

# [PDF] The Airmen And The Headhunters: A True Story Of Lost Soldiers, Heroic Tribesmen And The Unlikeliest Rescue Of World War II

Judith M. Heimann - pdf download free book

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**Books Details:**

Title: The Airmen and the Headhunter

Author: Judith M. Heimann

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## **Description:**

**From Publishers Weekly** Using detailed research and new interviews with all the surviving players, including the tribal Dayaks of Southeast Asia, diplomat and author Heimann (*The Most Offending Soul Alive*) presents the story of two B-24 crews, one U.S. Army Air Corps and one U.S. Navy, shot down over Borneo in November 1944 and January 1945, respectively. With the help of a local District Official and Lun Dayeh tribesmen, the airmen survived several months in uncharted interior jungles, avoiding capture by occupying Japanese forces. The book gives great insight into the Lun Dayeh, a thriving culture that uses few tools and almost no knowledge of modern machinery, best known for their practice of headhunting. Surprisingly enough, they prove kind, welcoming and very generous with what provisions they have; meanwhile, the Japanese plunder native resources and subject opposition to torture and worse, proving the terms "savage" and "civilized" to be quite subjective. A good read for WWII history buffs, Heimann's volume also contains enough material on the culture of Southeast Asian tribes to please any armchair anthropologist.  
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## **Review** PRAISE FOR *THE MOST OFFENDING SOUL ALIVE*

"Lively and scrupulously researched." --*The New Yorker*

"Explorer, museum curator, guerilla fighter, pioneer sociologist, documentary filmmaker, anthropologist--Tom Harrisson was all these things. He was also arrogant, choleric, swashbuckling, often drunk, and nearly always deliberately outrageous. In spite of these contradictions, he became a key figure in every enterprise he undertook . . . A brilliant and insightful biography." --David Attenborough

"*The Airmen and the Headhunters* is an engaging and unique tale of courage and rescue. Heimann has created a nuanced portrait of Borneo and a fascinating group of truly heroic tribesmen."

(*Alex Kershaw, author of THE FEW*)

"At first the downed Flyboys thought their hosts to be savage. But by the end of their remarkable journey, the Americans learned just how civilized headhunters can be. Judith Heimann has uncovered a dramatic, touchingly human tale in the jungle forests of Borneo."

(*James Bradley, author of FLYBOYS*)

"Sixty years later, World War II is still giving up its secrets. *The Airmen and the Headhunters* recovers a forgotten tale from the far Pacific that should interest anyone who cares about the gallantry of our aviators who flew into harm's way."

(*James Hornfischer, author of SHIP OF GHOSTS*)

"Heimann brings a visceral urgency to one of WWII's most unlikely tales. Along the way, she makes us like the airmen rethink our definitions of civilized and savage."

(*Entertainment Weekly*)

"[F]ew writers could have tracked down this captivating story. [Heimann] paints a vivid picture of the indigenous people who comfortably inhabited the dense jungle and carried on a flourishing trade with the coast... A fascinating anthropology lesson, delivered with the bonus of a dramatic adventure

and a happy ending."

*(Kirkus Reviews)*

"Heimann rivets one's attention."

*(Washington Post Book World)*

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