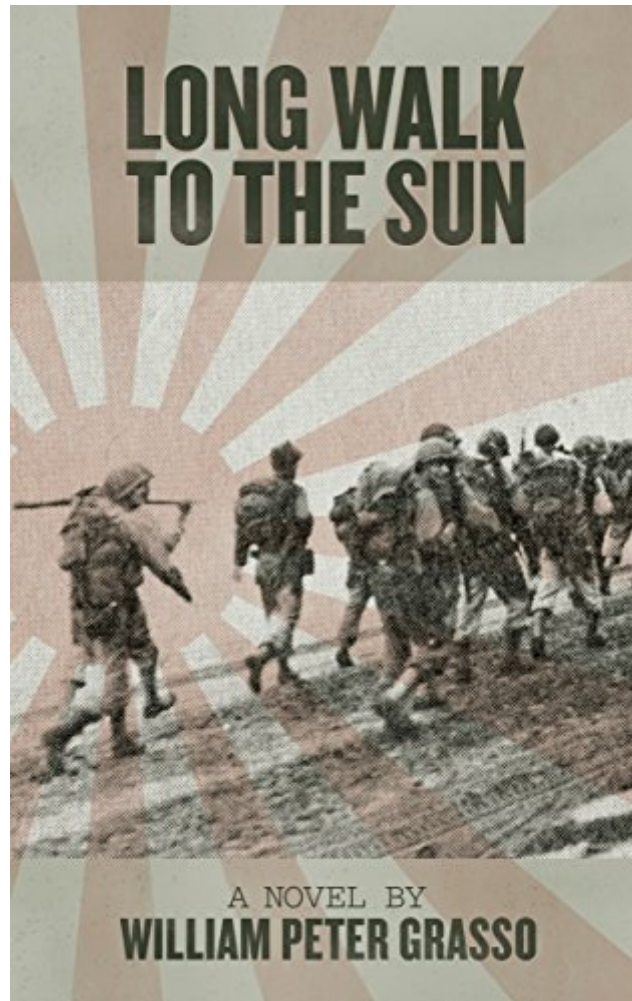


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Long Walk To The Sun (Jock Miles WW2 Adventure Series Book 1)



Synopsis

In this alternate history adventure set in WW2's early days, a crippled US military struggles to defend vulnerable Australia against the unstoppable Japanese forces. When a Japanese regiment lands on Australia's desolate and undefended Cape York Peninsula, Jock Miles, a US Army captain disgraced despite heroic actions at Pearl Harbor, is ordered to locate the enemy's elusive command post. Conceived in politics rather than sound tactics, the futile mission is a show of faith by the American war leaders meant to do little more than bolster their flagging Australian ally. For Jock Miles and the men of his patrol, it's a death sentence: their enemy is superior in men, material, firepower, and combat experience. Even if the Japanese don't kill them, the vast distances they must cover on foot in the treacherous natural realm of Cape York just might. When Jock joins forces with Jillian Forbes, an indomitable woman with her own checkered past who refused to evacuate in the face of the Japanese threat, the dim prospects of the Allied war effort begin to brighten in surprising ways. Jock Miles' WW2 adventures continue in Grasso's Operation Long Jump.

Book Information

File Size: 1871 KB

Print Length: 527 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publication Date: December 6, 2012

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00AKIOFD0

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #20,015 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #52 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy > Alternative History #58 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Historical > Alternate History #196 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > War

Customer Reviews

William Grasso's stays true to his concept of "change one thing...and watch what happens" in "Long Walk to the Sun" he produced a well-crafted and entertaining tale. Grasso's alternative history begins with the Japanese destroying the fuel storage at Pearl Harbor during their December 7th attack, in reality this didn't happen. That one change to history sets up the rest of the story, which leads to a Japanese regiment landing on Australia's desolate and undefended Cape York Peninsula. Into this alternative history Grasso thrusts believable characters. The plot is quick-paced with plenty of twists. The writer commands a firm grip on his subject matter and convincingly portrays the behind-the-lines politics as being just as deadly as jungle combat. What I liked most about "Long Walk to the Sun" was that despite the fact it is novel set in an alternative history Grasso made it a realistic story. I highly recommend this novel.

