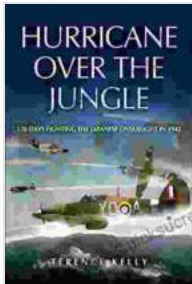


120 Days of Unwavering Resistance: The Epic Battle for the Philippines in 1942



Hurricane over the Jungle: 120 Days Fighting the Japanese Onslaught in 1942 by Terence Kelly

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English
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As the thunderous roar of war echoed across the Pacific, the Philippines found itself on the front lines of a cataclysmic conflict that would forever etch its name in the annals of history. In December 1941, the Japanese Imperial Army launched a swift and devastating attack on the archipelago, plunging the country into a bloody struggle that would last for years to come.

In the face of the overwhelming Japanese onslaught, the Philippine Commonwealth Army, alongside American and Filipino troops, stood their ground with unwavering determination. For 120 grueling days, they fought a desperate battle against a relentless enemy, their resilience and courage inspiring awe and admiration.

The Initial Invasion

On December 8, 1941, just hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese bombers descended upon the Philippines, unleashing a torrent of destruction. Targets across the country were hit, including military installations, airfields, and civilian areas. The invasion force, consisting of over 100,000 troops, quickly established beachheads on the northern island of Luzon and began to push inland.

The Philippine Commonwealth Army, under the command of General Douglas MacArthur, was ill-prepared to meet the Japanese advance. Despite their valiant efforts, the Filipino and American troops were outnumbered, outgunned, and overwhelmed by the sheer weight of the Japanese onslaught. By Christmas, Manila, the capital of the Philippines, had fallen to the enemy.

Bataan and Corregidor

With the fall of Manila, the Philippine Commonwealth Army retreated to the Bataan Peninsula on the western coast of Luzon. There, they established a defensive line that would become one of the most famous battlegrounds of World War II.

For four long months, the Filipino and American troops held their ground against the relentless Japanese attacks. Despite being surrounded and cut off from supplies, they fought with unwavering determination, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy.

Meanwhile, on the nearby island of Corregidor, a small garrison of Filipino and American troops held out in a series of tunnels and fortifications.

Corregidor, known as the "Rock," became a symbol of Philippine resistance and the indomitable spirit of its defenders.

The Bataan Death March

In April 1942, after months of fierce fighting, the Japanese launched a final offensive against Bataan. The Filipino and American troops, exhausted and starving, were forced to surrender. Over 70,000 prisoners of war were then subjected to the infamous Bataan Death March, a brutal forced march to prison camps.

The Bataan Death March was a horrific ordeal that claimed the lives of thousands of Filipino and American soldiers. Those who survived were transported to POW camps where they were subjected to further torture and deprivation.

The Fall of Corregidor

With the fall of Bataan, Corregidor was the last remaining stronghold of Philippine and American forces in the Philippines. The Japanese launched a massive assault on the island in May 1942, and after a month of intense fighting, the garrison was forced to surrender.

The fall of Corregidor marked the end of organized resistance in the Philippines. However, the fighting spirit of the Filipino people would continue to burn throughout the war years, as they engaged in guerilla warfare and sabotage against the Japanese occupiers.

Legacy of the 120 Days

The 120-day Battle for the Philippines was a turning point in World War II. It demonstrated the courage and determination of the Filipino people in the

face of overwhelming odds. The battle also played a significant role in delaying the Japanese advance in Southeast Asia, giving the Allied forces time to regroup and prepare for the eventual counteroffensive.

The sacrifices of the Filipino and American troops who fought in the Battle for the Philippines will never be forgotten. Their bravery and resilience continue to inspire generations of Filipinos and serve as a reminder of the indomitable spirit of the human race.



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