

# Glenn McDole: A USMC Survivor of the Palawan Massacre in World War II

The horrors of World War II unfolded across countless battlefields, each bearing witness to the depths of human suffering and resilience. Among the most tragic episodes was the Palawan Massacre, where Japanese forces perpetrated unspeakable atrocities against American prisoners of war (POWs). One of the few survivors of this nightmare was Marine Corporal Glenn McDole, whose extraordinary story serves as a testament to the indomitable spirit of those who endured the darkest chapters of history.



## Last Man Out: Glenn McDole, USMC, Survivor of the Palawan Massacre in World War II by Bob Wilbanks

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

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Screen Reader : Supported

Word Wise : Enabled

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## Path to the Philippines

Glenn McDole, born in 1921, was a young man from the Midwest when the war broke out. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and underwent rigorous training at Parris Island, South Carolina. After completing boot camp, McDole was assigned to the 4th Marine Regiment, 6th Marine

Division. In 1944, he was deployed to the Pacific Theater, where the Marines were engaged in fierce fighting against the Japanese.

## **The Palawan Massacre**

In December 1944, the 4th Marine Regiment landed on the island of Palawan, in the southwestern Philippines. Their mission was to secure the island's airfield and disrupt Japanese supply lines. However, the Marines soon encountered fierce resistance from the Japanese garrison, who had dug in heavily in the island's dense jungle.

On December 14, McDole's unit was ambushed by a superior Japanese force. The Marines fought valiantly, but they were overwhelmed and forced to surrender. McDole and approximately 150 other Marines were taken prisoner.

The Japanese herded the POWs into a clearing and subjected them to a series of horrific atrocities. The prisoners were beaten, tortured, and bayoneted. Those who attempted to escape were shot on sight. McDole witnessed the gruesome deaths of many of his fellow Marines, including his close friend, PFC William Benge.

## **A Miraculous Escape**

Amidst the chaos and carnage, McDole somehow managed to escape. He slipped away from his captors and hid in the jungle for several days. During that time, he subsisted on berries and insects and constantly feared being recaptured.

By chance, McDole stumbled upon a group of Filipino guerrillas who were operating in the area. The guerrillas provided him with food, clothing, and

medical attention. They also helped him make contact with American forces, who eventually rescued him.

## **Aftermath and Legacy**

Glenn McDole was one of only 11 Marines to survive the Palawan Massacre. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" for his bravery and heroism. After the war, McDole returned to the United States and resumed his civilian life. However, the horrors he had witnessed continued to haunt him.

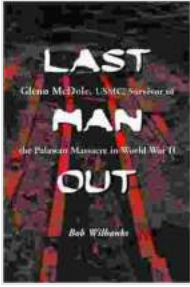
McDole dedicated the rest of his life to sharing his story and honoring the memory of his fallen comrades. He became an active member of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor (ADBC) and other veterans' organizations. He traveled extensively, giving lectures and participating in ceremonies to commemorate the sacrifices of American POWs.

Glenn McDole passed away in 2014 at the age of 92. His story serves as a powerful reminder of the horrors of war and the resilience of the human spirit. He is remembered as a hero who endured unimaginable suffering and emerged as a symbol of hope and inspiration.

The Palawan Massacre was a dark chapter in American history, but the story of Glenn McDole and the other survivors is a testament to the resilience and bravery of those who fought for freedom. Their sacrifices should never be forgotten, and their stories should continue to inspire generations to come.

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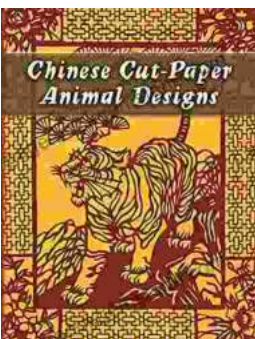


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