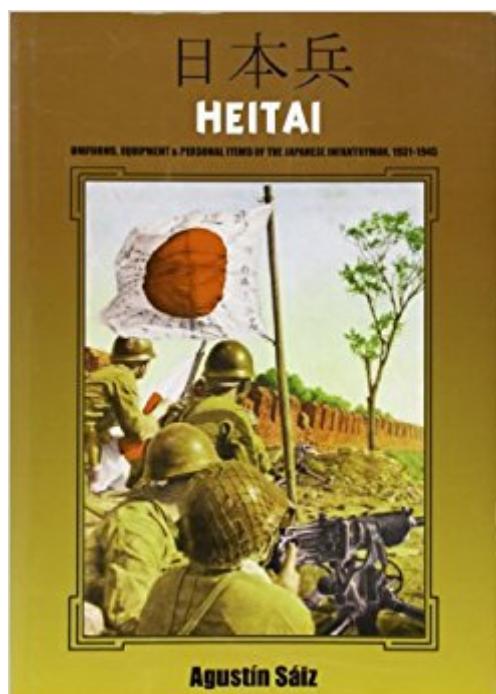


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# HEITAI: Uniforms, Equipment And Personal Items Of The Japanese Soldier, 1931-1945



## Synopsis

Once the seemingly invincible conquerors of nearly all of East Asia, today relatively little is known of the exact weapons, uniforms, and lifestyle of World War II Japanese soldiers (the Heitai). In this lavishly illustrated book, readers and historians alike can finally glimpse the precise personal effects of the Imperial infantryman. Thanks to a collection carefully nurtured through the decades, every aspect of the Heitai's daily existence is shown in detail with superb color photography accompanied by informative descriptions. Items range from weapons to clothing (both tropical and arctic), eating implements, communications equipment, awards, helmets, insignia, visual devices, gas masks, canteens, cameras, tents and footwear. Also included are propaganda leaflets and simple reading material issued to the Heitai during long, slow periods of service on isolated (sometimes bypassed) Pacific islands. By examining the exact possessions of a Japanese soldier—from dagger to toothbrush, from hand grenade to undergarments—one is able to see history come to life in a way no cinema or text alone could convey. At the same time, it is of interest to note both the differences between an Imperial fighter's equipment with that of a GI, and how in many ways it was similar. As a companion volume to the bestselling Deutsche Soldaten, this over-sized, one-of-a-kind work on the Imperial Heitai provides a uniquely illuminating view of the Japanese fighting man who was once America's most fearsome enemy.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I heavily collect WWII Japanese militaria and firearms and I am always on the prowl for more references on the subject. So very few books have been published on Japanese militaria as it is one

of the last untapped WWII areas to collect. This book goes above and beyond my expectations and i find it will be invaluable to any collector both novice and advanced! The lush color photos of uniforms, head gear, personal items, flags, etc. is a feast for your eyes and many items in this book have never been found in any other publications to date. I highly recommend this book as a great read and future reference!

There is a suprising large amount of information on uniforms and equipment of America's world war two soldiers though a lot more about those of the Germans but hardly any available on the Japanese. The only real good source of information on the uniforms and equipment of Japanese solders is Uniforms and Equipment of the IMPERIAL JAPANESE Army in World War Two by Mike Hewitt which is an excellant source of information but this book HEITAI by Augustin Saiz is many many times better for it is the most comprehensive source of information on the uniforms, equipment and day to day pocket clutter and stuff of the Japanese soldier I have ever come across. It is a trove of everything about these fellows. A most extensive source of information for those interested in history and about those who fought against us, an excellant book.

There are so many great books on German, American & British equipment of WWII; that is wonderful to see efforts to provide data and photographs of original equipment from the other countries involved. An ability to compare and learn about both sides helps with an understanding of the supply chain, economy and long term affects on a country's ability to field a force. This book provides a good foundation of information regarding uniforms and equipment of the average soldier - with a sprinkling of images of officer and NCO uniforms to help provide a comparison. I am very happy to add this to my reference library, and recommend it as a great addition to anyone's library who is interested in not just the story of the soldiers - but the reality of what they were given to perform their assigned tasks.

This fairly newly published reference book is the best on the subject. Coffy table edition, Photographs of original items in full color is the best I have ever seen. Plus many vintage photographs to go with the discriptions. This book equals any of the German/American WW2 militaria/uniforms/equipment books that the folks at Schfiler publish. Awsome layouts throughout. You wont want to put it down.

This is a very well done book laid out & printed nicely on 465 pages of medium gloss paper. Starting

with an Index, Prologue, Introduction, & ending with a Bibliography the book covers all manner of personal equipment from underwear to overcoat, soap to butts, personal weapons to song books. There are a significant number of period photos & drawings accompanied by color photos of the items from modern collections. All told it's an excellent reference on a virtually unknown subject for them that aren't already seasoned collectors. Glad to have a copy.

I've been slow to develop an interest in the IJA, or the IJN for that matter, focusing mostly upon those countries involved in the greater European Theater . . . but now I couldn't be "complete" without getting into the greater Pacific Theater nations. This volume fills a drastic void in the evolution of the IJA's uniform, equipment, and especially the personal items . . . just as the title claims. Rare as some of these items are, it's amazing that most of the books artifacts were amassed by a single person. Expensive it is, and that led to my slow acquisition of it, but it's worth every penny. Now if one could possibly develop such a volume on Japan's only ally (sort of), Thailand, the rest of the combatant nations info would more easily be obtained.

I've been interested in the Imperial Japanese Army for as long as I can remember, and I have an extensive collection of books on the subject that describe the doctrines, tactics, lifestyles, and many other facets of the Imperial Army- This book fills in a huge gap in information... It's packed tons of incredible photos, definitions, and explanations on nearly everything that one could possibly think of that would affect the Imperial soldier. It's got pages and pages of items carried by the individual, not just his equipment, but his personal keepsakes, letters from home, the mundane accoutrements that all men would carry, items from home, care packages, religious items, alongside the food he'd eat, the books he'd read, and the games he'd play. I learned something new on nearly every single page... Highly recommended. The book is heavy and finely built as well. The jacket is in the photo, but even without it- the book itself is a beautiful rising sun with its rays. Excellent investment that found a home on my bookshelf- forever.

I do not collect or study the Japanese Army yet felt the price of the book was justified to add to my knowledge and library. I am very pleased with the book and highly recommend it. I am not an expert but it covers all I need to know about the Japanese infantryman's uniforms, equipment, and personal items. I am glad I bought the book and have it in my library and I believe you will be too.

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