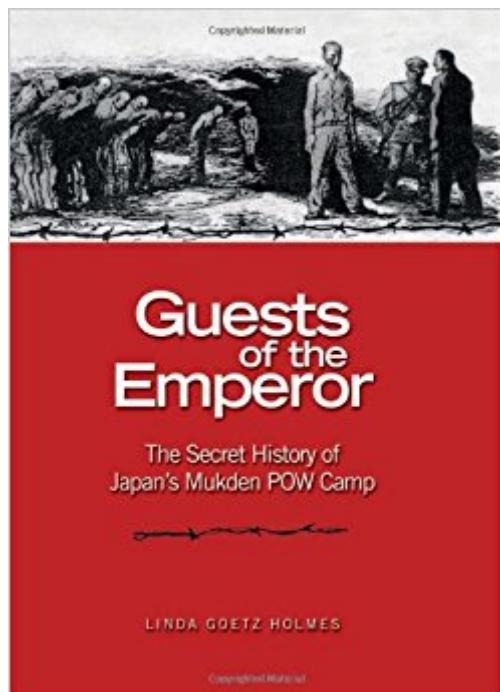


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# Guests Of The Emperor: The Secret History Of Japan's Mukden POW Camp



## **Synopsis**

The one unresolved issue of the Pacific War is the treatment of our prisoners of war, during and after World War II, both by the Japanese and by our own government. Never before in our military history have so many Americans, military and civilian, been taken captive by an enemy at one time. It was a triumph for the Japanese, and an embarrassment to our own government. Over 36,000 men, mostly military but some civilian, were thrown into Japanese military POW camps, forced to labor for companies working to meet quotas for Japan's war effort. Guests of the Emperor takes you inside the largest fixed military prison camp in the Japanese Empire: Mitsubishi's huge factory complex at Mukden, Manchuria, where 1,200 American prisoners were subjected to brutal cold, starvation, beatings, medical experiments and an extremely high death rate while being forced to help manufacture parts for Mitsubishi's Zero fighter planes. This book is the first to reveal conclusively that some Americans at Mukden were singled out for medical experiments by Japan's biological warfare team, the infamous Unit 731, located just a few hundred miles from this camp. Nowhere else did American prisoners despise their officers so much; commit more creative sabotage; survive such brutal cold; endure death by friendly fire; and require the combined efforts of an OSS rescue team and special recovery unit, to come home alive. Anyone who wants to know more about the Pacific War, with all its contradictions and deceptions, will want to read *The Manchurian Mystery*.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

In WWII more than 2,000 American, British, and Australian soldiers were transferred from POW

camps in the Philippines and Southeast Asia to the largest single Japanese POW camp in existence, at Mukden, China (now Shenyang). There, they were used as forced labor for Japanese manufacturing giant Mitsubishi, best known at the time for the famed Zero fighter, in open violation of the Geneva Conventions. Conditions at Mukden were brutal, with freezing temperatures, routine beatings, forced malnourishment, and the withholding of medicine. One chilling report referenced the testing of biological weapons on the American prisoners. Much has been written about the conditions in German POW camps of the same period, but even the Nazi Party wasn't willing to risk disregarding the Geneva Conventions. Japan, however, never contemplated the possibility of defeat, or its repercussions, and this secret history shows not only the extent of their arrogance and brutality during the war to end all wars, but also the resilience and determination of the allied prisoners. (Aug.) (c) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Linda Goetz Holmes, was the first Pacific War historian appointed to advise the government's Interagency Working Group declassifying documents on World War II crimes. The author of *Unjust Enrichment: How Japan's Companies Built Postwar Fortunes Using American POWs* and *4000 Bowls of Rice: A Prisoner of War Comes Home*, she lives in Shelter Island, NY.

It's amazing to me that any men who are tortured, starved, overworked, frozen, beaten, and not given even basic medical care can survive three years. And even worse is that most of their officers who were supposed to protect them were stealing from them and doing nothing but protecting their own interests. Nor were the poor men receiving mail and care packages from home or the red cross packages. And, when they did start receiving some of these comforts the boxes were pilfered before the POW's received anything. The research is superb, but the writing is bland, repetitive, and disjointed which made it difficult to read. Still, the information is heart breaking, horrifying, outrageous, and maddening. Those poor men.

I have been trying to research my uncle's years in captivity at the hands of the Japanese. This book has given me the most information as to what he was subjected to during his time at Mukden. Since I found this book, and started reading it, I have found out that my uncle was one of the Mukden 150 that was transferred to Kamioka lead mines. Now to find any books on Kamioka for additional information as my uncle died when his liberation flight crashed in Formosa, now Tiawan.

An informative book about the horrors the prisoners of the Japanese army endured. My father was one of these prisoners and the accounts he told me match what's written here, plus this gave me more information than he was able to share. Not an easy read but it certainly gave me new insight and respect for what the survivors went through.

Great material, thanks

This book was a gift for my father-in-law. His father was a POW. He was very thrilled to get this book. Very accurate historically.

Sad part of history. But within 10 years I lived in Japan as a Marine and found the people to be like our, sometimes run by corrupt leaders.

This is a nice companion piece to Ms. Holmes other book, Unjust Enrichment. This book is more focused on the Mukden camp.

"Guests of the Emperor: the Secret History of Japan's Mukden POW Camp," by Linda Goetz Holmes, examines one of the darker chapters of World War II history. This is the story of more than 1,500 American prisoners of war who were captured in the opening stages of the Pacific war. Many of these men were captured in the Philippines as part of the Imperial Japanese Navy's opening assaults against the Americans in 1941. The Japanese forced these men to march 60 miles across the Philippines - the Bataan Death March was just the beginning of the Hell these men would endure. The Mitsubishi Corporation needed additional skilled workers for their factories. Against the Geneva Convention, the Japanese culled 'skilled' workers from the prisoners in the Philippines and put them on a Hell ship destined for China. The men were forced to live in fetid conditions during the voyage. They joined additional British and Australian prisoners who were shipped from the failed defense of Singapore. From here, these men were transported to the Mukden prisoner camp where the men became slave labor for the Japanese war effort. There seemed to be no end to the war crimes of the Japanese. While at Mukden, the nefarious Unit 731 came to the camp to subject the men to medical experiments. Holmes draws on personal interviews from some of the remaining survivors, local Chinese witnesses, and official records from both American and Japanese archives. The stories are complemented with numerous black & white photographs and hand drawings. She did an excellent job of researching and retelling the story of this regrettable chapter of World War II.

highly recommend this book for readers interested in the Pacific Theater of World War II.

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