

Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand

A Review by Mike Deardorff

“Unbroken” is a true story of Louis Zamperini’s struggle to survive after the bomber he was in crashed into the Pacific during the Second World War. After the crash, he survived on a raft with no food or water for 46 days, floating aimlessly for thousands of miles, beating sharks off with an oar, only to wash up on the shore of a Japanese held island and being taken as a POW. He was held prisoner in several camps for nearly 3 years, suffering unspeakable treatment, beatings, and neglect until the war ended and he was ‘repatriated’. It is also the story of how he coped with the change from war to peace, and how an experience hearing Billy Graham during a revival tent meeting reminded him of a promise he made to God whilst on the raft that turned his life around. He even reached the point of forgiving his main Japanese protagonist in the prison camps. As the cover of the book proclaims, it is ‘A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption’.

As I read it (hard to put down), the thought kept coming to mind: ‘Good grief! What ELSE can happen to this man?’ Then I would turn the page and find out. It is truly one of the best true stories of ‘....survival, resilience, and redemption’ that I have ever read.