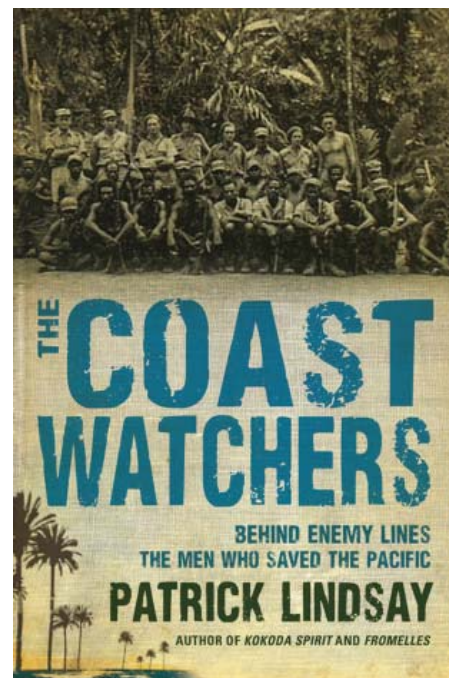


The famed American admiral William 'Bull' Halsey described how: 'Guadalcanal saved the Pacific, and the Coast Watchers saved Guadalcanal.'

This is their story.

THE COAST WATCHERS

by PATRICK LINDSAY



THE COAST WATCHERS are heroes. Unsung Australian heroes. What they achieved during World War II ranks them amongst the most courageous of all wartime soldiers.

They were experts at going unnoticed; and, it seems, history has followed suit. Their story has remained largely untold, until now.

Journalist Patrick Lindsay first heard of their mysterious existence when he was on assignment in Rabaul in 1983. He was captivated. After much painstaking research, he can now tell the story of the least-known but most extraordinary heroes of the war in the Pacific.

This tiny band of brave men - and one woman - stayed behind in the Pacific after the Japanese occupation. Aided by loyal islanders, they watched and they warned. The Japanese continued to hunt them, and their capture meant certain death. More than 30 were executed, most by beheading.

Hiding in the jungle, constantly moving to evade enemy patrols, they reported via cumbersome tele-radios that took a dozen men to transport.

They watched Japanese troop movements, warned of attacks by sea and air and saved countless civilians, downed airmen, lost soldiers and shipwrecked sailors – including future US President John F. Kennedy.

Lindsay brings these extraordinary characters to life: men such as Paul Mason and Jack Read on Bougainville, whose warnings allowed the Americans to triumph on Guadalcanal; Malcolm Wright on New Britain; Martin Clemens on Guadalcanal; Donald Kennedy, who led a private army on New Georgia Island; Reg Evans, who rescued JFK; Father Emery de Klerk, the warrior-priest; the islander Simogun Pita, who personally killed 31 Japanese soldiers; and many more.



After a long career as a print and television journalist, **PATRICK LINDSAY** is now one of Australia's leading non-fiction authors. Among his many bestsellers are *The Spirit of Kokoda*, *The Spirit of The Digger*, *Back from the Dead*, *The Spirit of Gallipoli*, *Heart of a Champion*, *Cosgrove: Portrait of a Leader*, *Fromelles* and *Kokoda Spirit*.

Prior to writing fulltime, Patrick had leading roles on the Nine and Seven Networks. He lives in Sydney with his wife Lisa Cotton and has three grown-up children, Nathan, Kate and Sarah.

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