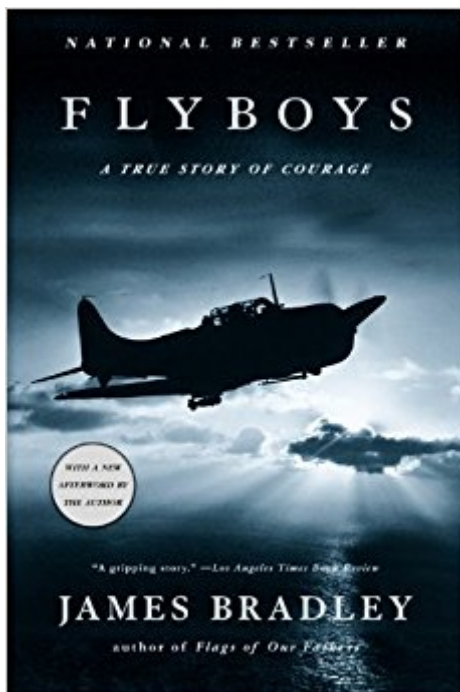


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Flyboys: A True Story Of Courage



Synopsis

The classic New York Times bestselling story of heroism and sacrifice--by the author of *Flags of Our Fathers*, *The Imperial Cruise*, and *The China Mirage*. This acclaimed bestseller brilliantly illuminates a hidden piece of World War II history as it tells the harrowing true story of nine American airmen shot down in the Pacific. One of them, George H. W. Bush, was miraculously rescued. What happened to the other eight remained a secret for almost 60 years. After the war, the American and Japanese governments conspired to cover up the shocking truth, and not even the families of the airmen were informed of what happened to their sons. Their fate remained a mystery--until now. *FLYBOYS* is a tale of courage and daring, of war and death, of men and hope. It will make you proud and it will break your heart.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The author of *Flags of Our Fathers* achieves considerable but not equal success in this new Pacific War-themed history. Again he approaches the conflict focused on a small group of men: nine American Navy and Marine aviators who were shot down off the Japanese-held island of Chichi Jima in February 1945. All of them were eventually executed by the Japanese; several of the guilty parties were tried and condemned as war criminals. When the book keeps its eye on the aviators--growing up under a variety of conditions before the war, entering service, serving as the U. S. Navy's spearhead aboard the fast carriers, or facing captivity and death--it is as compelling as its predecessor. However, a chapter on prewar aviation is an uncritical panegyric to WWI aerial bombing advocate Billy Mitchell, who was eventually court-martialed for criticizing armed forces

brass. More problematic is that Bradley tries to encompass not only the whole history of the Pacific War, but the whole history of the cultures of the two opposing countries that led to the racial attitudes which both sides brought to the war. Those attitudes, Bradley argues, played a large role in the brutal training of the Japanese army, which led to atrocities that in turn sharpened already keen American hostility. Some readers' hackles will rise at the discussion of the guilt of both sides, but, despite some missteps, Bradley attempts to strike an informed balance with the perspective of more than half a century. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Kindle Edition edition.

Bradley's phenomenal best-seller, *Flags of Our Fathers* (2000), was rejected by about 20 publishing houses before Bantam took a chance. His new publisher is not leaving the popularity of the encore to chance, launching it with an intense promotional campaign. Structured similarly to *Flags*, which concerned the flag-raisers of Iwo Jima, this work reconstructs the lives of several young men at war. Eight pilots and airmen were shot down by the Japanese military at Chichi Jima in 1944-45, George H. W. Bush among them. A well-known part of his political biography, Bush's story of escape is recounted somberly (Bush's crewmates died). The fates of the others shot down, who were captured, Bradley gathered in part from a source that was secret until a few years ago: records of a war-crimes trial of Japanese officers in command at Chichi Jima. Bradley sensitively builds the trial's unpleasant evidence (concealed, presumably, to spare pain to the airmen's relatives) into the narrative, which he frames with a portrayal of the Japanese military mind-set, which condoned the commission of atrocities. There are many brutally graphic passages about the torture and slaying of the American prisoners, which may prove too daunting for some readers, but Bradley succeeds in restoring dignity to the American airmen. Sure to command a large audience. Gilbert Taylor Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Kindle Edition edition.

