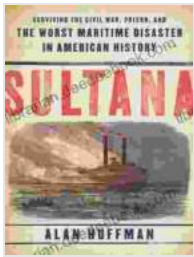


Surviving the Civil War Prison and the Worst Maritime Disaster in American History

John Poland was a Union soldier who fought in the Civil War. He was captured by Confederate forces and sent to the notorious Andersonville prison, where he endured unimaginable horrors. After the war, he was aboard the steamship Sultana when it exploded and sank in the Mississippi River, killing over 1,700 people. Poland was one of the few survivors of both tragedies.



Sultana: Surviving the Civil War, Prison, and the Worst Maritime Disaster in American History by Alan Huffman

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 754 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 322 pages



Andersonville Prison

Andersonville was a Confederate prisoner-of-war camp located in Georgia. It was one of the most notorious prisons of the Civil War, and over 13,000 Union soldiers died there. The conditions at Andersonville were horrific. The prisoners were crowded into overcrowded barracks, and they were often denied food, water, and medical care. They were also subjected to beatings, torture, and starvation.

Poland was captured by Confederate forces in 1864 and sent to Andersonville. He spent four months at the prison, and he witnessed the horrors that took place there. He saw men die from starvation, disease, and beatings. He also saw men go insane. Poland himself was beaten and tortured, but he managed to survive.

The Sultana Disaster

After the war, Poland returned home to Ohio. He married and had a family, and he worked as a farmer. In 1865, he decided to take a trip to New Orleans to visit his brother. He boarded the steamship Sultana, which was carrying over 2,000 passengers, mostly Union soldiers who were being discharged from the army.

On April 27, 1865, the Sultana exploded and sank in the Mississippi River. Over 1,700 people died, making it the worst maritime disaster in American history. Poland was one of the few survivors. He was able to swim to shore, and he was eventually rescued.

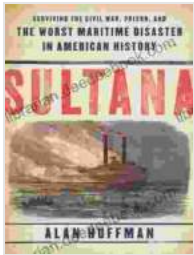
Aftermath

Poland was haunted by his experiences for the rest of his life. He suffered from nightmares and flashbacks, and he was unable to sleep without medication. He also had physical injuries that never healed. He died in 1916 at the age of 76.

Poland's story is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit. He endured unimaginable horrors, but he never gave up hope. He was a survivor, and his story is an inspiration to us all.

Additional Resources

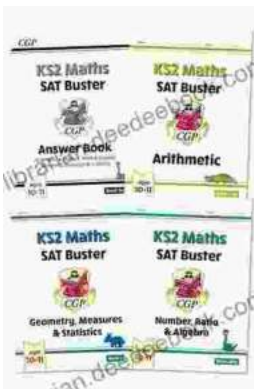
- Andersonville National Historic Site
- Andersonville Prison
- Sultana Disaster



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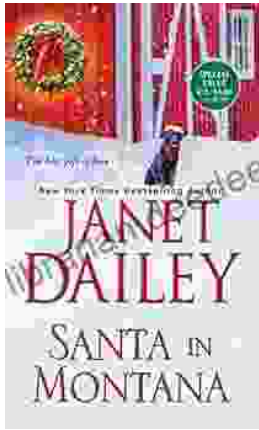
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