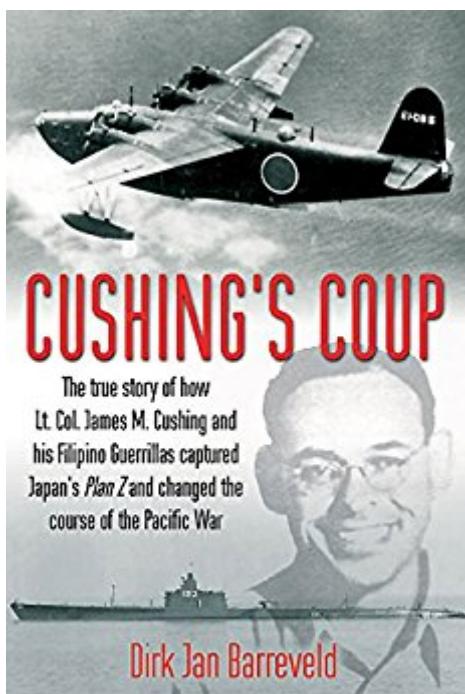


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Cushing's Coup: The True Story Of How Lt. Col. James Cushing And His Filipino Guerrillas Captured Japan's Plan Z



Synopsis

This work reveals one of the most important intelligence triumphs of World War II. It was no less than the capture of Japan's "Plan Z" the Empire's fully detailed strategy for prosecuting the last stages of the Pacific War. It's a story of happenstance, mayhem, and intrigue, and resulted directly in the spectacular U.S. victory in the Philippine Sea and MacArthur's early return to Manila, doubtless shortening WWII by months. One night in April 1944, Admiral Koga (successor to Yamamoto), commander-in-chief of Japanese forces in the Pacific, took off in a seaplane to establish new headquarters. For security reasons he had his chief-of-staff, Rear Admiral Fukudome, fly in a separate seaplane. But both aircraft ran into a tremendous typhoon and were knocked out of the skies. Koga's plane crashed with the loss of all hands. Fukudome's crash landed into the sea off Cebu, the Philippines, and both the admiral and the precious Japanese war plans floated ashore. Lt. Col. James M. Cushing was an American mining engineer who happened to be in Cebu when war broke out in the Pacific. He soon took charge of the local guerrillas and became a legendary leader. But his most spectacular exploit came when he captured Admiral Fukudome and the "Plan Z" that was in his tow. The result was a ferocious cat-and-mouse game between Cushing's guerrillas and the Japanese occupation forces. While Cushing desperately sent out messages to MacArthur to say what he had found, the Japanese scoured the entire countryside, killing hundreds of civilians in a full-scale attempt to retrieve their loss. Cushing finally traded the admiral in return for a cessation of civilian deaths—but he still secretly retained the Japanese war plans. Naturally both Tokyo and Washington tried to cover up what was happening at the time—neither wanted the other to know what they'd lost, or what they'd found. However, in this book we finally learn of the huge intelligence coup by Lt. Col. Cushing that helped to shorten the entire war.

Book Information

File Size: 23272 KB

Print Length: 304 pages

Publisher: Casemate (July 19, 2015)

Publication Date: July 24, 2017

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B0133WGMMG

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #468,934 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #116 in [Books > History > Asia > Philippines](#) #129 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Asia > Japan](#) #230 in [Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Asia > Southeast Asia > Philippines](#)

Customer Reviews

"Cushing's Coup" is an exciting account of one of possibly the greatest of the many outstanding intelligence successes scored by the Filipino-American guerrillas for the Allies in the Pacific Theater. The book chronicles the rise of guerrilla forces on the Philippines island of Cebu as soon as the Japanese occupation began. Several Americans, including mining engineer James Cushing, were key figures in organizing and leading the resistance that made life difficult and costly for the Japanese on a relatively small island. The book details the 1942-45 insurgency, but its finest hour came when a Japanese flying boat carrying the Japanese fleet's chief of staff crashed just off the island. Cushing's partisans captured the chief of staff and, more importantly, plans for the Imperial Japanese Navy's last-stand defensive strategy for defending the Philippines from the returning U.S. Navy. The Japanese put great pressure on Cushing's guerrilla bands and the civilians on Cebu, prompting Cushing to eventually exchange his high-value prisoner for the occupiers to end their ruthless counter-insurgency effort. Cushing, however, did not surrender the secret Japanese plans. Filipino fishermen had salvaged near the wreckage and put them on the next U.S. submarine to Australia and MacArthur's headquarters. The information proved invaluable in the U.S. crushing of the Japanese fleet in the subsequent Battle of Leyte Gulf in October 1945.

A fine assembly of diverse facts, documents, and actions. Astounding circumstance complimented with sacrifice and bravery. Erudite, but lacking emotion.

Very interesting history of a part of the war that has not received enough attention

Excellent WW II history reading. Excellent author.

Very good book, I would recommend this to WWII historians

I knew about Jim years ago. I knew his brother Frank real well. The book was right on.

Excellent book about a forgotten chapter in WW II

James Cushing was an American mining engineer working in the Philippine Islands when the Japanese invaded under the banner of Asia for the Asians. Most of the population favored America with the promise of imminent independence. The Japanese won few well wishers with conduct that created in the words of General Douglas MacArthur a "saga of blood." Cushing became a leader in one of the many guerrilla units that coalesced to fight the Japanese. Conditions for the guerrillas were bad with poor food, disease and the possibility of death their constant companions. The author also describes the tensions within the guerrilla groups that on occasion led to death. All of this provides an interesting background for when a Japanese warplane carrying a Japanese admiral with high level war plans crashed just off the coast. There began a desperate race between the Japanese trying to recover the plans and Cushing and his colleagues trying to spirit them to the American command in Australia. General MacArthur later described this race as one of the "most dramatic incidents of the war...." Mr. Barreveld has done justice to the story.

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