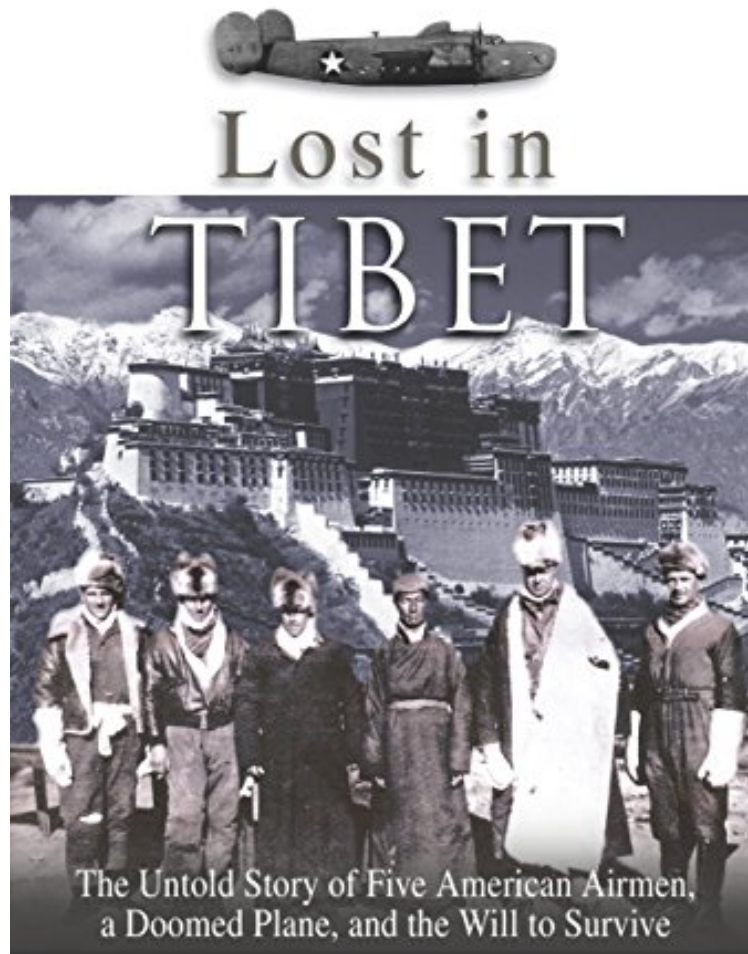


(Free read ebook) *Lost in Tibet: The Untold Story of Five American Airmen, a Doomed Plane, and the Will to Survive*

Lost in Tibet: The Untold Story of Five American Airmen, a Doomed Plane, and the Will to Survive

Miriam Murcutt, Richard Starks

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Miriam Murcutt, Richard Starks : Lost in Tibet: The Untold Story of Five American Airmen, a Doomed Plane, and the Will to Survive before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Lost in Tibet: The Untold Story of Five American Airmen, a Doomed Plane, and the Will to Survive*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. and the political intricacies of this high mountain kingdom at the unfortunate intersection of the great powers of the time--RusBy Bill JordanStarks and Murcutt have written a

fascinating, nail-biting account of something so rare that few lived to tell about it: bailing out of a lost, fuel-starved military transport aircraft over forbidden--and foreboding--Tibet. They masterfully chronicle a 'lost' theater of war and an operation so complex that it spawned the modern USAF Air Transport Command, yet the young men that flew the dangerous route over the Himalayas courageously attacked the mission with scant training themselves--the exigencies of hurried war time training. The authors examine the backgrounds of the crew, the dangers of flying the Japanese controlled airspace between India and China, and the political intricacies of this high mountain kingdom at the unfortunate intersection of the great powers of the time--Russia, India and China. This is that rare find in narratives today--an in-depth examination of the geopolitics of wartime Asia coupled with a breathtaking account of endurance and survival in a theater that was all but forgotten as the war focused attention on defeating the Axis in Europe. The authors themselves are no strangers to dangerous places and harrowing treks...a must read... Bill Jordan, author "The Return of the Lost Aircrew", Smithsonian Air Space Magazine

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. First Americans in Remote Tibet during WWII

By jughandle

A true and exciting story of bravery and hardship for five Americans bailing out of their airplane during WWII in a foreign land virtually isolated from the modern world. Held by Tibetans who had feared foreigners, they were eventually able to be escorted back to India. Includes an interesting history of why Tibet was so coveted by Great Britain and China.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars for Five American Airmen

By L.

