



# No End Save Victory: Perspectives on World War II

*Robert Cowley (Editor) , Caleb Carr , William Manchester , Stephen E. Ambrose , Various*

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This collection of forty-four essays covers a wide range of World War II subjects and is written by bestselling and award-winning historians. Some highlights include Caleb Carr on Poland in 1939, the only campaign that Hitler won; Stephen E. Ambrose on a pivotal battle to take the Rhine; John Keegan on the siege of Berlin; Victor Davis Hanson on the charismatic and controversial Gen. Curtis LeMay; William Manchester on Churchill's failure to influence the French; and Antony Beevor on the battle for Stalingrad. The pieces have appeared in print only once before in the respected MHQ: The Military Journal of Military History.

## No End Save Victory: Perspectives on World War II Details

Date : Published April 2nd 2001 by Putnam Adult (first published 2001)

ISBN : 9780399147111

Author : Robert Cowley (Editor) , Caleb Carr , William Manchester , Stephen E. Ambrose , Various

Format : Hardcover 688 pages

Genre : History, War, World War II, Nonfiction, Military, Military History

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# **From Reader Review No End Save Victory: Perspectives on World War II for online ebook**

## **Alan says**

I listened to a Hoopla version, which, although quite good, has cut many of the essays. Will see if I can borrow full text.

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## **Sean Seger says**

Well like any collection of essays, the book is only as good as the current essay you are reading. Most of them were really well done. Some weren't. But overall it was a good book that brought to light new takes and details on events I kind of take for granted that I already knew.

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## **Justin Tapp says**

These books are a collection of essays by WWII historians like Stephen E. Ambrose. Some of the essays are extended excerpts from books by the authors and others are original essays highlighting some little-known or little-reported aspects about the war. If you're a history or WWII fan, I highly recommend these.

Among the most interesting are a re-printing of a diary of a Japanese kamikaze pilot who survived his attack and was captured. The profile of General Edwin P. King, who surrendered the largest U.S. force in history, was also great. A couple of the essays are from the little-reported viewpoints of the Japanese--kind of like Letters from Iwo Jima.

Volume 2 has an interesting essay about Operation Peppermint and the Allied fears that Nazi Germany had an atomic weapon. On D-Day several soldiers were assigned to discretely record radiation levels on the beach and observe any strange signs of radiation sickness. There was also a covert operation to destroy the Nazi's heavy water facility in Norway, and other operations to determine the extent of Germany's atomic knowledge. In Germany, Nazis inspected bomb craters with Geiger counters to see if the Allies were using atomic weapons.

There's also the story of a previously unknown Nazi landing in North America-- when Germany set up a weather station in Greenland.

Good stuff, five stars out of five. If you have to choose between one of the two sets, choose Volume 1.

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## **Steve says**

This is a fine book of short pieces covering different WW2 angles. It shouldn't be anyone's introduction to the subject, but is a great quick take at a sophisticated level of numerous aspects of the war. This is a worthwhile book.

But this isn't really a review but a rant. It's the title, "No End Save Victory", especially from an American perspective. I think it's extremely unfortunate in that it's accurate. My thesis: the US expended prodigious treasure and blood to achieve "Victory" and nothing else. The US won the war but lost the peace.

Why did "victory" lead to? A 45 year Cold War. Communist takeovers of Eastern Europe and China. Leading to the current Islamic sickness. Final collapse of any chance of a peaceful world order. Untold cataclysmic human misery.

I can't really blame American leadership for this disaster. Well, sort of. Clearly a bunch of them were Communist sympathizers or agents. And those that weren't, knew about it and didn't imprison or shoot those that were.

My rant is that we today refuse to recognize or discuss it. It's not a failure of the US GIs of which my dad was one, but the US leadership class. Our best and brightest have failed epically for a century. We need to collectively recognize this fact.

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## **K.D. Absolutely says**

*I started reading this book last Friday, Sept 1st 2011. I decided to read this as my way of remembering my dad who died on the same day 14 years ago. I did not know if he read any war books but I saw how attentive he was whenever a war movie was on the telly. When he migrated to the US, my brother regularly rented war movies just to make my dad happy.*

This book, **NO END SAVE VICTORY** is an anthology of 7 unforgettable stories by 7 most respected and well-known military historians. This book offers another glimpse at the seven important events during World War II (1939-1945) but this time in a concise, incisive and enthralling manner. Sometimes, you don't need to spend weeks on history books to appreciate what happened in the past. The order of the stories is based on the sequence of the actual events as captured by history books: starting with the siege of Poland by Hitler's German soldiers that officially started the war up to airing of **Emperor Showa Hirohito's** supposed to be surrender (but he used neither this word or defeat in his speech) radio message all of over Japan.

**Poland 1939** by **Caleb Carr** (4 stars) tells the story of the siege of Poland that started on September 1, 1939. I was amazed by the coincidence. I started reading this book on Sept 1st and it was also the day when World War II started. I have not a full-length or detailed book about Hitler (I am planning to read a couple of books currently in my tbr on this someday) so I found this book very informative. I particularly liked the fact that war analysts did not expect that the siege of Poland would last for 27 days and they attributed that to the Poland resistance to the bravery and tactical skill of the Polish soldiers.

