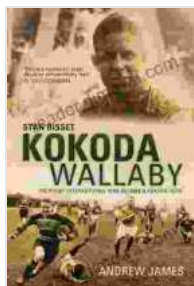


The Rugby International Who Became Kokoda Hero: Unveiling the Extraordinary Story of John "Jack" Manning



Kokoda Wallaby: Stan Bisset: The Rugby International Who Became a Kokoda Hero by Andrew James

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 5813 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 305 pages
Lending : Enabled



Prologue: The Rise of a Rugby Legend



In the heart of the Sydney rugby scene, the name John "Jack" Manning evoked both admiration and awe. Born in 1898, Manning displayed exceptional athletic prowess from a young age. His skills on the rugby field were unparalleled, earning him a place in the prestigious New South Wales Waratahs team in 1924. As a dynamic forward, Manning's strength, agility, and determination made him a formidable opponent. His performances on

the pitch captivated crowds, who marveled at his ability to break through defenses and score crucial tries.

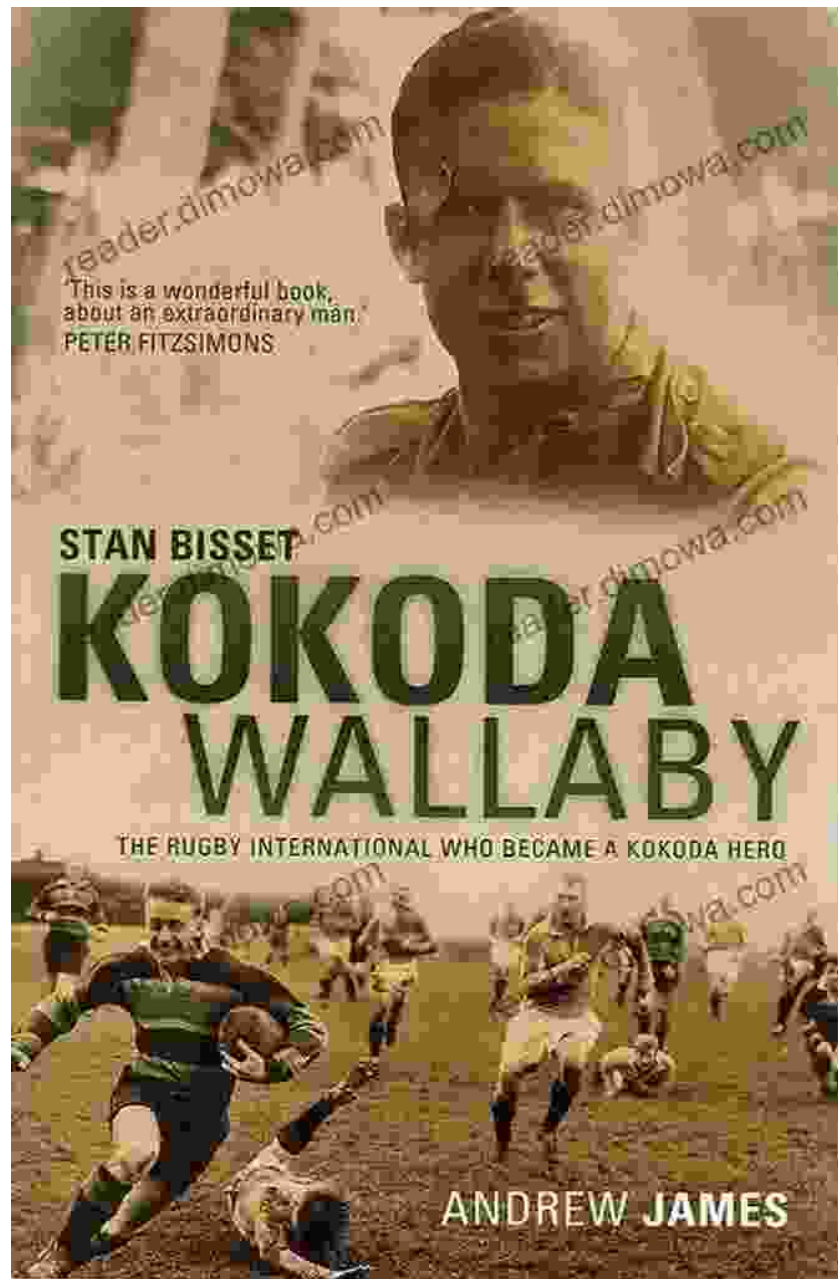
Call to Duty: The Outbreak of War



Manning's rugby career was cut short by the outbreak of World War II in 1939. Driven by a deep sense of patriotism, he enlisted in the Australian Army and was assigned to the 39th Battalion. Little did he know that the

skills he had honed on the rugby field would soon be tested in the unforgiving jungles of Papua New Guinea.

The Crucible of Kokoda: A Fierce Battleground



In July 1942, the 39th Battalion was deployed to the Kokoda Trail, a treacherous mountain pass that became the scene of one of the most brutal campaigns of the war. The Japanese army had invaded Papua New Guinea and was advancing towards Port Moresby, the strategic capital of

the territory. The Australian troops, outnumbered and outgunned, faced a daunting task in defending their homeland.

A Soldier's Heart: Manning's Valour



Amidst the chaos and carnage of the Kokoda campaign, John Manning emerged as a beacon of courage and leadership. Despite the relentless attacks by the Japanese, Manning remained steadfast, inspiring his fellow soldiers with his unwavering determination. In one particularly intense

battle at Oivi, Manning single-handedly charged a Japanese machine gun nest, taking out the enemy position and saving the lives of countless comrades.

From Rugby Field to Battlefield: A Transformative Journey



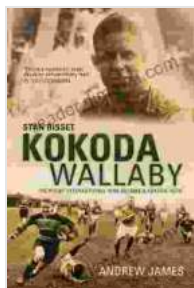
Manning's actions at Kokoda earned him the admiration of his fellow soldiers and the gratitude of a nation. He was awarded the Military Cross for his gallantry and leadership. The rugby international had transformed into a true war hero, embodying the qualities of courage, resilience, and self-sacrifice.

Epilogue: A Legacy of Honour



After the war, John Manning returned to Australia as a celebrated hero. He resumed his rugby career, playing for Sydney University until 1949. In his later years, he became a respected businessman and community figure. Manning's legacy extends far beyond his athletic and military achievements. He represents the indomitable spirit of those who fought and

sacrificed during World War II, reminding us of the importance of courage, perseverance, and the unwavering bonds of comradeship.

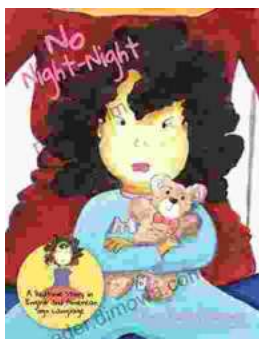


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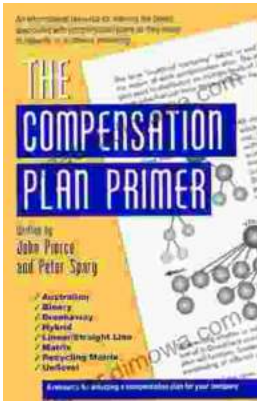
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