



## **Unbroken (2014)**

(Cast: Jack O'Connell, Takamasa Ishihara, Domhnall Gleeson et al)

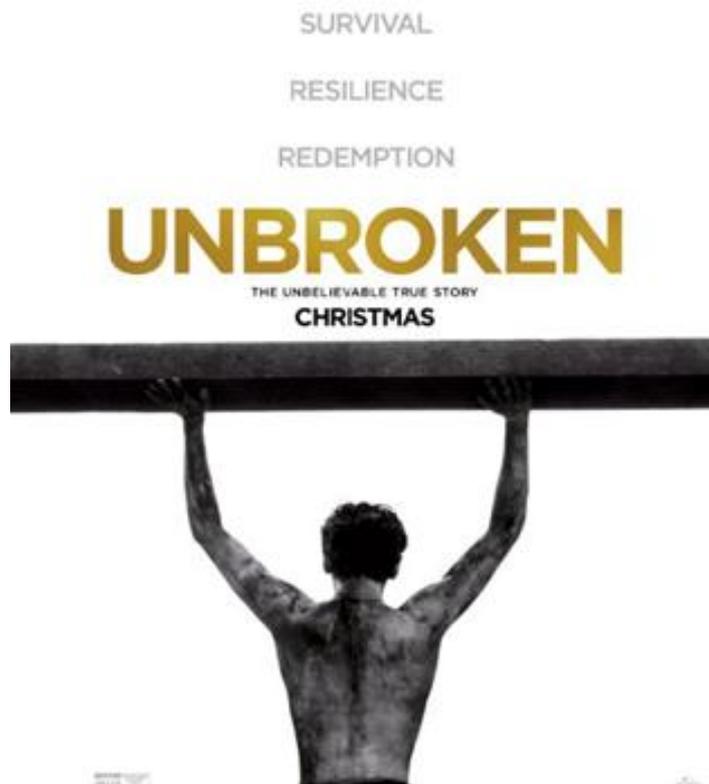
Directed by Angelina Jolie.

Some great footage of the B24 in action and the Bombardier using his Norden Bomb Sight dropping bombs on targets whilst taking flak. Great action footage from inside the aircraft and of the rotating gun turrets taking down Japanese Fighters. The movie is worth watching just for this footage – check out my B24 video of the restoration project based out of Werribee Victoria and the birthday girl from last year.

Watch the official trailer here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GgapLYpMVrM>

It was an American Bombardier and B24 Bomber that blew up the middle spans of the Bridge Over the River Kwai – Bill Henderson was that American Bombardier.

Crash landing (sorry for the spoiler); the scenes in the water are compelling with the constant menace of sharks circling would have been very scary. They spent some 47 days at sea in small rafts and at one stage signalling to aircraft overhead only to get strafed by that same aircraft – turns out it was the enemy.



Movie Flyer

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The antagonist plays the role brilliantly and we learn to dislike him right from the start. He is a monster and seems to be just a plain bastard – we don't hear too much of the rhetoric of the twisted Bushido ideology; just plain nastiness.

The backstory of the Olympic runner is very entertaining and suits the flow of the film. It is captivating right from the start to the finish; Jolie has done an excellent job in putting this picture together; what we are viewing seems to be authentic and believable.

I was super keen to see this movie, one of my Dad's mates was at the Noetsu POW Camp in Japan where they mined for coal; so to know someone who was a prisoner there is a real six degrees of separation. Great movie – highly recommended.

Some tid bits about the movie:

- Universal Studios bought the rights to the story of Louis Zamperini in 1957 in the hope of developing it for Tony Curtis. In later years, Nicolas Cage expressed an interest. The project finally got the green light after Laura Hillenbrand's 2010 book about Zamperini became a best-seller.
- Actor Takamasa Ishihara (who portrays the cruel Watanabe) had to keep his distance from Jack O'Connell (who portrays Zamperini) on set in order to perform the acts of brutality towards him that were required for his role.
- Takamasa Ishihara found performing the scene in which Zamperini is forced to hold a beam over his head at gunpoint so upsetting and intense that he vomited on set.
- While Zamperini and Phil are floating out at sea on the raft, the picture of a woman that Phil looks at is actually the real photo of his sweetheart and later wife, provided by his daughter to Angelina Jolie during filming.
- Louis Zamperini passed away on July 2, 2014. He was able to watch a rough cut of the film on director Angelina Jolie's laptop while in the hospital before he passed.
- While running the Olympic torch in Japan (end of film), Louie runs past the POW camp in Naoetsu, in which he was held the longest, and is liberated from. This is not mentioned in the film while showing the actual clip during the torch relay.

# Death Railway



## References:

IMDb  
Youtube