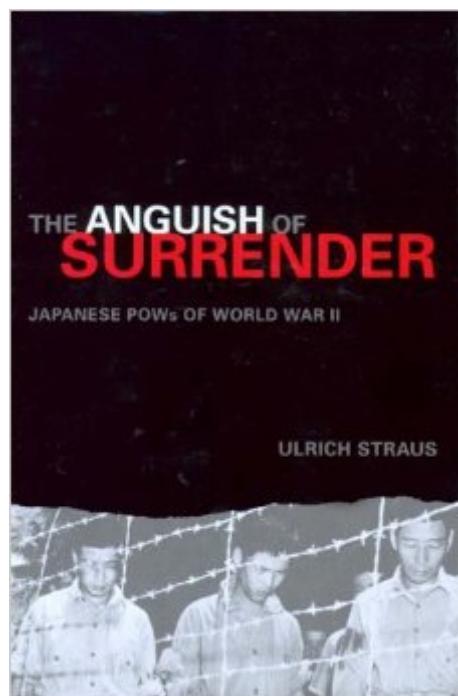


The book was found

# The Anguish Of Surrender: Japanese POWs Of World War II



## Synopsis

On December 6, 1941, Ensign Kazuo Sakamaki was one of a handful of men selected to skipper midget subs on a suicide mission to breach Pearl Harbor's defenses. When his equipment malfunctioned, he couldn't find the entrance to the harbor. He hit several reefs, eventually splitting the sub, and swam to shore some miles from Pearl Harbor. In the early dawn of December 8, he was picked up on the beach by two Japanese American MPs on patrol. Sakamaki became Prisoner No. 1 of the Pacific War. Japan's no-surrender policy did not permit becoming a POW. Sakamaki and his fellow soldiers and sailors had been indoctrinated to choose between victory and a heroic death. While his comrades had perished, he had survived. By becoming a prisoner of war, Sakamaki believed he had brought shame and dishonor on himself, his family, his community, and his nation, in effect relinquishing his citizenship. Sakamaki fell into despair and, like so many Japanese POWs, begged his captors to kill him. Based on the author's interviews with dozens of former Japanese POWs along with memoirs only recently coming to light, *The Anguish of Surrender* tells one of the great unknown stories of World War II. Beginning with an examination of Japan's prewar ultranationalist climate and the harsh code that precluded the possibility of capture, the author investigates the circumstances of surrender and capture of men like Sakamaki and their experiences in POW camps. Many POWs, ill and starving after days wandering in the jungles or hiding out in caves, were astonished at the superior quality of food and medical treatment they received. Contrary to expectations, most Japanese POWs, psychologically unprepared to deal with interrogations, provided information to their captors. Trained Allied linguists, especially Japanese Americans, learned how to extract intelligence by treating the POWs humanely. Allied intelligence personnel took advantage of lax Japanese security precautions to gain extensive information from captured documents. A few POWs, recognizing Japan's certain defeat, even assisted the Allied war effort to shorten the war. Far larger numbers staged uprisings in an effort to commit suicide. Most sought to survive, suffered mental anguish, and feared what awaited them in their homeland. These deeply human stories follow Japanese prisoners through their camp experiences to their return to their welcoming families and reintegration into postwar society. These stories are told here for the first time in English.

## Book Information

Series: Adst-Dacor Diplomats and Diplomacy Book

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: University of Washington Press; 1st Pbk Ed edition (March 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0295985089

ISBN-13: 978-0295985084

Product Dimensions: 6.8 x 0.8 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,380,012 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #711 inÂ  Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Asian American Studies #2121 inÂ  Books > History > Asia > Japan #13199 inÂ  Books > History > Military > World War II