I enjoyed this greatly. Mr. Grasso has created an interesting story of an infantry reconnaissance action in a 'slightly' alternate WW2 Australia. He has created several very believable and interesting characters, and avoids the cardboard one-dimensional soldier/heroes that inhabit far too much military fiction. The characters drive haplessly through the action, betrayed by incompetence, chance, the terrain, and high level scheming to arrive as bit players in a major event. The 'snafus' that the Americans experience - and create - seem very much in keeping with our early Pacific war efforts. This book is called an alternate history, which is technically correct I guess in that some of the great events of the Pacific War play out differently than they did in history. But this is not the story of those great events - it is a war story about a few soldiers on a small job in a small corner of a big war. The advantage of this to the reader is that we just don't know what Mr. Grasso is going to do with his characters, and where the plot will go - and that made it a page turner for me! As a footnote, Mr. Grasso has a grasp of period detail that convinced me that he knows what he writes about. He shows us General MacArthur's personality, some of the troubles that American forces actually had in Australia in the early days, the undeveloped nature of NW Australia at the time, and quite a bit more. I bought into it all, and thoroughly enjoyed the book. By the way Mr. Grasso is NOT one of 'those' Kindle authors who lack basic grammatical, spelling and editing skills. This book is professionally done - don't worry!

Mr. Grasso's personal feel for the US Army comes through loud and clear in his WW2 series, and the first of five books sets up a nice canvas for the rest. Jock Miles is a combat soldier who is forever at cross purposes with the REMFs that set him on dangerous missions. He is a capable leader, personally brave and smart enough to respect if not always follow his top sergeant's

advice. The first book, and the scenario that just barely qualifies as alternate history, posits a Japanese foray to northern Australia. It is a pitifully weak thrust, but possibly strong enough to accomplish something against the even weaker Allied defense posture. MacArthur, who had escaped from the Philippines, decides on a suicidal response that requires Capt. Jock Miles and a few men to make the long, arduous journey to recon the Japanese position for a bombing raid. The book tells a number of interesting stories, and none is really about combat between Japan and the US: Australian attitudes towards the aborigines; the dangers of Australian nature; the poor training of US soldiers and airmen in the early days; the gap between combat soldiers and the rest; and FDR's pressure on his commanders to produce success in the early days of the war. I was reminded of that classic of Army fiction, "Once an Eagle", though "Long Walk" is a single, small mission versus the epic of the older book. But the story is quite well told, with smooth and consistent chronology, and can be recommended without reservation.

My first experience with both the author, William Peter Grasso, and with the Australian perspective of World War II. I found the storyline compelling and the writing clear, clean and beautifully crafted. Kudos to Mr. Grasso, who manages to tell a gripping story of "the guys on the ground" without the overuse of profanity so prevalent in other army tales. The characters are well-drawn, and you come to know and care about them, whether they endure or are simply snuffed out randomly; whatever fate they encounter somehow seems "real" - because that is the way life actually is, especially during wartime. I wouldn't know if the story qualifies as "alternate history" because I am not familiar enough with the campaign in Australia, but it certainly has the ring of truth to it.

A good read if you like Alternate history. And I do. It takes the traditional AH convention of "If a single event in history had turned out differently, how would that change subsequent events?" Grasso, did that very well. The event HE changes is that during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor were successful in destroying the Navy's Reserve Oil supplies, when in reality they did not. In his narrative, without that oil the US is unable to respond adequately, though given enough time, the USA WILL be able to recoup their losses and mount an effective resistance. As a result, Japan is allowed to expand rapidly, almost to the shores of Australia. What the allies don't know, is that Japan is at the limits of their own reserve of resources, and is trying to bluff its way into expanding further. Meanwhile the allies are trying desperately to keep despair and excessive from overwhelming their societies while things get organized and decide to mount a symbolic attack that should be an easy win, which would generate good press on the home front. This is that story. It is

well written and has very little modernisms creeping into the story. for the most part it FEELS like WW2. A good read and I will buy any subsequent novels in this story arc.

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