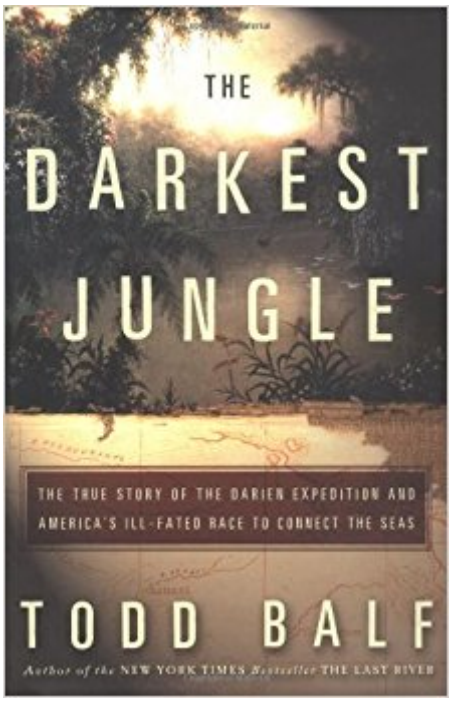
Ebook Directory
the best source of ebook

The book was found

The Darkest Jungle: The True Story Of The Darien Expedition And America's Ill-Fated Race To Connect The Seas



PDF
Adobe
DOWNLOAD EBOOK

Synopsis

Ã¢â ¬Å“Commit yourself to the Virgin Mary, for in her hands is the way into the DariÃƒÂ©nÃ¢â ¬â •and in GodÃ¢â ¬â„¢s is the way out.Ã¢â ¬Â•The Darkest Jungle tells the harrowing story of AmericaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s first ship canal exploration across a narrow piece of land in Central America called the DariÃƒÂ©n, a place that loomed large in the minds of the worldÃ¢â ¬â„¢s most courageous adventurers in the nineteenth century. With rival warships and explorers from England and France days behind, the 27-member U.S. DariÃƒÂ©n Exploring Expedition landed on the Atlantic shore at Caledonia Bay in eastern Panama to begin their mad dash up the coast-hugging mountains of the DariÃƒÂ©n wilderness. The whole world watched as this party attempted to be the first to traverse the 40-mile isthmus, the narrowest spot between the Atlantic and Pacific in all the Americas. Later, government investigators would say they were doomed before they started. Amid the speculative fever for an Atlantic and Pacific ship canal, the terrain to be crossed had been grossly misrepresented and fictitiously mapped. By January 27, 1854, the Americans had served out their last provisions and were severely footsore but believed the river they had arrived at was an artery to the Pacific, their destination. Leading them was the charismatic commander Isaac Strain, an adventuring 33-year-old U.S. Navy lieutenant. The party could have turned back except, said Strain, they were to a man Ã¢â ¬Å“revolted at the ideaÃ¢â ¬Â• of failing at a task they seemed destined to accomplish. Like the first men to try to scale Everest or reach the North Pole, they felt the eyes of their countrymen upon them. Yet StrainÃ¢â ¬â„¢s party would wander lost in the jungle for another sixty nightmarish days, following a tortuously contorted and uncharted tropical river. Their guns rusted in the damp heat, expected settlements never materialized, and the lush terrain provided little to no sustenance. As the unending march dragged on, the party was beset by flesh-embedding parasites and a range of infectious tropical diseases they had no antidote for (or understanding of). In the desperate final days, in the throes of starvation, the survivors flirted with cannibalism and the sickest men had to be left behind so, as the journal keeper painfully recorded, the rest might have a chance to live. The U.S. DariÃƒÂ©n Exploring ExpeditionÃ¢â ¬â„¢s 97-day ordeal of starvation, exhaustion, and madnessÃ¢â ¬â •a tragedy turned Ã¢â ¬Å“triumph of the soulÃ¢â ¬Â• due to the courage and self-sacrifice of their leader and the seamen who devotedly followed himÃ¢â ¬â •is one of the great untold tales of human survival and exploration. Based on the vividly detailed log entries of Strain and his junior officers, other period sources, and BalfÃ¢â ¬â„¢s own treks in the DariÃƒÂ©n Gap, this is a rich and utterly compelling historical narrative that will thrill readers who enjoyed In the Heart of the Sea, IsaacÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Storm, and other sagas of adventure at the limits of human

endurance.

Book Information

Hardcover: 352 pages

Publisher: Crown; 1 edition (October 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0609609890

ISBN-13: 978-0609609897

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 1.2 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 24 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,119,388 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #48 inÃ Â Books > History > Americas > Central America > Panama #98 inÃ Â Books > History > Americas > South America > Colombia #386 inÃ Â Books > Travel > Central America > General

Customer Reviews

In 1854, Isaac Strain, an ambitious young U.S. Navy lieutenant, launched an expedition hoping to find a definitive route for a canal across the isthmus of Panama. For hundreds of years, the Dari‚n isthmus had defied explorers; its unmapped wilderness contained some of the world's most torturous jungle. Yet Strain was confident he could complete the crossing. He was wrong. He and his men quickly lost their way and stumbled into ruin. Balf (The Last River) vibrantly recounts their journey, a disaster on a par with the Donner party or the sinking of the whale ship Essex. Using logs kept by Strain and his lieutenants, as well as other period sources, Balf follows the party from their first missteps (their landing boat capsized in roiling surf) to their near-miraculous rescue two months later. Strain and his crew endured exhaustion, heat, starvation and infestations of botfly maggots, which grew under the skin and fattened on human tissue. The men were forced to make heartbreaking life-and-death decisions; e.g., voting to leave behind sick companions who couldn't keep up with the rest (one shrieked after them as they trudged deeper into the jungle). Some men surrendered to despair; two of them quietly conspired to commit cannibalism. Balf has written a compelling, tragic story, reviving an adventure overshadowed, 60 years later, by the successful completion of the canal. Balf reminds readers that, like the transcontinental railroad farther to the north, the channel was "built on the bones of dead men." Illus., maps not seen by PW.Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