The story of five WWII American airmen, their plane crashed into a Tibetan mountainside, has appeal for those interested in the War, in Tibet, and in good adventure/survival stories. Since these are three of my favorite genres it was hard to miss. The five were tough young American guys, and I wonder if their caliber exists today. When one of them comes to after his parachute drop, finds his leg badly cut, he takes out his survival sewing kit and stitches it together. Another fashions a sling for his broken shoulder and manfully faces his survival weeks. The 1940's Lhasa is different today, the Potala still reigns over the city of course, the monks wear their purple robes with Teva sandals, and they rankle at the Chinese, now a majority. They diplomatically tell you that parts of the Potala were destroyed by fire, neglecting to say the fires were started by the Chinese. There's a Lexus dealership, a modern airport, but they still serve yak butter tea.

Set against the majestic yet unforgiving Himalayan landscape of World War II Tibet--an unknown and tightly sealed land deeply suspicious of foreigners--*LOST IN TIBET* recounts the taut adventure of five American airmen facing the greatest challenge of their young lives. Hundreds of miles off course and running low on fuel, the airmen bail out of their foundering plane over what they thought was India. Instead, they parachute into the high Himalayan ridges of a Tibet riven with political intrigue and pressed tightly between Westerners involved in a war they didn't understand and Chinese who threatened their very existence. Surviving the parachute drop from the plane was only the airmen's first challenge, and perhaps their easiest. Impeccably researched and well paced, *LOST IN TIBET* tells the previously untold story of the group's struggle to escape back to the relative safety of their base in India.

From Publishers Weekly

In 1943, five American airmen were returning in a C-87 cargo plane over the "Hump," a treacherous supply route across the Himalayas that pilots flew round the clock to equip Chinese allies against the Japanese during WWII. Despite reports of fair weather, a ferocious storm blew the plane hundreds of miles off course, forcing the crew to parachute into the remote mountains of Tibet just before the plane ran out of fuel and crashed. The men were first held as prisoner-guests in the forbidden city of Lhasa; later, their trek back to India was hampered not only by the impenetrable terrain and mysterious culture they encountered, but by a larger international intrigue over Tibet's independence. The battle over dominance of the region between Britain and China, then, turns a story of military courage and grit into one of political intrigue. As Britain and China clashed, Tibet found itself controlled by a child leader (the Dalai Lama, the country's spiritual and political leader, was only eight years old) and in an increasingly vulnerable situation during the war. Determined to remain autonomous despite the mounting political maelstrom, the Tibetans saw the airmen's unexpected fall from the sky as an opportunity to win the American government to the cause of their independence, while the British originally looked at them as spies. Authors Starks and Murcutt absorbingly recount the political conquest of Tibet through the story of these five young men's unwitting embroilment in an international incident and their extraordinary journey home.

Bw photo insert not seen by PW.

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From Booklist

To support China's efforts against the Japanese in World War II, American forces flew supplies from India to China over the Himalayas. "Flying the hump" was extremely dangerous, but such missions were considered vital to the Allies' efforts. In December 1943, a plane with five American airmen was blown off course and ran out of fuel over Tibet. All successfully bailed out and were reunited on the ground, but because of Tibet's extreme isolation, their return was not certain. Injuries and language difficulties were compounded by the vast cultural differences. The airmen were eventually transported to Lhasa, where the British consul provided support. Political turmoil and impending bad weather forced the men to travel out of Tibet by mule over treacherous terrain. This is a fine story of courage and diplomacy that presents invaluable information on a little-known theater of WWII and insight into the Tibet-China political situation.

Danise Hoover

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"This book tells about

an incident that has been hidden for too many years. It's a fascinating adventure that stands out from all the other war-time experiences I have heard about." Charles Martin, former "Hump" pilot