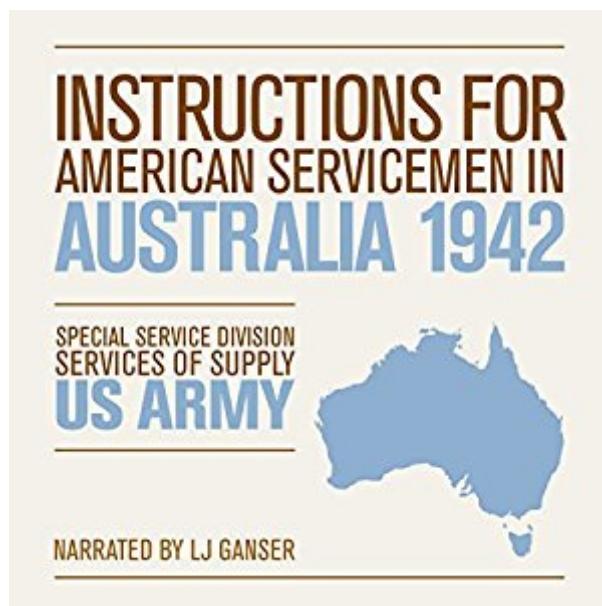


The book was found

Instructions For American Servicemen In Australia 1942



Synopsis

"Unlike cricket, which is a polite game, Australian Rules Football creates a desire on the part of the crowd to tear someone apart, usually the referee." This is only one of the entertaining and astute observations the U.S. military provided in the pocket guides distributed to the nearly one million American soldiers who landed on the shores of Australia between 1942 and 1945. Although the Land Down Under felt more familiar than many of their assignments abroad, American G.I.s still needed help navigating the distinctly different Aussie culture, and coming to their rescue was Instructions for American Servicemen in Australia, 1942. This pamphlet is filled with pithy notes on Australian customs, language, and other cultural facts the military deemed necessary for every American soldier. From the native wildlife-a land of "funny animals"-to the nation's colonial history, to the general characteristics of Australians-"an outdoors sort of people, breezy and very democratic"-Instructions for American Servicemen in Australia gives a concise yet amazingly informative overview of the island nation. Regarding Aussie slang, it notes that "the Australian has few equals in the world at swearing.... The commonest swear words are 'bastard' (pronounced 'barstud'), 'bugger,' and 'bloody,' and the Australians have a genius for using the latter nearly every other word." The pamphlet also contains a humorous explanation of the country's musical traditions-including an annotated text of "Waltzing Matilda"-as well as amusing passages on sports, politics, and the Aussies' attitudes toward Yanks and Brits. A fascinating look at a neglected Allied front in the Southern hemisphere, Instructions for American Servicemen in Australia, 1942 follows its successful predecessors as a captivating historical document of a pivotal era in history.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 1 hour

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Audible Studios

Audible.com Release Date: November 9, 2010

Language: English

ASIN: B004BDPYEO

Best Sellers Rank: #35 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > History > Australia & Oceania #425 in Books > History > Australia & Oceania > Australia & New Zealand #1617 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > History > Military

Customer Reviews

This is a terrific book for anyone, not just WWII buffs. It gives the Australia-bound GI a glimpse into the history, language, and culture of our ally, and tells some good anecdotes about interaction between GI's and Diggers. It also give you a rundown of the Australian Pound at the time, as well as time differences between Australia and the states. Additionally, you get the lyrics to "Waltzing Matilda", so you can understand it, and also a section on Aussie slang terms. They also remind you to use your common sense and all will be well. It's worth your time.

The "pamphlets" in this series are really a wonderful sociological find. They offer a great read for anyone who wishes to capture the mood of the times relating to American soldiers overseas during the war years.

Quite a funny little read. Interesting to read about Aussie culture from an American perspective during WW2.

I think this is a great book, I love history and these books are so fun and show you the differences between now and WWII in soldier deployments. I bought this as a gift for my brother and he loved it.

I loved this book...had one for US Servicemen in Iraq for WWII and loved the vernacular and helpful hints in understanding Aussies.

It is a warm and friendly guide to Australia and the Australians at a critical period in our efforts to build allies. A marvelous gift to send to all your Auzzie friends.

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