The 1854 U.S. Darien Exploring Expedition, led by navy lieutenant Isaac Strain, was seeking a ship-canal route that would link the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. The men suffered from disease, exhaustion, deadly insects, starvation, despair, and failure. Despite a two-year search by Balf, author of The Last River, he was never able to find the journals and notebooks kept by the group's 29 members. The journal entries appeared in only one place, an account written by the then best-selling historian Joel Tyler Headley. His story appeared over three successive editions of the 1855 Harper's New Monthly, the most thought-provoking periodical of the day. The men had overcome unimaginable obstacles when they emerged from the rain forest after five months; six members of the expedition had died. Balf's colorful account of the venture is compelling reading. George CohenCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved

Very informative about a period between the Mexican War and War Between The States. Little is told of these episodes in most history books and rarely talked about in school. The author (Balf) did a good job in telling the story and of the men involved, however, what would have been very helpful would have been to have maps showing locations and area photos; if they did exist, and have added them to the text. Not knowing the trails and routes that these individuals took, the location of camps and all the missed crossing points of one group as opposed to the other puts the reader at a disadvantaged. Trying to find old maps of the area on my own was difficult, but was worth the effort when trying to recreate how this expedition may have played out.

Great book, great story. Would have been an even better book if Balf had included more maps, illustrations, and even photos. The arrogance of Strain in taking on the Darien jungle reminds me of our going into Baghdad in 2003 completely oblivious of the local reality and survival strategies. In Baghdad the deadly challenge was the Sunni/Shiia historical rivalry and the Darien it was the jungle. In the Darien the Spanish had been there for 300 years and the indigenous populations for mileniums more. Yet, Strain went ahead without getting local support, an action that was key to Balboa's success. I've spent quite a bit of time in Panama hiking the colonial Camino de Cruces and can attest to tremendous challenge the jungle represents. The humidity is debilitating and the chiggers ubiquitous. I could barely endure hours and yet Strain endured weeks. I understand the Panama Historical Society has plans to locate Strain's grave and move his remains to the U.S. Military cemetary in Corazal. I hope they go through with this idea.

I really like the way that Todd Balf presented and researched the topic. A lady friend who won't let

me join her on the cruise she is taking through the canal recommended the book to me. It has sparked my interest as does she.

Balf does a great job of bringing readers up to speed with the time period the narrative takes place in, since most readers wouldn't know much of the race between the United States and Britain to find a path through central America and the various attempts before Strain's. The narrative itself reads extremely well, I finished this book in just a few days, yet I remember much of the details, particularly the botflies, which make me shudder to even read about. I agree with other reviewers who recommend it to adventure readers as well as history fans. 'Skeletons On The Zahara" by Dean King is also another worthwhile read, though I prefer Balf's less intrusive background information.

Very interesting explorer book. I never realized how many expeditions went through that area looking for a pass between the oceans. Great read!

Started reading because I had book club-stayed with it, and finished...because i wanted to. Opened my eyes to just what the early surveyors of Panama Canal endured! highly recommended!

Great story and told in a very interesting way. This author obviously did a lot of quality research. Very interesting topic.

Fantastic book - I couldn't put it down.

Download to continue reading...

The Darkest Jungle: The True Story of the Darien Expedition and America's Ill-Fated Race to Connect the Seas Crossing the Darien Gap: A Daring Journey Through a Forbidding and Enchanting and Roadless Jungle That Is the Only Link by Land Between North America and South America Up, Up, and Away: The Kid, the Hawk, Rock, Vladi, Pedro, le Grand Orange, Youppi!, the Crazy Business of Baseball, and the Ill-fated but Unforgettable Montreal Expos Speaking Ill of the Dead: Jerks in Connecticut History (Speaking Ill of the Dead: Jerks in Histo) Nursing Care of the Critically Ill Child - E-Book (Hazinski, Nursing Care of the Critically Ill Child) Nursing Care of the Critically Ill Child, 3e (Hazinski, Nursing Care of the Critically Ill Child) The Darkest Minds (A Darkest Minds Novel) The Darkest Sunrise (The Darkest Sunrise Duet Book 1) True Ghost Stories And Hauntings: Eerie True Paranormal Hauntings, Unexplained Phenomena And Disturbing True Ghost

Stories (True Ghost Stories, Bizarre True Stories,) Darkest Hour: The True Story of Lark Force at Rabaul - Australia's Worst Military Disaster of World War II Three years in the Libyan desert: Travels, discoveries and excavations of the Menas expedition (Kaufmann expedition) Magical Jungle: An Inky Expedition and Coloring Book for Adults Magical Jungle 2018 Wall Calendar: An Inky Expedition and 2018 Coloring Calendar Jungle Jam and Friends: Wild Times in God's Creation (Audio Cassette) (Jungle Jam and Friends Radio Show) GUYANA a River Jungle Expedition Jungle Doctor and the Whirlwind (Jungle Doctor Series Book 1) Jungle Doctor in Slippery Places (Jungle Doctor Series Book 6) Jungle Doctor's Africa (Jungle Doctor Series Book 7) Jungle Doctor Spots a Leopard (Jungle Doctor Series Book 3) Jungle Doctor on the Hop (Jungle Doctor Series Book 2)

Contact Us

DMCA

Privacy

FAQ & Help