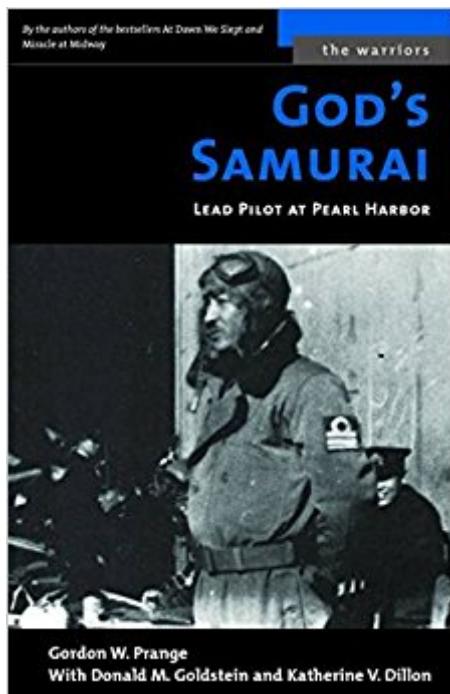


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God's Samurai: Lead Pilot At Pearl Harbor (The Warriors)



Synopsis

God's Samurai is the unusual story of Mitsuo Fuchida, the career aviator who led the attack on Pearl Harbor and participated in most of the fiercest battles of the Pacific war. A valuable record of major events, it is also the personal story of a man swept along by his times. Reared in the vanished culture of early twentieth-century Japan, war hero Fuchida returned home to become a simple farmer. After a scandalous love affair came his remarkable conversion to Christianity and years of touring the world as an evangelist. His tale is an informative, personal look at the war "from the other side."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is made of two parts, of which the first one is surprisingly weak, when the second one is even more surprisingly interesting. I was very surprised that the man who led the Pearl Harbour attack and was present on Nagumo's flagship at Midway in the heat of action had ultimately not that much to say about those historical moments. In fact the whole part describing Fuchida's military career was very disappointing. In his account he avoids almost completely the topic of Japanese war against China, which raged already for four years before Pearl Harbour. His description of the Pacific War is very superficial and he mostly just repeats all the good advice he gave to his superiors, which of course they did not listen to. One can even have the impression, that Japan would win the war if only its leaders listened to Commander Fuchida. In the whole first part of the book there is only one chapter which I found extremely interesting (and very funny), describing

Fuchida reporting about Pearl Harbour attack to Hiro Hito himself during a rare audience granted by the Emperor in December 1941. The rest of this first part is very poorly written and presents also a double weakness - if you are not familiar with Pacific War history, you will not understand it and if you have some knowledge of this topic, you will get bored...The second part of the book, describing Fuchida's civilian life in the ruins of post war Japan and especially his conversion to Christianity, was to my surprise much more interesting. Even today many Japanese are not very friendly towards Christianity and 60 years ago anti-Christian feeling was much stronger there. The cultural shock between the new convert and his neighbors and friends was very strong.

This is about Fuchida Mitsu- his life, his times, his works and his death. Those who seek an essay on the attack on Pearl Harbor, or perhaps a narrated commentary of the Japanese side of the Pacific War should most certainly look elsewhere. You WILL NOT find what you seek here. Those who seek to know a man who lead a most astounding life, and who found a peace that few others are fortunate enough to know... THIS BOOK IS FOR YOU. THE WAR: While the War is covered in a way that other fighting men will appreciate, many without military experience will find it hard to stomach. People on the homefront don't realize that warriors generally only fight 'on alternate Tuesdays, weather permitting' so to speak. This book does a grand job of showing that- in spite of being one of Japan's foremost strategic thinkers, Fuchida experiences huge amounts of downtime, even before his injury. Like most sailors, he spends his time mostly sailing from one battle to another, and his recollections are colored by this. They also make evident that even important planners can only see the war through one set of eyes- their own. The book touches solidly on Fuchida's personal experiences during the war: the planning and execution of the Pearl Harbor raid, the planning and combat at Midway and the resultant loss of his beloved Akagi, and his injury and recuperation in Japan- to include his acting as a 'freelance adviser' to many of Japan's late-war strategies as he convalesces. It also covers several accidents of Coincidence that ensures that a man determined to die for his Emperor and his Nation lives to see the end of the war. It additionally branches out to include stories and second-hand information gathered from close friends and associates...

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