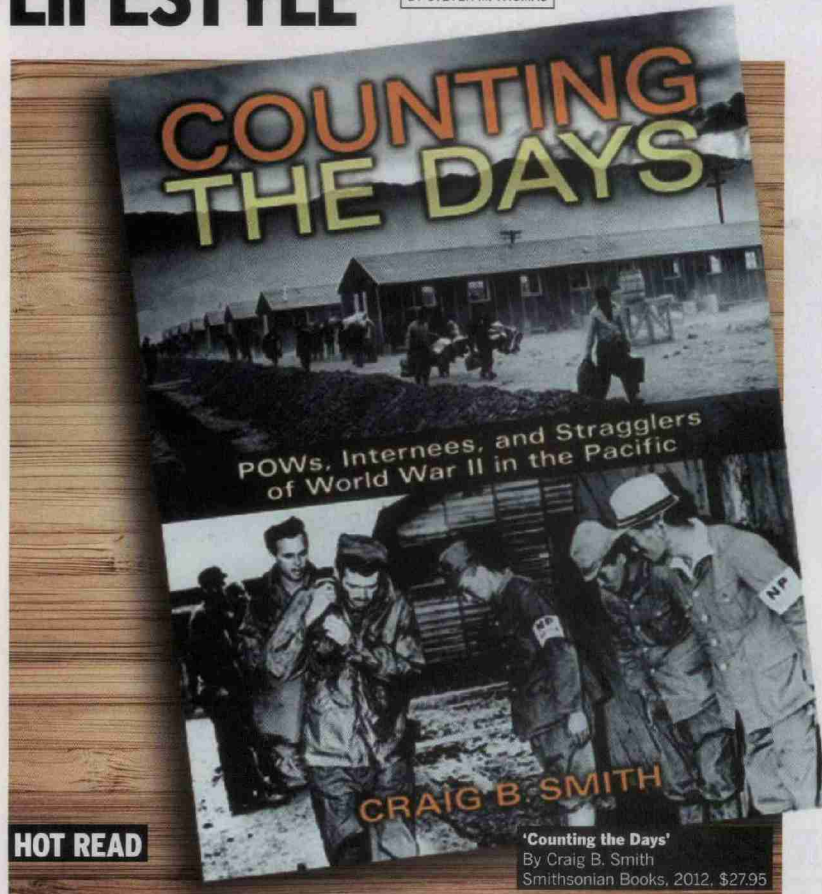


LIFESTYLE

BY STEVEN M. THOMAS



'Counting the Days'
 By Craig B. Smith
 Smithsonian Books, 2012, \$27.95

They had the will to endure

How 6 people survived formidable ordeals during World War II

Craig Smith, whose firm helped rebuild the Pentagon after 9/11, has written a book focused sharply on one of the most traumatic side effects of international conflict.

It chronicles the experiences of six people, several with SoCal roots, who ended up as prisoners or hunted refugees behind enemy lines during and after World War II.

They include Mitsuye Takahashi, who grew up on a farm in Malibu. An American citizen working at Yokohama Bank in Los Angeles on Dec. 7, 1941, she was "relocated" to the Manzanar internment camp, in the Owens Valley, in April 1942. She spent the next three and a half years as a prisoner.

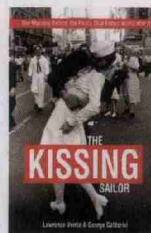
Garth Dunn grew up in Glendale. When war came, he was a marine MP on the tiny island of Guam. The 400 marines and sailors

there had nothing but three machine guns and an armory of antiquated WW I rifles with which to face a 5,000-soldier Japanese invasion force. Dunn became one of the first Allied POWs.

the facts:
 The terms of the Geneva Convention were ignored by the Japanese during World War II. They inflicted punishment at the whim of the camp commandant.

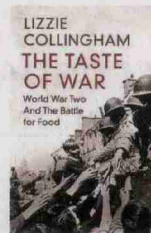
Using military records, diaries, personal interviews and on-site investigations, Smith pieces together the stories of Takahashi, Dunn and four others, seeking to discover the family backgrounds and personal qualities that allowed them to triumph over incredibly difficult circumstances, surviving when many others gave up or died.

the extras



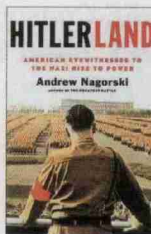
'THE KISSING SAILOR'
 By Lawrence Verria and George Galdorisi
 Naval Institute Press, 2012, \$23.95

The sailor and nurse who shared the famous kiss in Times Square the day the Japanese surrendered are finally identified.



'THE TASTE OF WAR: WORLD WAR II AND THE BATTLE FOR FOOD'
 By Lizzie Collingham
 Penguin Press, 2012, \$36

Armies march on their stomachs, and cities and civilizations fall for want of food. Collingham chronicles the role of calories during WW II.



'HITLERLAND: AMERICAN EYEWITNESSES TO THE NAZI RISE TO POWER'
 By Andrew Nagorski
 Simon & Schuster, \$28

A study of how Hitler looked to Americans on the scene as he rose to power; some were infatuated, while others were horrified.