## Customer Reviews

Totalitarian regimes tend to discourage very strongly their soldiers from surrendering, even when the situation is hopeless and they already did their best. Staline treated Soviet POWs as traitors, Mao did the same thing with Chinese POWs after Korea War and even if from 1939 to 1943 Hitler didn't always ask his soldiers to fight to death, it changed very radically in 1944 and 1945 - in those years some Wehrmacht soldiers were shot for nothing more than simply discussing the idea of surrendering...However, with the possible exception of North Korea, no other country in modern history did a greater effort to indoctrinate its soldiers in a real cult of fight of death and absolute refusal to surrender, than Japan in the years between 1931 and 1945. In earlier Japanese wars against China (1894-95), against Russia (1904-05), against Germany in WWI (1914) or during the intervention in Russia (1918-1922) imperial soldiers were of course disocuraged from surrendering, as it was considered cowardly and dishonorable, but it was nevertheless tolerated in extreme circumstances, after all ways of fighting were exhausted. However with the advent of militaristic regime soon after the invasion of Manchuria in 1931, things changed. Since then the whole nation was intensely indoctrinated and instructed that surrendering in ANY situation was more than a dishonor, but a crime against the Emperor, the country and ones family - and therefore if fighting was no more possible, soldiers and even civilians were supposed to suicide rather than let themselves be captured. And during the great wars waged by Japan between 1937 and 1945 a large majority of soldiers and quite a lot of civilians (in places like Saipan and Okinawa) obeyed this rule.

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

The Anguish of Surrender: Japanese POWs of World War II World War 2 History's 10 Most Incredible Women: World War II True Accounts Of Remarkable Women Heroes (WWII history,

WW2, War books, world war 2 books, war history, World war 2 women) Prisoners of the Japanese: Pows of World War II in the Pacific World War 1: Soldier Stories: The Untold Soldier Stories on the Battlefields of WWI (World War I, WWI, World War One, Great War, First World War, Soldier Stories) America's Captives: Treatment of POWs from the Revolutionary War to the War on Terror (Modern War Studies (Hardcover)) Bento Box Cookbook: Delicious Japanese Cooking Recipes For Lunch And Dinner (Bento Box Recipes, Japanese Cooking, Japanese Recipes, Japanese Bento, Sushi, Rice Cooker) World War 1: World War I in 50 Events: From the Very Beginning to the Fall of the Central Powers (War Books, World War 1 Books, War History) (History in 50 Events Series) World War 2: World War II in 50 Events: From the Very Beginning to the Fall of the Axis Powers (War Books, World War 2 Books, War History) (History in 50 Events Series Book 4) War of Vengeance: Acts of Retaliation Against Civil War POWs Escape from the Japanese: The Amazing Tale of a PoWs Journey From Hong Kong to Freedom Vietnam War: The Vietnam War in 50 Events: From the First Indochina War to the Fall of Saigon (War Books, Vietnam War Books, War History) (History in 50 Events Series Book 6) Genki: An Integrated Course in Elementary Japanese II [Second Edition] (Japanese Edition) (English and Japanese Edition) Beyond Polite Japanese: A Dictionary of Japanese Slang and Colloquialisms (Power Japanese) Japanese Slanguage: A Fun Visual Guide to Japanese Terms and Phrases (English and Japanese Edition) Confessions of a Japanese Linguist - How to Master Japanese: (The Journey to Fluent, Functional, Marketable Japanese) Marines and Military Law in Vietnam: Trial by Fire - Legal Duty in Combat Zone, War Crime Conviction, POWs, Drugs, Fragging and Murder, Homicide on Patrol, Racial Conflict, Deserters, Uniform Code Given Up for Dead: American POWs in the Nazi Concentration Camp at Berga Soldiers of Misfortune: Washington's Secret Betrayal of American POWs in the Soviet Union Defiant: The POWs Who Endured Vietnam's Most Infamous Prison World War 2: German Tank Crew Stories: Eyewitness Accounts (German War, WW2, World War II, Soldier Stories, Waffen SS, Last Panther, DDay, Panzer, Hitler Book 1)

[Dmca](#)