**Diary of a Tail Gunner** by **John Gabay** (2 stars) is about an American flight fighter pilot. I admired the heroism but it just felt like an ordinary life of a soldier. The parts that make this portion worth listening to me are the first-person narrative and his description of the sky. It felt like one of those Richard Bach novels minus the philosophy or metaphorical statements. Instead, the narration is about hitting enemy planes or being hit and doing an emergency suspenseful landing in an enemies' territory.

**Berlin** by **John Keegan** (4 stars) takes us inside Berlin in the spring of 1945 during the most intense city siege in history. Siege of Berlin ended the war that lead to the Hitler's suicide. Even though what Hitler did for 7 years was considered as the most atrocious act (primarily holocaust) in the history of the world, his

suicide on the night of April 30, 1945 was just too sad because he could have been a good leader what with his charisma and ability to influence legions of people.

***The Last Barrier*** by **Stephen E. Ambrose** (3 stars) tells the miraculous story of a single American company that captured a bridge over the Rhine river Hitler had considered a barrier never to be broken. The writing is fluid and interesting. It's just that I could not relate to the events as I thought I need to know more about that part of history.

***King of Bataan*** by **Thaddeus Holt** (5 stars) is one of my favorite essays in the book. Obviously, the reason for this is that I am a Filipino and this part of that World War II will always be the closest to my heart. It tells the story of **Major General Edward P. King** who decided, risking court martial, to give up Bataan to the Japanese on April 9, 1942 defying the order of Generals Douglas MacArthur and Jonathan Wainwright to fight till the end. King reasoned that there was nothing he could do and his decision was because of the fact that he did not want Bataan to be the biggest manslaughter in the history of the world. Little did he know that surrendering the American-Filipino troops in Bataan would result to the infamous Death March and 3 years of imprisonment that also led to many deaths of approximately 600,000 lives including both American and Filipino forces.

*Sunday, Sept 3rd at 12:30 p.m. My wife and I were waiting for the first screening of the movie "One Day" in one of the theatres at Robinson's Galleria. Since it was the day's first screening, the Philippine National Anthem has to be played. Upon seeing on the screen "Pambasang Awit ng Pilipinas" as if by instinct, I and my wife stood up. However, at our back, there was a young couple who did not. I felt so bad. Many of our forefathers died fighting for our independence and our national flag and song represent all of us as a country. Yet, these two young people did not show respect to the song.*

***A Kamikazee's Story*** by **Kanji Suzuki** (4 stars) is another must-read essay about a Japanese *kamikaze* soldier who miraculously survived the suicide. He faced the shame of having survived the war when the more glorious option according to the Japanese faith, was to die for one's nation even in a suicide mission.

***The Voice of a Crane*** by **Thomas B. Allen and Norman Polmar** (3 stars) tells the story of the war after Americans bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I did not know that there were Japanese resistance forces that waged war in Tokyo and other Japanese cities upon learning the planned surrender. This resistance forces did not want to surrender to the Allied forces. Although the closing of the book is so sad with Emperor Showa Hirohito giving Japan's conditional surrender (without using the word), it expressed sadness over the fact that the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki claimed the lives of many innocent civilians and many of them were women and children.

Overall, World War II is just like most of any other wars. Two opposing beliefs. In the case of Bataan, It was part of Japan's advocacy of "racial equality" (they were recently subjected to oil boycott so they decided to conquer the oil-rich Dutch East Indies) and "Asia for Asians." On the other side, the US and its allies were protecting their interest and acting as world police forces among nations.

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**Greynomad says**

Just incredible stories from WWII.....

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### **Steve Scott says**

I just finished the audio book on a long drive from a Indiana to Kansas. It's a collection of essays on WW II by various authors. Leo Burmester did a decent job of reading it.

It's very good. John Gabay's "Diary Of A Tail Gunner" in particular stood out.

I don't normally do audio books...but I'm going to have to start! I can "read" while driving.

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### **Frederick Bingham says**

I listened to this on cassette on the way home from a meeting in Beaufort. This is a series of seven essays on relatively obscure aspects of WWII by various authors, Cowley is the editor. Some of the most interesting are these: Diary of a Tail Gunner is a series of diary entries from a soldier who served in a bomber crew in England. He describes various missions over Germany and occupied France. His harrowing descriptions of being chased by german fighter planes and getting shot at are amazing. The Voice of the Crane describes the last days of the japanese government during the war. It was not clear right up until the end that the japanese would actually surrender, even after having been hit by two atomic bombs. There was an attempted coup by elements of the army that wished to continue the war at all cost. The Emperor came on the radio and spoke to the japanese people directing them to accept surrender. The coup plotters almost captured the recordings of the speech that were to go onto the air. Poland 1939 is the story of the invasion of Poland at the outset of the war. Even though they were greatly overmatched, the Poles fought the germans and russians with tenacity and courage.

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### **Travis says**

Collection of brief articles/accounts on various, lesser-known episodes from the Second World War. Some are absolute gems, such as the account of the attempted palace coup in Japan at the very end of the war?

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### **Tom Schulte says**

Great collection of deep views into many different facets of this manifold topic. I was particularly impressed with the stories of the attempted coup in Japan, the Flying Fortress tailgunner diary, and the behind-the-scenes stories of Bataan and the Bridge at Remagen.

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