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About the Book:

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“A respected historian and researcher” – *Publishers Weekly*

“A prize is waiting somewhere out there, which Linda Holmes richly deserves for revisiting some appalling realities in a positive way fifty years after the fact.”

–Nancy Steffens Seaman,
Smithsonian magazine’s Board of Editors

“A tribute to courage and determination of the men who endured it...I ate the book up, and was disappointed to come to the end so fast, and this hasn’t happened to me in a long time.” –Otto Schwarz, *Burma Railway survivor and founder, USS Houston Survivors’ Association.*

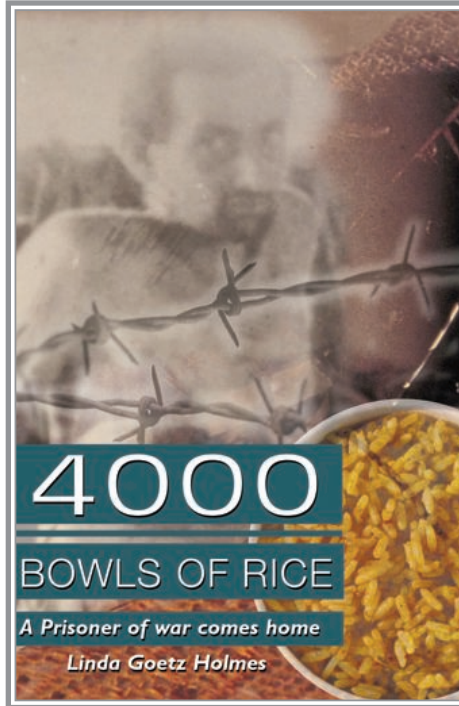
”Linda Goetz Holmes has focused on a most interesting, and somewhat neglected, period of the Allied POW experience — the hiatus between the end of the war and the return home...A useful addition to the growing body of literature on the Allied POW experience in Asia.” –Tim Bowden, *Australian author and documentary producer.*

During the early days of World War II, Cecil Dickson and much of the 2/2 Australian Pioneer Battalion were forced to surrender to the Japanese. This group of POWs, along with captured American National Guard soldiers from Texas and California, and survivors from the sunk USS Houston, were shipped to Burma and Thailand to construct the infamous “Railway of Death” immortalized in the film *Bridge Over the River Kwai*. 16,000 Allied POWs would die toiling on the railway, and those who lived endured over three years of harsh slave labor until they were released to journey home. Respected military historian Linda Goetz Holmes tells Dickson’s story of his experiences in Japanese labor camps and his determined plan to survive and return to a normal life. Amazing photographs, taken secretly by other prisoners, and personal letters help chronicle this dark chapter in the history of Allied troops in the Pacific.

About the Author:

Linda Goetz Holmes is the first Pacific War historian appointed to the U.S.

Government Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group, tasked with locating and declassifying documents about World War II war crimes. A graduate of Wellesley College, she has been writing about Pacific prisoners of war for 30 years, and has been interviewed many times by national and local TV and radio stations, and appeared in documentaries on the History Channel, Fox News, and ABC 20/20, to name but a few. She is also the author of: *Unjust Enrichment: How Japan’s Companies Built Post-War Fortunes Using American POWs* (2001) and a frequent speaker to veterans’ groups.



4000 Bowls of Rice
by Linda Goetz Holmes

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Nonfiction
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World War II
Military/Sociology
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