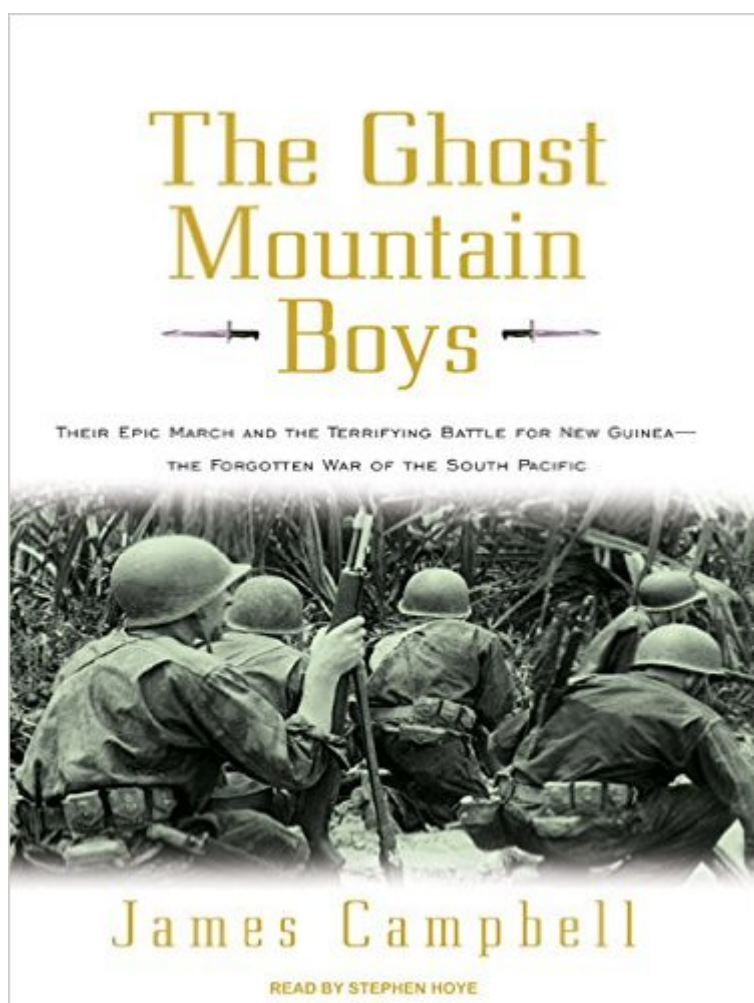


The book was found

# The Ghost Mountain Boys: Their Epic March And The Terrifying Battle For New Guinea---the Forgotten War Of The South Pacific



## Synopsis

Lying due north of Australia, New Guinea is among the world's largest islands. In 1942, when World War II exploded onto its shores, it was an inhospitable, cursorily mapped, disease-ridden land of dense jungle, towering mountain peaks, deep valleys, and fetid swamps. Coveted by the Japanese for its strategic position, New Guinea became the site of one of the South Pacific's most savage campaigns. Despite their lack of jungle training, the 32nd Division's Ghost Mountain Boys were assigned the most grueling mission of the entire Pacific campaign: to march 130 miles over the rugged Owen Stanley Mountains and to protect the right flank of the Australian army as they fought to push the Japanese back to the village of Buna on New Guinea's north coast. Comprised of National Guardsmen from Michigan and Wisconsin, reserve officers, and draftees from across the country, the 32nd Division lacked more than training—they were without even the basics necessary for survival. The men were not issued the specialized clothing that later became standard issue for soldiers fighting in the South Pacific; they fought in hastily dyed combat fatigues that bled in the intense humidity and left them with festering sores. They waded through brush and vines without the aid of machetes. They did not have insect repellent. Without waterproof containers, their matches were useless, and the quinine and vitamin pills they carried, as well as salt and chlorination tablets, crumbled in their pockets. Exhausted and pushed to the brink of human endurance, the Ghost Mountain Boys fell victim to malnutrition and disease. Forty-two days after they set out, they arrived two miles south of Buna, nearly shattered by the experience. Arrival in Buna provided no respite. The 32nd Division was ordered to launch an immediate assault on the Japanese position. After two months of furious-sometimes hand-to-hand-combat, the decimated division finally achieved victory. The ferocity of the struggle for Buna was summed up in Time magazine on December 28, 1942, three weeks before the Japanese army was defeated: "Nowhere in the world today are American soldiers engaged in fighting so desperate, so merciless, so bitter, or so bloody." Reminiscent of classics like *Band of Brothers* and *The Things They Carried*, this harrowing portrait of a largely overlooked campaign is part war diary, part extreme adventure tale, and—through letters, journals, and interviews—part biography of a group of men who fought to survive in an environment every bit as fierce as the enemy they faced.

## Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Tantor Audio; Unabridged edition (December 10, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1400105765

ISBN-13: 978-1400105762

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 1.1 x 5.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (95 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #3,775,919 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #96 in [Books > History >](#)

[Australia & Oceania > Papua New Guinea](#) #964 in [Books > Books on CD > History > Military](#)

[#1108 in Books > History > Military > Regiments](#)

## Customer Reviews

This book is an easy read. I recommend it to anyone interested in how America's citizen soldiers fought in World War II. The book's style is similar to many of Stephen Ambrose's works such as *Band of Brothers: E Company, 506th Regiment, 101st Airborne from Normandy to Hitler's Eagle's Nest* or *Citizen Soldiers: The U. S. Army from the Normandy Beaches to the Bulge to the Surrender of Germany*. This book follows the story of the 32nd Infantry, the Red Arrow Division in Early World War II. The Red Arrow Division was composed of National Guard units from Michigan and Wisconsin and fleshed out with draftees. The unit was nationalized in 1941, before the beginning of the war and trained in Louisiana. The first section of the book focuses on these early days of the division. The Red Arrow was originally slated to fight in Europe but with rapid advance of the Japanese, the Red Arrow was sent to protect Australia. Soon after the division completed construction of its training base, units were sent to help Australian troops in New Guinea. Several units marched over the Owen Stanley Mountains racing the Japanese back to their bases near Buna on the northern coast. Coastal shipping transported other units to the area. The account of the air attack on these ships as they tried to land supplies was gripping. None of the troops were trained or prepared for the tropical jungles and harsh conditions they faced. Neither was the United States prepared to supply troops in this environment.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Ghost Mountain Boys: Their Epic March and the Terrifying Battle for New Guinea---the Forgotten War of the South Pacific  
Ghost Stories: Petrifying True Ghost Stories Of The Undead And Their Supernatural Tales (Ghost Stories, True Ghost Stories, Conspiracy Theories, True Ghost ...  
And Hauntings, Haunted Asylums, Book 1)  
Guinea Pigs Owner Handbook: The Complete Beginner's Guide to Guinea Pig Care and Facts (How to Care for Guinea Pigs, Guinea Pig Facts Book 1)  
South Beach Diet: South Beach Diet Recipe Book: 50 Delicious & Easy South Beach Diet

Recipes (south beach diet, south beach diet recipes, south beach diet beginners guide, south beach diet cookbook) South Beach Diet: The SOUTH BEACH DIET Beginners Guide - How To Lose Weight And Feel Awesome With The South Beach Diet!: (south beach diet, south ... diet recipes, south beach diet cookbook) Mountain Biking: The Complete Guide To Mountain Biking For Beginners (Mountain Biking, Biking, Mountain Bike For Beginners, Mountain Bike Skills) South Beach Diet: The South Beach Diet Beginners Guide to Losing Weight and Feeling Great! (south beach diet, south beach diet beginners guide, south beach diet recipes) South Beach Diet: A Beginners Guide For Using The South Beach Diet For Quick, Easy and Healthy Weight Loss (Dieting, Weight Loss, South Beach Diet, South ... Diet Cookbook, South Beach Diet Kindle) Pacific Crucible: War at Sea in the Pacific, 1941-1942: War at Sea in the Pacific, 1941-1942 True Ghost Stories And Hauntings: Horrifying True Paranormal Hauntings From The Last 300 Years: Creepy True Ghost Stories And Accounts (True Ghost Stories, True Paranormal, Bizarre True Stories) Black Ghost Knifefish as pets, Complete Owner's Guide.: Including African knifefish, Clown Knifefish... Information on Black Ghost, Ghost Knifefish, Selecting, Caring, Habitat, Feeding, Breeding. GHOST STORIES: The Most Horrifying REAL ghost stories from around the world including disturbing- Ghost, Hauntings & Paranormal stories (Unexplained mysteries, ... locations, Haunted house, Possession,) Ghost Towns of the Pacific Northwest: Your Guide to Ghost Towns, Mining Camps, and Historic Forts of Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia The South Beach Diet: A Guide for Faster Weight Loss and Healthy Lifestyle with Easy Meal Plan Recipes (South Beach Diet Meal Plan, South Beach Diet Gluten Solution, South Beach Diet Recipes) Guinea Pig Care Secrets: Kids Guide to a Happy Guinea Pig (Kids Pet Care & Guides Book 3) Guinea Pig Pets: Train Your Guinea Pig The Easy Way!: The 7 Day Guide TRUE GHOST STORIES: Terrifying Horror 'No One is Safe from Evil'. The Conquering Tide: War in the Pacific Islands, 1942-1944 (Pacific War Trilogy) The Conquering Tide: War in the Pacific Islands, 1942-1944: War in the Pacific Islands, 1942-1944 Ghost Stories: Petrifying True Ghost Stories of the Undead and Their Supernatural Tales

[Dmca](#)