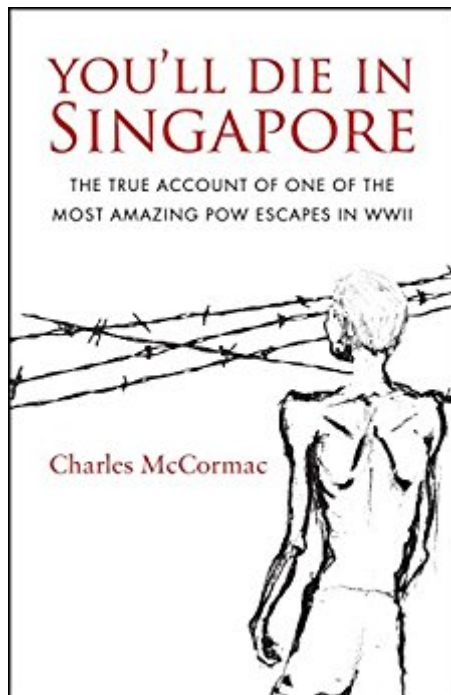


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# You'll Die In Singapore: The True Account Of One Of The Most Amazing POW Escapes In WWII



## Synopsis

Weakened by hunger, thirst and ill-treatment, author Charles McCormac, then a World War Two prisoner-of-war in Japanese-occupied Singapore, knew that if he did not escape he would die. With sixteen others he broke out of Pasir Panjang camp and began an epic two-thousand-mile escape from the island of Singapore, through the jungles of Indonesia to Australia. With no compass and no map, and only the goodwill of villagers and their own wits to rely on, the British and Australian POWs' escape took a staggering five months and only two out of the original seventeen men survived. You'll Die in Singapore is Charles McCormac's compelling true account of one of the most horrifying and amazing escapes in World War Two. It is a story of courage, endurance and compassion, and makes for a very gripping read.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Charles McCormac was a wireless operator/air gunner in the RAF assigned to Seletar Airfield, Singapore pre-war. At the time of the Japanese invasion of Singapore he joined forces with a group constructing a roadblock on Bukit Timah Road. These men lost contact with Allied Forces, and did not realise that the British had surrendered on February 15th. The next day they encountered Japanese soldiers, three of whom McCormac killed with his Thompson Submachinegun. McCormac

was taken prisoner and placed in a special POW cage at Pasir Panjang. The military and civilian prisoners held there were isolated because the Japanese believed they had committed grave offences against Japan. McCormac was brutally interrogated by the Kempei Tai at their headquarters in the YMCA building on Orchard Road. The Japanese summarily executed groups of prisoners held at Pasir Panjang in front of the others. McCormac believed the only chance for him and his fellow prisoners was to escape. This is the fantastic story of that escape.

I echo the comments of the other reviewers in stating this book is superb! I am an Escape Aficionado - I have read probably two dozen books dealing with POWs - and this is one of the best! That human beings are able to keep pushing on in the deplorable conditions McCormac recounts is a tribute to the human spirit. McCormac's writing puts you in the midst of the action - a truly gripping read. McCormac's story is recounted (amongst others) in the good book *Escape-Or Die*, by Paul Brickhill (who also wrote "The Great Escape". Other Escape/POW books recommended are "Sitting it Out" (by author of *Von Ryan's Express*) Westheimer, *Escaper's Progress* (David James), *Escape from the Rising Sun* (Ian Skidmore), *Long Way Back to the River Kwai* (Velmans), *Escape from Corregidor* (Whitcomb) and *South from Corregidor* (John Morrill), *Lonely Vigil* (Walter Lord) and *The War Journal of Major Damon "Rocky" Gause: The Firsthand Account of One of the Greatest Escapes of World War II*. Enjoy!

This interesting account exemplifies the extremes of human behavior brought about by war. The courage of Charles McCormack and his fellow escapees and their hunger to survive against all odds....The extreme cruelty of their Japanese captors, committing atrocities that are difficult for the average person of today to comprehend.... The kindness of the many people who helped these brave men to overcome the odds against them. People with nothing to gain from doing so. This book is one of the best accounts of the suffering and triumphs of survivors of the Japanese prison camps that I have ever read. Well written and exciting. I couldn't put it down. Highly recommended.

Well written, just the right amount of words, not too much or too little. Many times reading this I felt I was there. I started reading it in the morning, could not put it down until I finished it that night. Highly recommended.

It was very exciting to read and very shocking that the Japanese could be so inhuman. Amazing story of survival and using common sense to stay alive. They were very fortunate the natives helped

them out.

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