

PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY

more than a library...it's an experience

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AUTHOR JAMES CAMPBELL AND "GHOST MOUNTAIN BOYS" TO OPEN THE 2008 SEASON AT THE PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY

CHICAGO, IL – They marched through dense, tropical jungles and over a towering mountain peak without maps. The air was choked with humidity, the swamps were full of crocodiles, and disease claimed more 80% of their ranks. And that was before the two-month assault on the Japanese base had even begun.

"If I owned New Guinea and I owned hell," recalled one member of the Army's 32nd Infantry Division in World War II, "I would live in hell and rent out New Guinea."

The 2008 season at the Pritzker Military Library kicks off on Thursday, January 10th, with author James Campbell and his new book, *Ghost Mountain Boys: Their Epic March and the Terrifying Battle for New Guinea: The Forgotten War of the South Pacific*. This program is free and open to the public. The presentation and live webcast begins at 6:00 p.m., preceded by a reception for Library members at 5:00 p.m. This event will be recorded for broadcast on WYCC Channel 20. Campbell's presentation will include nine minutes from his in-progress documentary, filmed on location in New Guinea.

Ghost Mountain Boys tells the long-overlooked story of the Buna Trail campaign, which sent an Army National Guard division from Wisconsin and Michigan to New Guinea with the task of breaking the Japanese army's foothold off the coast of Australia. Untrained for jungle combat and lacking basic survival equipment, the 32nd Infantry Division suffered heavy casualties on the grueling march. Campbell quotes extensively from diaries, letters, and interviews with survivors of the campaign, drawing vivid portraits of both the hellish conditions of the march and the simple joy of finding a fresh coconut on the trail.

In researching his account, Campbell traveled to New Guinea and retraced the steps of the Buna Trail, still strewn with wreckage from the battle, and met island elders who remembered the march. Some believed it had been a sorcerer who propelled the 32nd Division to victory; all were still in awe of the men who crossed the impassable "Ghost Mountain".

James Campbell is also the author of *The Final Frontiersman*. He has written adventure travel and environmental pieces for *Outside*, *National Geographic Adventure*, *Islands*, *Backpacker*, *Audubon*, *Coastal Living*, *Field and Stream*, *Sports Afield*, and many other magazines and newspapers. He lives in Wisconsin with his wife and three daughters.

Seating for this event is limited, so reservations are recommended. Call 312.587.0234 or email events@pritzkermilitarylibrary.net.

For more information, please visit www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org/events.

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About the Pritzker Military Library

The Pritzker Military Library is a state-of-the-art private research library located at 610 North Fairbanks Court in the Streeterville neighborhood of Chicago, near the Magnificent Mile. The Mission of the Pritzker Military Library is to acquire and maintain an accessible collection of materials and develop appropriate programs focusing on the Citizen Soldier in the preservation of democracy.

The 5,000 sq. ft. facility features over 25,000 historical, reference, biographical and rare books on military subjects, over 800 original antique military posters and prints, and other military artifacts from private donors and the collection of COL (IL) James N. Pritzker, ARNG (Ret.). Since opening in October 2003, the Library has produced over 170 programs including author events, one-on-one interviews with Medal of Honor recipients, and Chicago's only monthly public affairs program on military issues, *Front & Center* with John Callaway. Evening programs in the Library's McHenry Atrium are presented free of charge in front of a live audience, broadcast live on the Internet, and taped for broadcast on WYCC Channel 20, a PBS affiliate. Programs are also available in podcast format on the Library website and at *iTunes*, and archived as part of the Library's collection. A complimentary wine and cheese reception for Associate Members precedes each evening program. Books are provided for purchase and signing by The Book Stall at Chestnut Court.

To learn more, please visit: www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org

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