given the attention it deserves. To think that 40% of prisoners of the Japanese were killed during the war versus 2% of prisoners of the Germans is incredible to believe . Couldn't put the book down.

In reading this excellent 165 page book I have walked with Glenn from his home in Iowa to his enlistment, to Corregidor, to Palawan, the war trials and back home to his funeral in 2009. This book gives you the complete experience of this brave marine up close and personal. You get to meet his friends, some of the Japanese guards and feel their experiences in vivid plain easy to read words. There was only 1 guard who I will look up on the computer who ever showed the prisoners any kindness, why do we as humans treat our fellow humans so wickedly ? We will all die some day and answer to our creator so why mistreat people along the way ?--Anyway if you like war stories get this book, you will not be disappointed.

This book should be required reading for every high school student in America - most people have no idea what many ordinary young men endured as prisoners during World War II, how they behaved under the unbelievable burden of watching their friends die and how they overcame the horror of being POWs of the Japanese in the Philippines - this book is extremely well-written, simple and concise without self promotion concerning one of the worst atrocities in modern warfare - it's an easy although uncomfortable read - it'll make you proud to call McDole and other POWs fellow Americans

Fabulous book if you enjoy WW2 non-fiction. Only book I have ever read that mentions and goes over war crime trials in Japan finding many Japanese military members guilty. Many were hung, killed by firing squad or committed suicide

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