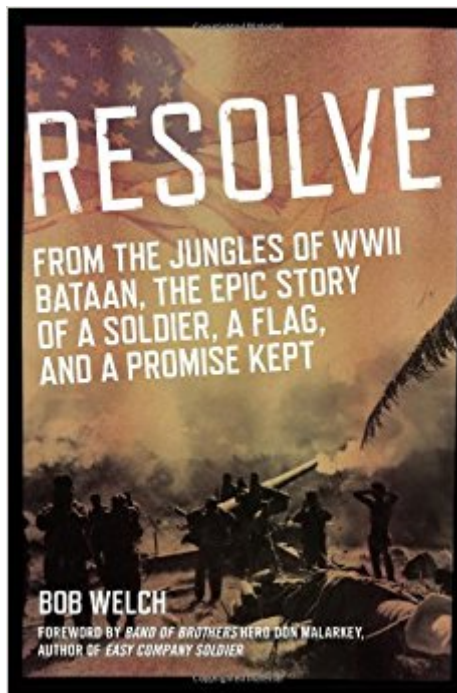




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# **Resolve: From The Jungles Of WW II Bataan, A Story Of A Soldier, A Flag, And A Promise Ke Pt**



## Synopsis

On April 9, 1942, thousands of U.S. soldiers surrendered as the Philippines' island of Luzon fell to the Japanese. A few hundred Americans placed their faith in their own hands and headed for the jungles. One of them was Clay Conner Jr., a twenty-three-year-old Army Air Force communications officer who had never even camped before. The obstacles to Conner's survival were as steep as the Zimbales Mountains that Conner had to traverse daily: among them, malaria, heat, jungle rot, snakes, and mosquitoes. Beyond that, the threat of enemy soldiers who would ultimately put a price on Conner's head, and local natives and villagers who claimed to be his friends only to later betray him. And, finally, he had to overcome his own self doubts, struggle with the despair of having to bury dead comrades, deal with friction among his fellow American soldiers, and survive years passing with little hope of rescue. But if conflict reveals character, Conner showed himself to be a man of iron will, unbridled boldness, and endless perseverance. Inspired by an unlikely alliance with a tribe of arrow-shooting pygmy Negritos, by the words in a dog-eared New Testament, and by a tattered American flag that he vowed to someday triumphantly fly at battalion headquarters, Conner would survive and fight for almost three years. *Resolve* is the story of an unlikely hero who never surrendered to the enemy and of a soldier who never gave up hope.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A poignant true story of a young man's coming of age at the beginning of WWII . . . I found *Resolve* to be authentic and consistent with the hardships that were endured during this

timeframe and locale.

•Val Conley, President, National Assn. of State Women Veterans Coordinators

“I am a complete sucker for inspirational stories, and *Resolve* is one of the best.

If anyone was an emblem of American ingenuity, it was Clay Conner Jr.

•Ellen Heltzel, book critic

“A spellbinding drama

Powerfully told with marvelous attention to historical detail, Welch locks you in suspense with his depiction of the true life story of a few Americans during the horrendous guerrilla

war in the shadows.

•Forrest Bryant Johnson, author of *Phantom Warrior* and *The Last Camel Charge*

“Utterly fantastic. The story of Clay Conner Jr. provides important insight into one of the least-recounted parts of WWII in this brave, daring, and controversial book. Bob Welch is as fine a nonfiction writer as America has ever produced, and this book shows how at the top of his game he truly is.

•Marcus Brotherton, author of *Shifty*

„s War

Bob Welch is the award-winning author of twelve books and the general columnist at *The Register-Guard* in Eugene, Oregon. He has served as an adjunct professor of journalism at the University of Oregon in Eugene, and has had articles published in such magazines as *Reader* „s Digest, *Sports Illustrated*, *Runner* „s World, and *Los Angeles*. He is the founding director of the Beachside Writers Workshop, and has enlightened thousands across the country with his inspirational speaking.

