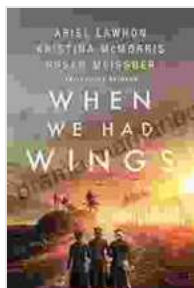


The Angels of Bataan: A Story of Sacrifice, Courage, and Unbreakable Spirit



When We Had Wings: A Story of the Angels of Bataan

by Kristina McMorris

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 452 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Print length : 416 pages

Screen Reader : Supported

X-Ray for textbooks : Enabled



Amidst the horrors of World War II, a group of extraordinary nurses emerged as beacons of hope and resilience. Known as the Angels of Bataan, these courageous women endured unimaginable hardships during the Battle of Bataan in the Philippines, serving as a poignant testament to the indomitable spirit of humanity.

The Battle of Bataan

In December 1941, the Japanese invaded the Philippines, targeting the US-held Bataan Peninsula as a strategic military objective. American and Filipino forces fought valiantly, but were outnumbered and outgunned. By April 1942, the Japanese had breached the American defenses, forcing the surrender of the remaining 76,000 Allied troops.

The Angels of Bataan

Among the Allied forces were approximately 1,000 nurses, mostly from the United States Army Nurse Corps. These women had volunteered to serve in the Philippines, motivated by a deep sense of duty and compassion. They were assigned to various field hospitals, where they tirelessly cared for the wounded and sick.

As the battle raged, the situation for the nurses became increasingly desperate. Japanese troops overran the hospitals, capturing and interrogating the nurses. Facing threats and deprivation, the nurses refused to betray their oath or abandon their patients.

Prisoners of War

After the surrender, the Angels of Bataan were taken prisoner by the Japanese and endured a harrowing 37-month ordeal. They were subjected to harsh conditions, including malnutrition, disease, and forced labor. Despite these hardships, they maintained their dignity and professionalism, providing medical care to their fellow prisoners and maintaining a sense of community.

Throughout their captivity, the nurses faced countless challenges and witnessed unimaginable suffering. They risked their lives to smuggle food and medicine to other prisoners, organized educational programs, and tended to the sick and dying.

Liberation and Aftermath

In August 1945, the Japanese surrendered, and the Angels of Bataan were finally liberated. They had survived unimaginable horrors, but their spirit remained unbroken. Upon their return to the United States, they were hailed as heroes.

In the years that followed, the Angels of Bataan played an active role in veteran organizations and dedicated their lives to various humanitarian causes. They established the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Memorial Foundation to preserve the legacy of their fellow prisoners of war.

Legacy and Impact

The story of the Angels of Bataan is a testament to the extraordinary courage and resilience of the human spirit. Faced with unimaginable adversity, these women refused to succumb to despair. Their unwavering dedication to their patients, their unwavering support for each other, and their indomitable spirit are an inspiration to us all.

The legacy of the Angels of Bataan continues to inspire countless others. Their story has been told in books, documentaries, and films, ensuring that their sacrifice and heroism will never be forgotten. Memorials and monuments honoring their bravery have been erected, serving as a reminder of their indomitable spirit.

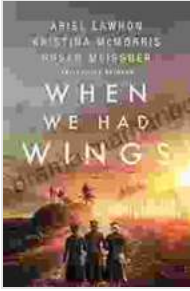
The Angels of Bataan stand as a timeless example of the power of the human spirit to overcome adversity. Their unwavering commitment to their patients, their selfless service, and their unbreakable resilience are a testament to the extraordinary potential within us all. Their story is a reminder that even in the darkest of times, hope and compassion can prevail.

When We Had Wings: A Story of the Angels of Bataan

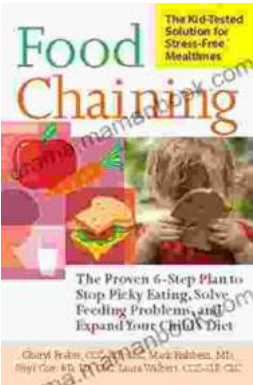
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