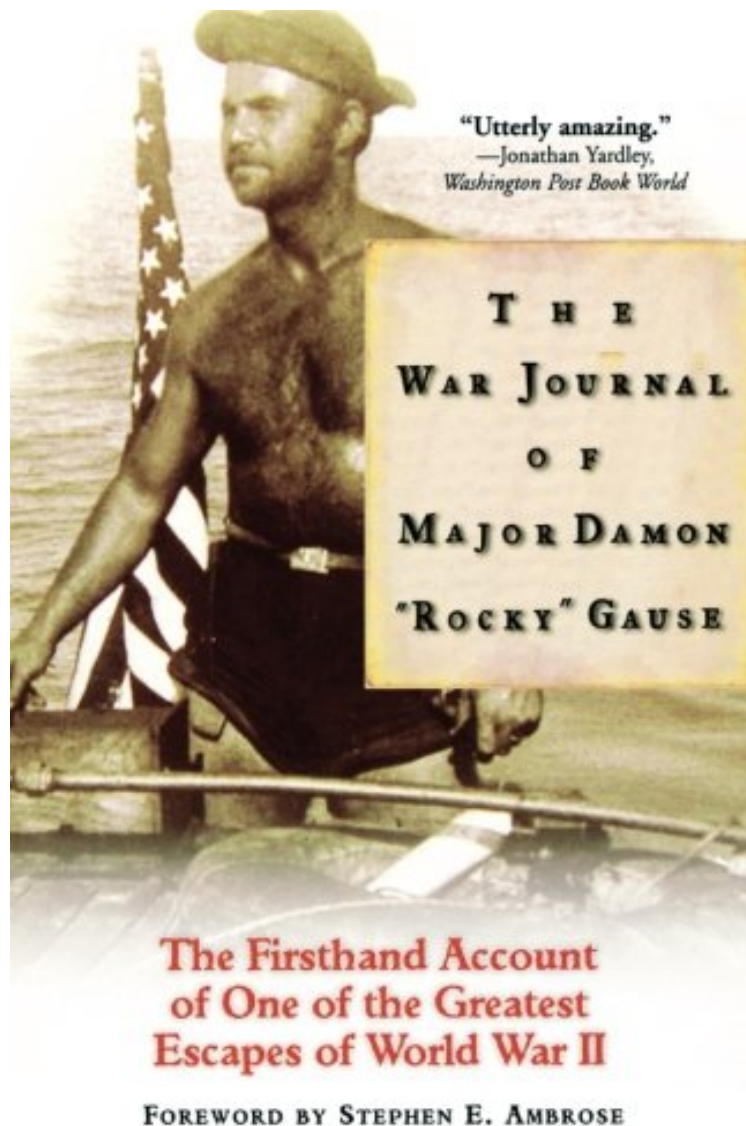


(Pdf free) The War Journal of Major Damon "Rocky" Gause: The Firsthand Account of One of the Greatest Escapes of World War II

The War Journal of Major Damon "Rocky" Gause: The Firsthand Account of One of the Greatest Escapes of World War II

Damon Rocky Gause

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Damon Rocky Gause : The War Journal of Major Damon "Rocky" Gause: The Firsthand Account of One of the Greatest Escapes of World War II before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The War Journal of Major Damon "Rocky" Gause: The Firsthand Account of One of the Greatest Escapes of World War II:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Another of the Greatest GenerationBy Dr. R. D. B. LaimeMajor Damon "Rocky" Gause is one of those members of the Greatest Generation that Tom Brokaw has written about. He did two hitchhikes, one in the U.S. Coast Guard and one in the army airforce, as an enlisted man. He learned to be a pilot (as a civilian) and when WWII broke out he was commissioned as a pilot. He did very little flying before the war and was sent to the Philippines. His airplane never arrived, so Rocky became a foot soldier on Bataan and Corregidor. He was captured, and escaped. Then he and other army officer got a sailboat which they used to get them from the Philippines to Australia in 55 days. Their journey was filled with all kinds of encounters. After arriving in Australia they were decorated by Gen. MacArthur. Rocky was sent back to the USA, and told no more flying. He persisted, and went to England to prepare for the Allied invasion of Europe. Unfortunately he died in a plane crash in England. During his flight from the Philippines he kept a diary, which in later years was found by his son who got this fascinating book published. It's a must reading.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. You don't have to be a war buff to enjoy this bookBy William L. HowingtonThis is a tremendous book about the escape of an American from Japanese held Philippines. Major Rocky Gause and another American escape in a small boat and travel thousands of miles in Japanese held waters all the way to Australia. Their trials and tribulations are all in the book. Once you start reading it you can't put it down. You don't have to be a war buff to enjoy this book. It's almost unbelievable what they did. Please read the book, you won't regret it.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I gave it as a gift because I and a ...By Patricia C. ArmstrongI gave it as a gift because I and a number of family members rate it at the top of the list for exciting war stories.

