

## Document Citation

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**Hell to Eternity** (Atlantic Pictures; Allied Artists). Guy Gabaldon, a Los Angeles boy of Spanish descent, went to live with a Japanese-American family when he was eleven. At 17, even though he had a punctured eardrum and his height (5 ft. 3½ in.) was short of the Marine minimum, Gabaldon was accepted for World War II service with the Corps because he spoke fluent Japanese. Sent to Saipan, Gabaldon promptly went over the hill—toward the Japanese lines—and returned with several enemy soldiers he had persuaded to surrender. Night after night thereafter he snaked through the Japanese positions until his grand total of prisoners by persuasion rose to about 2,000. After Saipan's fall, he was awarded the Silver Star for actions that, in the words of his commanding officer, "unquestionably saved many lives and substantially shortened the [campaign]."

Gabaldon's exploits would probably satisfy almost any appetite for adventure except that of a Hollywood producer. In any case, they seemed not nearly adventurous enough to Producer Irving H. Levin, who is responsible for this film biography of Gabaldon. The usual big sex orgy—the one in which dancing girls bump and marines jump as though hit with a .45 slug—was stuck in where it obviously doesn't belong, along with the usual improbable battle scenes. Casting note: the undersized hero is played by 6-ft. 2-in. Jeffrey Hunter. This time it seems to have been Gabaldon, retained as a "technical adviser" on the picture, who was persuaded to surrender.