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Samurai!: The Autobiography Of Japan's World War Two Flying Ace (Uncommon Valor)



Synopsis

Samurai!, first published in 1957, is the war-time account of Saburo Sakai, the leading Japanese fighter ace to survive the Second World War. Sakai, born in 1916, hoped to escape the poverty of life in his rural village by enlisting in the Imperial Japanese Navy at age 16. In 1937, he graduated at the top of his pilot-training class, and soon saw combat in China. Later, against the Allies, Sakai engaged in more than two hundred dogfights, from the Philippines to Iwo Jima, and by war's end had reportedly downed a staggering total of 64 Allied aircraft. His most renowned accomplishment occurred after action over Guadalcanal in August 1942; partially paralyzed and nearly blind from multiple wounds, Sakai managed to fly his damaged plane 560 miles to Rabaul and safely land his Zero fighter. By the end of World War II he had logged 3,700 flight hours, including some 1,500 hours in the Zero. *Samurai!* provides a unique look into the Samurai character and the human emotions of soldiers in any war, regardless of race or nationality. In addition to Sakai's personal story, the book remains an invaluable eyewitness account of some of the most famous battles in the Pacific. This new edition includes nine pages of photographs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I read the original paperback as a high school student in the late 1950s. This version is a transcription with several typos and least two, short portions of the original, omitted. Regardless, I was happy to purchase and read this cost effective version. It's a wonderful bio. As an aside, if you will Google "Saburo Saka"i and review "Saburo Sakai the Merciful", you will read the words of a

Dutch nurse who was flying in a Dutch DC-3 (C-47) over Java with many children when they were met by a Zero. The pilot saw the nurse and children viewing him. He did not shoot. Years later the nurse discovered the pilot was Sakai. Sakai validated the story.

A well written first hand account of fighter combat in WWII written by the highest scoring Japanese ace to survive the war. Full of accounts of combat and some romance when he falls in love. He survives an injury which causes the loss of his right eye but continues to fly combat missions. He experiences great sadness over the loss of friends in combat. For those who are fans of first hand accounts of combat, this is an interesting perspective from the other side of the war.

The story is five star all the way and I would have given it five stars except for the numerous typos that I found a little distracting. For anyone who has never read about the air war with Japan from their side, this book is a real eye opener. It's an exciting read that I found hard to lay down. Saburo Sakai is an astounding individual as was a handful of his contemporaries who also appear in this work.

I first read this book as a kid back in the early 70s. I loved it. There were a few typos in this rendition but nothing to make a big deal about.

A great read. The only reason I didn't give it five stars was this edition contained dozens of typos including some sentences that were incomplete or jumbled. That didn't take away from the story but I was just surprised to see so many typos as I read a lot of books and don't recall any other books with more than one or two typos.

Great book, new perspective by a humble war vet. Lots of personal time and not the military log of troop movements.

Great book a must for any WW2 enthusiast

an interesting look at the life of a Japanese pilot in WWII their everyday personal experiences. easy reading story, not great literature.

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