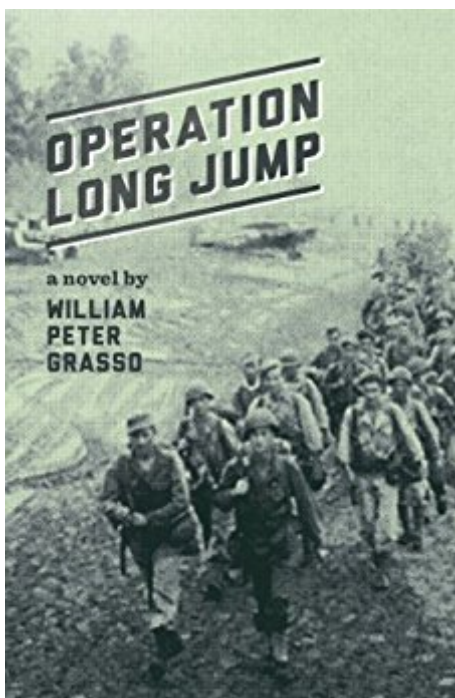


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Operation Long Jump (Jock Miles WW2 Adventure Series Book 2)



Synopsis

The Allied invasion of Papua New Guinea begins. Badly. Alternative history takes center stage as Operation Long Jump, the second book in the Jock Miles World War 2 adventure series, plunges us into the horrors of combat in the rainforests of Papua New Guinea. As a prelude to the Allied invasion, Jock Miles and his men seize the Japanese observation post on the mountain overlooking Port Moresby. The main invasion that follows quickly degenerates to a bloody stalemate, as the inexperienced, demoralized, and poorly led GIs struggle against the stubborn enemy. Seeking a way to crack the impenetrable Japanese defenses, infantry officer Jock finds himself in a new role— "aerial observer. He's teamed with rookie pilot John Worth, in a prequel to his role as hero of Grasso's East Wind Returns. Together, they struggle to expose the Japanese defenses— while highly exposed themselves— in their slow and vulnerable spotter plane. The enemy is not the only thing troubling Jock: his Australian lover, Jillian Forbes, has found a new and dangerous way to contribute to the war effort. Jock Miles' WW2 adventures continue in Grasso's Operation Easy Street.

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Customer Reviews

OPERATION LONG JUMP, Takes place during WW II some time in 1942 or 43. Is another very good book from, Books and kindle. My personal choice is my kindle but everyone to their own. There is a great choice of reading material from that will satisfy anybody. The kindle form of "operation long jump" is the one I chose and I am very glad I did. It's really great. It starts with an Infantry, the 32 Division, Infantry. A company of the 32nd. is being transported by Navy PT Boat, in fact 3 PT Boats, at pitch black night and no running lights. That trip alone was interesting but, that was just the beginning of the story. After an exciting trip dodging around Japans ships they arrived at the Island they had to debark and get several miles and hide from a Japan group. All this since the landing was done with the help of an Australian watcher than kept enemy activities furnished to the U.S. The objective was to capture and occupy a mountain top, get a radio operating and serve as an information center to keep the enemy big guns off the main landing. The operation went well until after the landing and new upper group of the chain of command got involved and wanted the Company off the location the Company worked so hard to get and the value of the location would cost many lives. I'll let this part go except for the fact that there was a widow there helping out and had lived in the area until the Japs killed her husband and then she helped the US in watching the Japs for the U.S. A love connection gets going with the Company 1st. The Company Capt. also fell in love with a rich woman he had met previously and met her again when she come to the Island in her ship to deliver supplies. There is a lot I left out but it is really interesting and will keep you busy wanting what is next. The two love things are not much of the book, but something that keeps you interesting. The Japs put up a hard fight and full of their tricks. One person I want to mention is General Douglas Mac Arthur His action and actions are as I remember. Col. DeVere Woods Ret.

The excellent second book in a five-book series, "Operation Long Jump" has far more bloody combat than the first, though Jock Miles spends most of it in reconnaissance, usually in a small L4 "Grasshopper". His observations and recommendations are more often than not disregarded by most of his arrogant superiors, even after his promotion to major. Mr. Grasso describes the GI's as prejudiced and profane, often scared and prone to panic, but willing to follow the all too few good leaders like Jock and sometimes capable of initiative and even feats of great heroism. The series is about Pacific operations of the US Army, not the Marines, so it must be set in New Guinea. Combat there was a crucible that weeded out the worst of all ranks, and it is described graphically. Mistakes and misjudgments were all too common, and the difficulties of getting either air or naval support for the operation were crippling. Mr. Grasso had no admiration for Gen. MacArthur and his sycophants,

and this is obviously going to be a theme throughout the series. The military operation in question is the capture of Port Moresby by US and Australian troops. There is also the matter of the romance between Jock and Jillian, which is becoming deeper and more fraught as both parties are put in harm's way. All in all, this is a fine, realistic series in a less well known setting.

Grasso continues the Jock Miles saga in the Pacific, and it is just as gripping and well-written as his first (Long Walk to the Sun). Though long and in some parts, excruciatingly detailed - particularly the almost hour-by-hour depictions of specific battles - it is nonetheless a page-turning book that will teach you a lot about the Americans fighting the Japanese in Australia. And I love Grasso's sympathy for the common soldier on the ground, slogging through croc-infested swamps in rotting clothing, as well as his patent non-love for the brass hats in pressed uniforms sitting back at command headquarters. His disdain for MacArthur is palpable, and I believe, well-deserved. My only criticism is that the book seems to just END, leaving you with the feeling that you were watching a movie serial like "The Perils of Pauline." It is almost as though an editor said, "Enough; it's too long." Or the author was tired of his tale. My assumption was that he would pick it up from that point when he wrote the next book, Operation Easy Street. But I've just finished reading that book, and it has nothing to do with Long Jump. So, a mystery. But don't let that keep you from reading either book. Both are worth it!

I am a fan of good well written alternative history. This qualifies--barely. I would really rate it a 3 1/2 stars. It seemed a little tedious in Mr. Grasso's treatment of "Dougout" Douglas MacArthur. and the senior leadership of the US Military in the early stages of WW-II. In reality they did a much better job than Mr. Grasso gave them credit for (maybe because we had broken the Japanese codes). But I understand that his hero has to look good, and if the brass was competent he could not look that way. BTW I had an uncle that was in the New Guinea campaign, so I know how screwed up it was in the real world. This book was good enough that I will read the next one in the series. I consider Mr. Grasso a better writer than Harry Turtledove, and a whole lot more affordable.

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