I am a Childress county resident and the current sheriff. I knew Ralph Sides, who was the cousin of Warren Vaughn. I wish I had the opportunity to have been able to talk to him about his cousin and the war times. There are plans to dedicate a memorial in Vaughn's honor on the Childress courthouse square. It was very brave of Mr. Bradley to write a book that tells the story from both sides as well as some of the atrocities we Americans have committed over our history as a country. There are many historical facts that are in this book in which I as astute history buff had no idea had occurred. Well worth what I paid for this book

Everyone should read this book to get a better understanding of the horrors of war and why each side thinks they are right and justified in killing the enemy with or without collateral damage.

This being the second book that I have read which was written by James Bradley, I am still amazed by the excellence and accuracy that he puts into his writing. When I first read "Flags of Our Fathers" I was on my first flight to China in January of 2002. I had to re-read the book two additional times to insure that nothing was missed. As a Vietnam veteran, it is close to my heart the experience that those who defend their country go through. Best Regards, Fred

An eye opening story of the brutality of war! Neither my wife or myself could put it down once we started reading. I highly recommend this book. Once you get through the first 50 or so pages, you will enjoy reading about the Pacific Air war in Japan during WWII.

My wife and I both use Kindle but don't read the same kind of books; military history has never been a major interest for her. Because of some recent discussions we've had about how she can't understand how people can hate so much, I told her she should read this book. She ordered it and is now in the last chapter... just this A.M. she told me "It's amazing" and loves to talk about it. Even though she loves America and what it stands for, she's impressed because it's not written from a perspective of "America is always right". We both highly recommend it.

Difficult to read and difficult to put down...that's how I'd characterize this. Within the first 100 pages, when the atrocities committed by our fellow man was described in full graphic detail, I actually returned my Kindle version of the book for a full refund (all \$1.99 of it) I just couldn't take it. I wanted it off my Kindle permanently. But within minutes of putting in the request, something told me that I'm not reading this just be entertained. This is an important account of our history and we can't look away from it. So I bought it back and from there the book took this reader from unimaginable hell in Chi Chi Jima to the redemption to decades later when Warren Iwatake and President George H.W. Bush met on Chichi Jima in 2002 in a symbolic reunion of veterans from both sides of the conflict. Don't hesitate like I did. Read this from beginning to end. There will be no regret.

A stunning book. Even though I am a history buff, there was so much I never knew until I read these transcripts. While I feel for the families of these tortured and slain pilots, I wonder if people would

change opinions on the end of the war if they had read what had happened to our pilots at the hands of our Japanese enemy? More than that, the terrible cost to Japanese civilians, who were being trained to die to the last living person to take out Americans when the inevitable invasion occurred, not to mention the terrible loss of life from the regular bombing (ask the English), made a point clear. The Atom bombs actually save more Japanese lives than American lives. The other surprising factor (which comes from the transcripts of testimony from Japanese soldiers, as I understood it) was how well some of their officers lived, like royalty (food, saki etc in excess) and how cruel they were to the men they commanded as well as our pilots. I would recommend this to anyone, especially students.

I am familiar with Mr. Bradley and his book "Flags of our Fathers" and when I was looking for a good history book to listen to during my long commute I noticed this one (which at the time was a steal at under \$6 new) so I ordered it. The book is narrated by the author and covers the ordeals that the pilots who had to bomb the island of Chichi Jima faced after being captured from primary documents, the testimony during war crimes trials, and from interviews with the author (particularly former President George HW Bush who was rescued before the Japanese could capture him following his raid on the island). It is interesting and shines the light on a little known aspect of the Iwo Jima story line that I for one hadn't heard about. The book further highlights what our soldiers had to put up with on our behalf as well as how any soldier's death is tragic (as the biographies of each airman are first introduced you really see that these were full-fledged human beings and not just names in a history book - people who loved, lived, and wanted a future that many never saw). I would recommend this book to WWII buffs and those who just enjoy hearing an interesting story.

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