



Hawai'i in War and Peace: A Memoir

Bill Fernandez



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This book completes the memoirs of Hawaiian Author, Bill Fernandez. The first one, Kaua'i Kids in Peace and War, covered the years 1931 to 1944, and ends as he flies to Honolulu to school at age 14. Hawai'i in War and Peace begins when his airplane lands in Honolulu as he heads to a school he didn't want to attend, Kamehameha Schools. At this boarding school for children of Native Hawaiian ancestry, he is thrown into a city and school dramatically different from his sleepy Kapa'a on Kaua'i. The ROTC uniform scratches, the shoes squeeze his feet, and his country bumpkin ways are derided. He abruptly encounters military discipline and a city filled with World War II military and racism. Newspapers teach him about world politics and locals talk about "rap the ha'ole". Peace seems remote when Berlin is blockaded by the Soviets, Winston Churchill describes the Iron Curtain descending onto Europe, and tsunamis strike. As his family drives around the United States in 1948, Bill witnesses racism. Despite increasing success as a student, he is uncertain if he wants to attend college as his parents urge. His vivid description of a summer of fishing adventures makes him waiver between college or becoming a fisherman. A sudden shock makes his decision for him. The book ends as he enters Stanford University in 1949 and meets an Olympic gold medalist, Bob Mathias.

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