



War is Hell

Arthur A. Edwards

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A Tale of War and One Man's Search for Meaning

This story is told by a soldier who was a part of the bloody war in Burma, the executive officer of a rugged group of American jungle fighters. He tells us in great detail what the war did to him and how he feels about taking another man's life even to protect his own as he searches for meaning in it all...

World War II is winding down in the summer of 1945, but not for Major Jenkins and his band of Merrill's Marauders. They have spent months combing the Burmese jungle for the notorious Japanese commander Colonel Maruyama and his troops. Major Jenkins, Captain Beltrans and what was left of their band were outnumbered two to one; so they had to devise a plan that would overcome the odds. But after they settled the score with their enemy, they had to march hundreds of miles through the jungle back to their base near the Indian border. It was now August and the war was over, but how would the local civilians living along the only trail out of Burma view the American soldiers?

Their journey back home was fraught with unexpected dangers and facing unplanned enemies through an unforgiving jungle. They had never been taught at West Point how to fight their new enemy.

After the war, Captain Beltrans is convinced that he should return Colonel Maruyama's samurai sword to his descendants in Japan. However, what he thought would be a routine side trip to a modern country turned into a harrowing adventure in Japanese politics and a thousand year old culture. He ended up in an ancient Zen garden in Kyoto wondering if he had done the right thing by killing enemy soldiers and civilians during the war. Does he get help from his deceased native grandmother?

About the author:

Arthur A. Edwards is a retired aerospace engineer and manager who designed, built and operated large space simulation facilities at Lockheed Missiles, Sunnyvale, Ford Aerospace and Space Systems Loral both in Palo Alto. He was also an Adjunct Professor, who taught courses in engineering, business management, organizational behavior, leadership and project management at San Jose State University, University of California, Santa Cruz and at the University of San Francisco. He has a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from University of California Berkeley, and a master's degree in Cybernetic Systems from San Jose State University.

Arthur was a naval officer and veteran of the Korean War, serving on an attack transport in the Sea of Japan and across the Pacific. He left the naval reserve a few years later as a lieutenant and is now retired and lives with his ex-school administrator wife in the Gold Country of the Sierra Nevada foothills of California.

When not writing, he is working to help the homeless men, women and children of El Dorado County by providing food, clothing and shelter to those who need it the most. His next book will be a history of helping the homeless community in the California foothills.

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Margaret Williams:

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Dorcas Rogers:

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