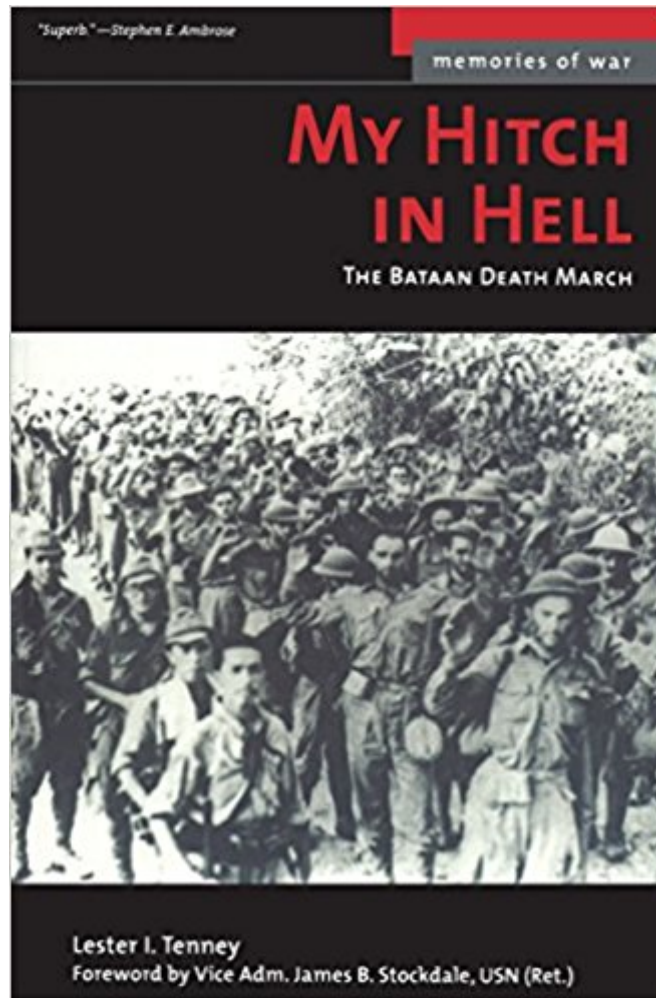




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# My Hitch In Hell (Memories Of War)



## Synopsis

Captured by the Japanese after the fall of Bataan, Lester Tenney was one of the very few who would survive the legendary Death March and three and a half years in Japanese prison camps. With an understanding of human nature, a sense of humor, sharp thinking, and fierce determination, Tenney endured the rest of the war as a slave laborer in Japanese prison camps. *My Hitch in Hell* is an inspiring survivor's epic about the triumph of human will despite unimaginable human suffering.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Tenney here recounts his experiences as a GI during the fall of the Philippines in 1941, his participation in the Bataan death march and his three-year ordeal in Camp 17, the harshest POW camp in Japan. He witnessed devastating atrocities, including serial slaughter that was a kind of athletic exercise for the guards. Soon after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, he was set free; his wanderings about the countryside and interactions with Japanese civilians and leaderless soldiers form the most interesting sections of this engrossing book. Tenney suffered unexpected heartbreak when, upon being reunited with his family, he learned that his wife, believing him killed in action, had remarried. He also experienced depression based largely on his image of himself as one of "the losers who had surrendered" in the Philippines. In 1988, he revisited Japan and found that his psychic war wounds were beginning to heal. For all the suffering he witnessed and endured, Tenney's memoir is remarkably upbeat. He is a retired professor of finance at Arizona State

University. Photos. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

"Riveting . . . A grim story of heroic survival." --- "Kirkus Reviews"

