



Captured: The Forgotten Men of Guam
By Roger Mansell, edited by Linda Goetz Holmes
Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 2012, 228 pages

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Upon until his passing in October 2010, Roger Mansell dedicated countless hours in researching the experiences of American World War II prisoners of war (POWs) in the Pacific. His efforts continue to touch the lives of many people. This has included assisting in finding the remains of POWs, linking up survivors of POW camps with each other, and providing family members with information on their loved ones who had been POWs. His research continues to be utilized on the website he developed, which is still active today — <http://www.mansell.com/pow-index.html>.

Prior to his death, Mansell was near completion on a book tied to his efforts. With the manuscript complete, what was now needed was someone with subject matter expertise to edit it. That someone was Linda Goetz Holmes. Clearly, Holmes possessed the expertise with many books published on POWs held in Japan during World War II. Her knowledge of the subject and past experience in publishing her own works were instrumental in bringing *Captured* to fruition.

The inspiration for *Captured* began when Mansell started his research of POWs in the Pacific. In his acknowledgments section he states, "As I gathered more stories, I realized no one had written much about the military and civilian personnel captured on Guam in the early days of the Pacific war; this became my mission for the next 10 years." Without question, Mansell achieves this mission and fills a void in our understanding of this area within World War II.

Within *Captured*, Mansell tells the story of the Guam POWs in significant detail — time spent in Guam prior to the Japanese invasion, their actions during the attack, their capture and subsequent movement to the POW camps in Japan, their years in captivity, and their ultimate release from the camps following Japan's surrender. Readers will obviously not truly understand what the POWs experienced, but they certainly obtain an appreciation of it.

The key ingredients in accomplishing this are the outstanding organizational skills and writing ability of Mansell (with the support of Holmes). First, the organization of the volume is superb. I have read several prior books of this genre where the author had difficulty connecting events, which made the volume a bit confusing to read. This is not the case in *Captured*. Mansell and Holmes have expertly developed a chronological flow which makes it effortless to follow the story of the Guam POWs.

The writing within *Captured* is exceptional. What is readily apparent is the ability of Mansell to express the wide spectrum of emotions through the complete ordeal of the Guam POWs. He captures the unthinkable lows of their captivity to the incredible highs of their release. In between, there is no sugarcoating or understating of anything the POWs experienced.