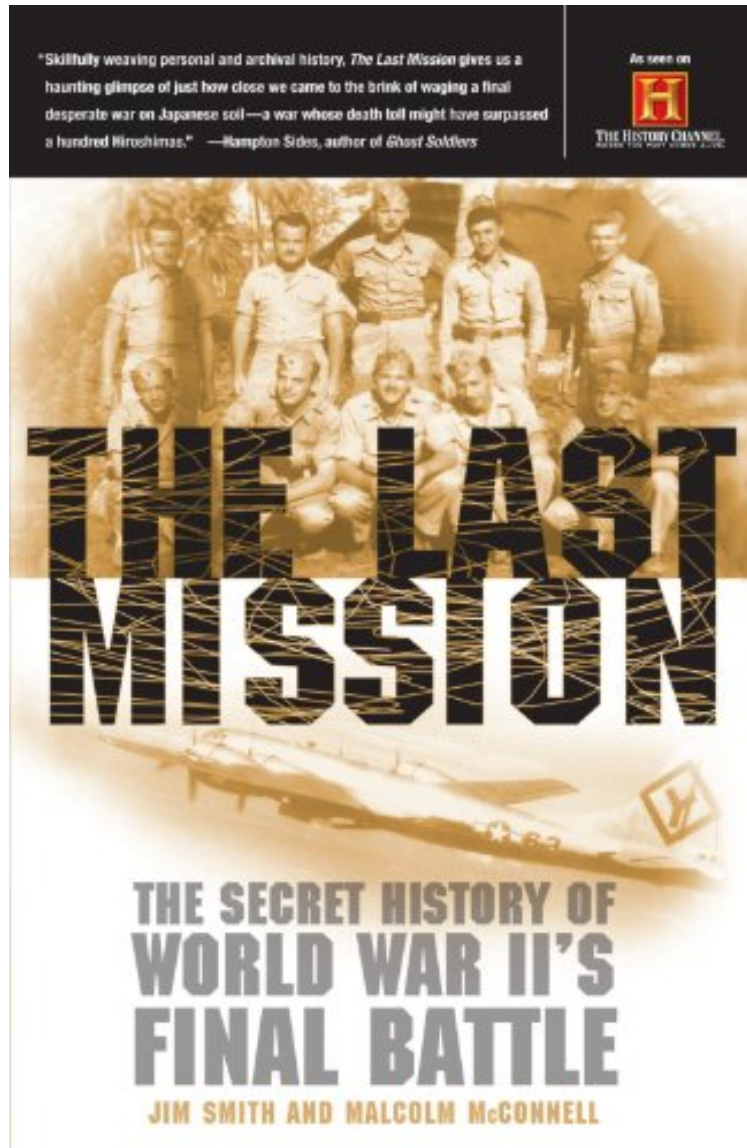


(Read download) The Last Mission: The Secret History of World War II's Final Battle

# The Last Mission: The Secret History of World War II's Final Battle

*Jim Smith, Malcolm McConnell*

*audiobook / \*ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#1009841 in Books 2003-05-06 2003-05-06 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.20 x .50 x 5.40l, 1.00 #File Name: 0767907795384 pages | File size: 75.Mb

**Jim Smith, Malcolm McConnell : The Last Mission: The Secret History of World War II's Final Battle** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Last Mission: The Secret History of World War II's Final Battle:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This book reads like a novelBy Melvin L. GeladeThis book reads

like a novel, with twists and turns; shifting alliances; excellent character analyses; and an intriguing plot. However, it also reads like a history book, albeit one that does not put the reader to sleep. It makes the reader feel as if he is living in the early 1940's where so much was at stake, and the battles were hard-fought, and often with devastating results. But, it tells the history of the end of WWII from a unique perspective. This is a tale of very sound military strategy, combined with a little bit of good fortune, as opposed to the blood and guts of most books of this genre. I couldn't put it down. I first read it several years ago, and I had to read it again. The second reading was as mesmerizing as the first.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful, uplifting book  
By Hobbes' Mother  
If only our young people were aware of how terrible the World Wars were, and the events boys barely out of high school stepped up to do for the sake of our country and peoples subjected to horrendous cruelties put upon them by tyrants ruling Germany and Japan. The chances these young boys/men took, most of the time knowing the possibilities of surviving were nil, are so foreign to the youth of today. Don't get me wrong; the World Wars were over before I was born, but I've become kind of a WWII "junkie" and am astonished at the tragedies (and triumphs) occurring during those eras. Breaks my heart that teaching our country's history, in particular how we arrived with today's freedoms, have faded into dust and our main focus now seems to worship sports "heroes" rather than true heroes depicted in books like this.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book, my father was a crewman.  
By VERNON LINDHOLM  
Fabulous book. My dad was a B29 crewman on The Last Mission (you can look him up, I am a junior), but knew nothing about the significance of the mission before he passed away in 1996. The bravery of the B29 crews was incredible, they were all brave heroes in defeating Japan. The B29s were in production while still untested prototypes, and the engines routinely caught fire or just failed, with complete upgraded designs by different manufacturers being used to replace failed engines that were poorly designed and had failed or burned up. For example, my dad was on a B29 mission in Puerto Rico when two engines on the same side caught fire. While trying to land, his plane hit a berm at a drainage ditch on the golf course before the runway, and the tail just in front of my father broke off cleanly. The three crewman in the tail lived, and the six in front died. A couple of weeks later, my father was assigned to a new crew, picked up a new plane at the Wichita factory, and took it directly to Guam. My father knew that the Final Mission was the last of the war, and heard the war was over by radio as they were nearing Guam to land, with so little gas that several planes ran out and stopped while taxiing on the runway, but in one mission these planes destroyed the last Japanese refinery. He told me that he never saw a Japanese fighter plane, and he was the side gunner. I'm unsure what he did in a B29B, which had the side guns stripped according to the book.

