



81 Days Below Zero: The Incredible Survival Story of a World War II Pilot in Alaska's Frozen Wilderness

Brian Murphy

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The untold story of Leon Crane, the only surviving crew member of a World War II B-24 crash on a remote mountain near the Arctic Circle, who managed to stay alive 81 days in sub-zero temperature by making peace with nature, and end his ordeal by walking along a river to safety. Part World War II story, part Alaskan adventure story, part survival story, and even part inspirational story, this is what we call " a good read." This is the first full length retelling of Crane' s incredible survivalist story. It has been noted in magazines and in story collections over the years: most notably, just after the war ended, Crane' s story was included in a book aptly titled, *The 100 Best True Stories of World War II* , and in the 1970s, the story was a part of John McPhee' s hot-selling collection of Alaskan survival tales, *Coming into the Country*. The author suggests that we think Jon Krakauer' s *Into the Wild* " meets" Alfred Lansing' s *Endurance* . I would suggest that we also think Dick Proenneke' s *Alone in the Wilderness* " meets" Slavomir Rawicz' s *The Long Walk* . These meetings can go on and on; but there are some very impressive WWII survival stories that have become bestselling books-- even with previously " untold" and " unknown" stories, like Crane' s.

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