Dr. Lester Tenney authors this firsthand account of the fall of Bataan during WWII and its horrific aftermath. The daily barbaric and sadistic lawlessness was so rampant and prolific, that I found portions of this book just unbearable and quite difficult to read -- albeit I did. Dr. Tenney and his allied comrades endured 3 and half years of sadistic treatment, torture and systemic starvation. This heinous and cruel barbaric treatment was doled out at the whim of his Japanese captors. Lester also provides for some grim statistics: 55,000 personnel died while in defense of the Philippines, providing for a 2:1 ratio; that is two deaths for every one survivor. Just on the Bataan Death March alone, of the 60,000 Filipinos and 12,000 Americans that began their 68 mile forced march, only 7,500 would live to see the end of that horrendous war... of that number approximately 1,500 survivors were American. I really enjoyed the last few chapters of this book, as it dealt with Lester's physical/emotional liberation and his subsequent acclimation back into the civilian world. His optimistic outlook is what kept him going day-in and day-out of being brutally beaten and starved for the duration of the war, (his prewar weight was 185 lbs. and postwar weight was 101 lbs.). It seemed that no matter what his captors did to him he would press on and roll with the punches. Truly this was his second nature, and a life lesson that he used during and after the war. I've been fortunate to visit, (in peacetime), Bataan, Corregidor, and Camp O'Donnell, and can only imagine the depths of what you endured. Dr. Tenney I salute you and your comrades.

I bought this book, put it down meaning to get to it and then got sidetracked for 6 months. Just read it in the past few days and, man - what an incredible story. I knew little about the Bataan Death March but this book has inspired me to learn more. It was riveting in itself, well-told and, as another reviewer said, the pages turned themselves. I was glad to see that the author, 50 years later, took in a Japanese student and was subsequently invited back to Japan with him as a wedding guest. Humanity at its best, though I seriously doubt that I am equipped with the emotional and mental strength to have not only survived, but survive well as Dr. Tenney did. He truly was part of the Greatest Generation.

Les Tenney was my finance and insurance professor at ASU back in the early seventies, and I

vividly remember his stories of the Bataan death march as he wove them into his classes. Les is a brilliant teacher, and his articulate, instructive manner permeates this well written book. At each chapter, just as the reader thinks things can't get any worse, they get horribly worse. The only thing that saved his life were his entrepreneurship and willingness to learn Japanese so he could literally bargain with the guards for his life. He is the only one I have ever met who actually saw the mushroom cloud over Nagasaki. Not covered in the book is the fact that the U.S., alone among its allies, never compensated the victims for five years of hell as slave laborers in the coal mines of Japan, and he has been a tireless advocate of this with Congress, to no avail. A difficult and gruesome read, but you can't put it down. A must read for anyone interested in World War II, and in achieving justice by compensation for these great patriots.

I had heard of the Bataan death march, but I didn't understand fully the suffering endured by the American and Filipino POWs, after their surrender to Japan. These men were forced to walk the 63 miles to Bataan in the hot sun with no food or water. In addition to starvation, they suffered from malaria, dysentery, and other diseases. The ones who fell were shot. Lester Tenney was among the small number who survived and shared his personal story.

A story that everyone should read this account should be required reading Very graphic and heart wrenching Yes it was the greatest generation !!!

This novel is about an American WWII soldier captured by the Japanese and what happened to him as a POW. He is a Bataan Death survivor, as well as a POW in the Philippines and Japan. I cannot summarize the story author Lester I Tenney has to tell his readers. I recommend reading this book for anyone who has interest in our US military history. This story is as much a part of the history of WWII as any other book written about this war. Recently, I met a survivor of the Bataan Death March and his story was equally awful. We owe so much to our military and especially all POW's.

Written by a POW giving their insight...something I couldn't extract from my father...also a POW from the same battles and camp.

This book was incredible. The writing was superb because it pulled you into the story and made you feel as though you were there and experiencing what this man felt. The emotion caused me at times to weep. I am a Vietnam Veteran so I know a little about going to war but not much I've decided

since reading this book. The unbreakable spirit and determination to survive, setting small goals each and every day is a lesson for all of us no matter what we are going through. I salute you Mr. Tenney for your service and for sharing this experience with us. You are an amazing individual as are all the men and women who went through this.

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