A gripping account of the final American bombing mission of World War II and how it prevented a military coup that would have kept Japan in the war. How close did the Japanese come to not surrendering to Allied forces on August 15, 1945? The Last Mission explores this question through two previously neglected strands of late—World War II history, whose very interconnections could have caused a harrowing shift in the course of the postwar world. On the final night of the war, as Emperor Hirohito recorded a message of surrender for the Japanese people, a band of Japanese rebels, commanded by War Minister Anami's elite staff, burst into the palace. They had plotted a massive coup that aimed to destroy the recordings of the Imperial Rescript of surrender and issue false orders forged with the Emperor's seal commanding the widely dispersed Japanese military to continue the war. If this rebellion had succeeded, the military would have proceeded with large-scale kamikaze attacks on Allied forces, costing huge casualties and just possibly provoking the Americans to drop a third atomic bomb on Japan over Tokyo—and continue to drop more bombs as Japanese resistance stiffened. Meanwhile, in the midst of an "end-of-war" celebration on Guam, Air Force radio operator Jim Smith and his fellow crewmen received urgent orders for a bombing mission over Japan's sole remaining oil refinery north of Tokyo. As a stream of American B-29B bombers approached Tokyo, Japanese air defenses, fearing the approaching planes signaled the threat of a third atomic bomb, ordered a total blackout in Tokyo and the Imperial Palace, completely disrupting the rebels' plans. Smith and his fellow crewmembers completed the mission, and a few hours later, the Emperor announced the surrender over Japan's airwaves, dictating the end of the war. The Last Mission is an insightful piece of speculative investigation that combines narrative storytelling with historical contingency and explores how two seemingly unrelated events could have profoundly changed the course of modern history. From the Hardcover edition.

From Publishers Weekly  
As dramatized by Smith, a WWII B-29 radio operator, and prolific military historian McConnell, Japan's surrender looks something like this: Emperor Hirohito, persuaded by the American atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and by the active imprecations of some of his cabinet ministers, decides to surrender and place his nation at the mercy of the Allies. A small cadre of junior officers simply cannot face the idea of surrender and begin a plot to undermine Hirohito's plan. Their goal: destroy the recordings of Hirohito's surrender set to be broadcast, isolate the emperor with local troops and proclaim that the civilians who counseled the emperor were traitors. They expect the armed forces to flock to their side and launch an all-out kamikaze attack on the approaching Americans. Yet the night of their plan, Smith's B-29 group flew past Tokyo, heading north to strike at one of Japan's remaining oil refineries. Fear of a third atomic bomb forced a citywide blackout that disrupted the

conspiracy. Smith undertook years of research into Japanese and American strategizing and makes the book hard to put down for those interested in espionage and historical "what ifs." Maps and photos not seen by PW. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Smith was a radio operator on the crew of the B-29 bomber Boomerang in the Pacific theater of World War II. His plane, along with the others in the 315th Bomb Wing, 20th Air Force, was assigned to bomb strategic targets in the Japanese home islands. Flying stripped down "Superforts," they flew night missions over several Japanese cities, including Tokyo. On their return from one mission, they passed three Superforts flying toward Japan and learned only later that one was the Enola Gay on its mission to drop the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Smith and McConnell (author or coauthor of more than 22 books, many on military subjects) provide more than an account of the final missions of the Boomerang and its crew. They take the reader to Washington, DC, to examine Allied strategies to end the war and to the inner sanctum of the Japanese military as it struggled with questions of surrender and survival. Finally, Smith describes his last mission over Tokyo, which was blacked out in anticipation of another atomic bombing, and how that mission forced Japanese rebels to abandon their efforts to prolong the war in the face of Emperor Hirohito's decision to surrender. More than a fascinating firsthand report of the last bombing mission over Japan, this book is an account of the last days of World War II in the Pacific. Recommended for academic libraries and larger public libraries. Grant A. Fredericksen, Illinois Prairie Dist. P.L., Metamora Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. "Fresh perspectives on the oft-chronicled Japanese surrender should ensure that general readers will enjoy this as much as military history enthusiasts." "Hard to put down for those interested in espionage and historical what-ifs." A fascinating firsthand report of the last bombing mission over Japan.