About all one knows of The Philippines and WWII is MacArthur, the Bataan Death March, and the cruelty of the Japanese soldier. *Resolve* is a must read for any reader seeking a true adventure story that imparts the character of a man and men who are able to survive in a jungle environment alone and with native people. What traits are needed when one finds themselves in a situation of choices involving life and death and one's own values? The author, Bob Welch, broaches this question in depth, throughout the life of the main character. I read this book seeking answers to the experience of the people who were brutally treated by the Japanese. Members of my own family (through marriage) were victimized in the Luzon area by the Japanese early in their occupation. Their home was taken from them and turned into a horse stable; the father was placed in prison and later died of starvation in February 1945. His wife and children were turned out into the street. The oldest boy (age 14) "did anything" to feed and provide shelter for his mother and four siblings. One of his own daughters would later marry my son. My knowledge of this period of history was greatly broadened. The story covers the whole life of the main character; thus the reader completes the book without the question, "then what happened?" This book, with all its pictures, is hard to put

down.

The author of this book has given great honor to those that suffered under the Japanese on the Island of Luzon, Philippine Islands in WWII. It is a true story of Clay Conner Jr, an unlikely hero in any sense that lived almost three years in the jungles and mountains of Luzon after the much publicized Bataan Death March. His bravery and character spawned a unit of Philippine citizens along with (Negritos) a tribe of jungle Pigmy Natives into a resistance force that fought the enemy for three years while awaiting the promise of General MacArthur, "I shall return." Language barriers and cultural problems were overcome while life long friendships were formed as they all fought for their lives. The Japanese were not the only enemy. Sickness and dangerous jungle conditions had to be fought daily. I feel Clay Conner Jr. was put on this earth for this purpose. He seemed to never quite fit in after he came home to the States. Although a hero to all he met, his greatest demon was himself. Personally, I wish he had stayed on Luzon after the war because these were the people that really knew and loved him. While spending most of three years in constant dangers, abandoned by the government, he showed the world how a real patriot is to act. The author of this book, Bob Welch should be commended for his work on this most important story.

This book is a pretty quick read and tells a great story of determination and survival in a time that is receding further and further into the past. Although I was not a complete fan of the author's writing style, the reader is still able to envision the obstacles the subject experienced and imagine how difficult it would be to survive the occupation of the Philippines without being captured. I am already a World War II history enthusiast, but like a lot of people tend to focus more on the European theater of combat. This book made me want to dig into the war in the Pacific in much greater detail, as well as the history of American involvement in this country. This book would be a good choice for anyone with an interest in that period of history, from young adult on up.

This is a great story. I started it about 10pm and honestly couldn't put it down and finished it in one sitting. Reader be warn, the beginning was a bit slow for me, but once things started the pace was quick and it was an easy read. Having served in the military, I would have enjoyed reading more about their struggles - the author seemed to brush over the true challenges of living in the jungle as if he wanted to get the reader to some other important event in the story which never came.

I grew up knowing the story of these incredible men and am glad to see that it is being so well told

and their contributions not forgotten. My father, Jim Boyd from Sweetwater, TX, was one of the men who never surrendered. He found the opportunity to escape the Death March as his unit was being rounded up and spent the next three years in the jungles surviving and helping to relay critical information. It is hard for many to believe that men could survive these conditions, but they did. My father also wrote his memories which detail his experience and his conversations. On his return he was lucky enough to marry is Army nurse.

I was in the PI and went through the Navy JEST school, Jungle Enviromental Survival Training school at Subic Bay. This school was led by the Nigretos. The only food we took with us was 1 closed hand full of rice per day. The rest came from the land. It was very rough. I don't know if I'd have made it alone. The book is dead on no doubt about it. I was there in 66 And 67 at Cubi PT. My cousin cleaned out Manila in 45. It took them 3 weeks door to door and room to room. He is now 95 and in good health. I will probably read this book Resolve again.

This book is about a very important part of our history that is so little known. It is so interesting since it is from the experiences of a member of our military that lived through this incredible ordeal. You wonder how it was possible. It held my interest from the first word to the last. It was especially nice to know what happened to the survivors that this story touched. I recommend this read to all, least we forget.

You may have heard of the Bataan Death March, but this is the largely untold story of a small group of American Guerrillas who had to fight just to escape and evade the Japanese soldiers as well as natives aligned with the Japanese and other movements hostile to the Japanese and Americans. That anyone survived is amazing, that the story survived this long to be told as a remarkable collection of stories to be told as a narrative makes this book a must read!

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