"This incredible journey is truly a remarkable account of the guts and patriotism of a genuine World War II hero."--H. Norman Schwarzkopf, General, U.S. Army, Retired"The tale he's left us has the feel of that moment when America was desperate for heroes, and reading it now is as much a trip back in time as it is a journey across the dark Sulu Sea."--New York Times Book Review"His story is utterly amazing, and so too is this book. We are in his sons debt for permitting us to read it."--Jonathan Yardley, Washington Post Book World

From Publishers WeeklyThis newly discovered memoir relates one WWII soldier's extraordinary escape from the Japanese invasion of the Philippines and the fortress of Corregidor as he made his way through jungles and villages and then across the Pacific in a leaky boat. A pilot, Gause was stationed in the Philippines when the Japanese launched their attack on the American-controlled islands just after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Retreating with the American forces to the peninsula of Bataan, he was captured as that area fell to the overwhelming forces of the Japanese. He made an amazing escape from a prison camp to the American fortress of Corregidor, off the coast of the Philippines, and then, when that bastion fell, escaped again; with another American officer, he managed to reach Australia in an old motorboat. They were helped by a beautiful Filipino woman, residents of a leper colony and the isolated inhabitants of various islands on which they landed. The author's repeated references to "japs" and "nips" and his description of the Japanese conquerors as "victory-crazed sadistic devils" may offend readers of a more ethnically sensitive era, but despite these lapses and his merely workmanlike prose, the drama of the events described will hold readers' attention. Gause died in a plane crash in the European theater later during the war. His long-buried journal, found in his foot locker by his son, offers a real-life adventure for fans of *The Thin Red Line*. Photos not seen by PW. (Nov.) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalAmong all the war stories of World War II, this memoir stands apart as a remarkable true story of a great escape and a miraculous sea voyage. Maj. Rocky Gause, an American pilot in the Philippines, was trapped on the Bataan Peninsula as the Japanese invaded in 1941; when U.S. and Filipino forces surrendered in spring 1942, he escaped from the Bataan Death March and began a 159-day odyssey of survival that ultimately took him from Corregidor to Australia. Accompanied by another American soldier, Capt. William Osborne, Gause sailed a leaky, 20' wooden motorboat across 3200 miles of treacherous waters, dodging Japanese warships, aircraft, submarines, and coastal patrols. Using a hand compass and an old National Geographic map of Oceania, Gause and Osborne navigated all the way to Australia and safety. Rich in detail, suspense, and drama, this memoir was written a year after Gause's escape using notes and a journal he kept during the journey. Gause died in a plane crash in 1944, but his son has resurrected and published this inspiring and exciting tale of human courage and endurance. Recommended for all public libraries.ACol. William D. Bushnell, USMC (ret.), Brunswick, ME Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistThis story is unbelievably "movie-perfect" (and Miramax will film it), yet it is purportedly true. Gause, an American pilot who died in 1944, maintained a log of his sea escape from the falls of Bataan and, then, Corregidor in 1942. These records had lain among his effects, his widow resisting importunings to publish them. Gause's son has now decided to go public, in tribute to World War II veterans, to whom he says he often relates the tale. The reputation of Japanese prison camps having preceded them, Gause opted to head for Australia in a leaky boat with a balky engine and another American as crew. The odyssey features much comradely poignancy that complements the action: brushes with Japanese cruisers, planes, even a submarine; near destruction in a typhoon; an encounter with a possible German spy; and the topper, a Japanese strafing attack. Perhaps stranger tales of patriotic heroism have emerged from the war, but not many; and this one

should strongly resonate with readers. Gilbert Taylor