

# Defeated Empire: Forgotten Mission and the Last American Killed in World War II



## Last to Die: A Defeated Empire, a Forgotten Mission, and the Last American Killed in World War II

by Stephen Harding

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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On the morning of August 14, 1945, just hours before the end of World War II, American soldier Private First Class Richard Landry was killed in a skirmish on the remote island of Hokkaido, Japan.

Landry's death was the last American combat fatality of the war, and it came as a tragic end to a forgotten mission that had been plagued by errors and miscommunication.

The mission, codenamed Operation Blacklist, was intended to gather intelligence on Soviet forces in the Far East. However, the mission was poorly planned and executed, and Landry and his fellow soldiers were ambushed by Japanese forces.

Landry's death was a senseless tragedy, and it is a reminder of the human cost of war. His story is a forgotten chapter in American history, but it is one that deserves to be told.

## **The Forgotten Mission**

Operation Blacklist was conceived in the waning days of World War II, as American intelligence officials became increasingly concerned about the Soviet Union's intentions in the Far East.

The mission was assigned to the 77th Infantry Division, which had been fighting in the Pacific since 1942. The division was tasked with sending a small team of soldiers to Hokkaido, Japan, to gather intelligence on Soviet forces in the area.

The mission was a difficult one. Hokkaido was a remote island, and the Japanese were still in control of the area. The 77th Infantry Division also had limited resources, and they were unable to provide the team with much support.

Despite the challenges, the team set out on their mission on August 12, 1945. The team was led by Captain John R. Reilly, and it included Landry and six other soldiers.

The team landed on Hokkaido on August 13, and they immediately began their mission. However, the team quickly ran into trouble. They were ambushed by Japanese forces, and they were forced to retreat.

The team was able to escape, but Landry was killed in the ambush. He was the last American combat fatality of the war.

## The Last American Killed in World War II

Richard Landry was born in New Hampshire in 1923. He was drafted into the Army in 1943, and he served in the Pacific for two years.

Landry was a good soldier, and he was well-liked by his fellow soldiers. He was also a devout Catholic, and he often wrote letters to his family about his faith.

In one letter, Landry wrote:



***“ "I know that I may not come back from this war, but I am not afraid. I have faith in God, and I know that he will take care of me." ”***

Landry's death was a tragic loss, and it is a reminder of the human cost of war. He was the last American combat fatality of World War II, and his story is a forgotten chapter in American history.

## The Enduring Legacy of War

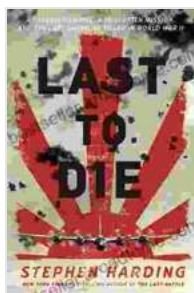
The death of Richard Landry is a reminder of the enduring legacy of war. War is a terrible thing, and it has a lasting impact on those who are involved in it.

The families of those who are killed in war are left to grieve their loss. The soldiers who return from war are often scarred by their experiences. And the communities that are affected by war are often left to rebuild.

The war in the Pacific was a particularly brutal conflict, and it had a devastating impact on both Japan and the United States. Millions of people were killed, and countless others were injured.

The war also left a lasting legacy of bitterness between the two countries. It took many years for the two countries to heal their wounds, and even today, the war still casts a shadow over relations between Japan and the United States.

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