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Human Bullets: A Soldier's Story of the Russo-Japanese War

Tadayoshi Sakurai

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#1260174 in Books University of Nebraska Press 1999-04-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .67 x 5.251, .69 #File Name: 080329266X270 pages | File size: 65.Mb

Tadayoshi Sakurai : Human Bullets: A Soldier's Story of the Russo-Japanese War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Human Bullets: A Soldier's Story of the Russo-Japanese War:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. In The Mind of a Japanese Soldier By Brice Petit-Jean This account of some of the battles of the Russo-Japanese War is astonishing for its immediacy and as an insight into the spirit of self-sacrifice in the Japanese soldier of the day, a prelude to a similar attitude in the First and Second Sino-Japanese

and the Pacific Wars, and a reminder of the self-same vigour with which British Empire and American troops of the First World War wanted to "show the world what they were made of"...4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Finally A ReprintBy Dr YBefore the Internet, I searched in used book stores for almost 15 years trying to find this gem. I got a used first edition in about 3 minutes when I Googled. I don't like to touch it because it is in delicate condition, so this reprint allows me to read this unforgettable story time and time again. HUMAN BULLETS is the best memoir to come out of the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905. The translation from Japanese is quite good. I still can't put it down.3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. I Will Die Beautifully Today!By Michael L. ShakespeareIn his memoir, Tadayoshi Sakurai takes readers to places they rarely venture: a death-dealing world of machine guns, grenades and swords -- The Russo-Japanese War.Sakurai, a Japanese Army Lieutenant, shows a keen sense for detail in chronicling his role in Japan's siege of Port Arthur -- Imperial Russia's most important Far Eastern Naval Base -- from the landing of the Japanese forces in Manchuria until his wounding while storming the fortress.The personal anecdotes and graphic details about how he copes with life in camp and on the battlefield draw the reader in even when the writing is very poetic. He writes his memoir in the self-sacrificing traditional Japanese military spirit. It's fanatical, close-minded and very intolerant, but it's never stale."Human Bullets: A Soldier's Story of the Russo-Japanese War" was first published in Japan where it became somewhat of a literary sensation.

The impact of the Russo-Japanese War of 1904–5 was incalculable. It was the first victory by an Asian power over a European one since the Mongol invasions of the thirteenth century. Japanese victory was ascribed to the "spirit" of the Japanese people, which helped their soldiers to overcome superior numbers and technology. A fascinating glimpse into prevailing nationalistic and militaristic attitudes in early-twentieth-century Japan, *Human Bullets* is also an engaging story of combat and an excellent source of insights about a relatively obscure but immensely influential conflict.

"On 24 August 1905, twenty-five year old Lieutenant Tadayoshi Sakurai of the Imperial Japanese Army was badly wounded during an assault upon Russian defences at Port Arthur in Manchuria... The experiences he relates are often graphic, relayed in a florid style and at a breathless pace which eerily portray the chaos and confusion of battle. But this is not just a moving and outstanding account of the horror of war. Sakurai's account of operations are relevant to the modern officer... This book is a fascinating portrayal of a junior leader's experience of war."--The Wish Stream, Summer 1999Language NotesText: English (translation) Original Language: JapaneseAbout the AuthorThis long-overlooked, classic memoir of the Japanese military is introduced by Roger J. Spiller, the George C. Marshall Professor of Military History at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. Spiller is the general editor of *Dictionary of American Military Biography* and *Combined Arms in Action* since 1939.