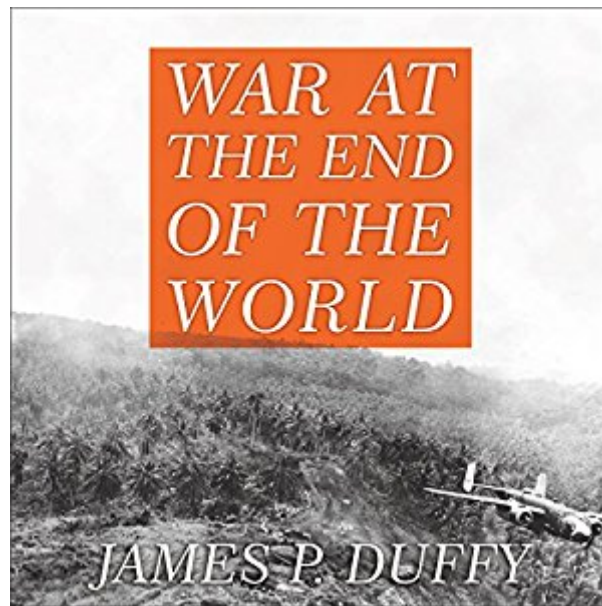


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# War At The End Of The World: Douglas MacArthur And The Forgotten Fight For New Guinea 1942-1945



## Synopsis

One American soldier called it "a green hell on Earth". Monsoon-soaked wilderness, debilitating heat, impassable mountains, torrential rivers, and disease-infested swamps - New Guinea was a battleground far more deadly than the most fanatical of enemy troops. Japanese forces numbering some 600,000 men began landing in January 1942, determined to seize the island as a cornerstone of the empire's strategy to knock Australia out of the war. Allied commander-in-chief General Douglas MacArthur committed 340,000 Americans, in addition to tens of thousands of Australian, Dutch, and New Guinean troops, to retake New Guinea at all costs. In this gripping narrative, historian James P. Duffy chronicles the most ruthless combat of the Pacific War, a fight complicated by rampant tropical disease, violent rainstorms, and unforgiving terrain that punished both Axis and Allied forces alike. Drawing on primary sources, *War at the End of the World* fills in a crucial gap in the history of World War II while offering listeners a narrative of the first rank.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Excellent work on the New Guinea campaign. Author James Duffy gives the reader an excellent history, well told, encompassing the ground, air and naval war in 1942-1943. The author begins with the taking of Rabaul on New Britain by the Japanese, creating an outpost for Japanese air, ground and naval forces. The author moves on to Gen. Douglas MacArthur being ordered to leave the Philippines and go to Australia. From there, MacArthur would plan and lead the Allies comeback in the Southwest Pacific theater. James Duffy does an excellent job of chronicling the campaign from

beginning to end. Quite rightly, he highlights the contribution of the Australians, especially in the beginning, that were the main ground assets available to MacArthur. The tough "Aussies" were both unblooded soldiers and two divisions of veterans of North Africa who had already seen combat and were experienced. Duffy gives the reader a good idea of the physical environment of the island with its hot, humid, malarial jungles and high, rugged mountains. The reader will quickly realize that the Southwest Pacific had a very low priority for reinforcement and equipment. In the beginning, an invasion force may consist of several destroyers with a number of destroyer transports, tugs, trawlers, steamers, etc. It is apparent to the reader that the US Navy wanted to do as little as possible to assist MacArthur preferring instead to fight their own war against the Imperial Japanese Navy. MacArthur and his command had to do more with less. When one reads about the comparison of casualties between MacArthur's operations and the bloodbaths like Tarawa in the Central Pacific, much of it is a result of the paucity of resources at SWPA's command.

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