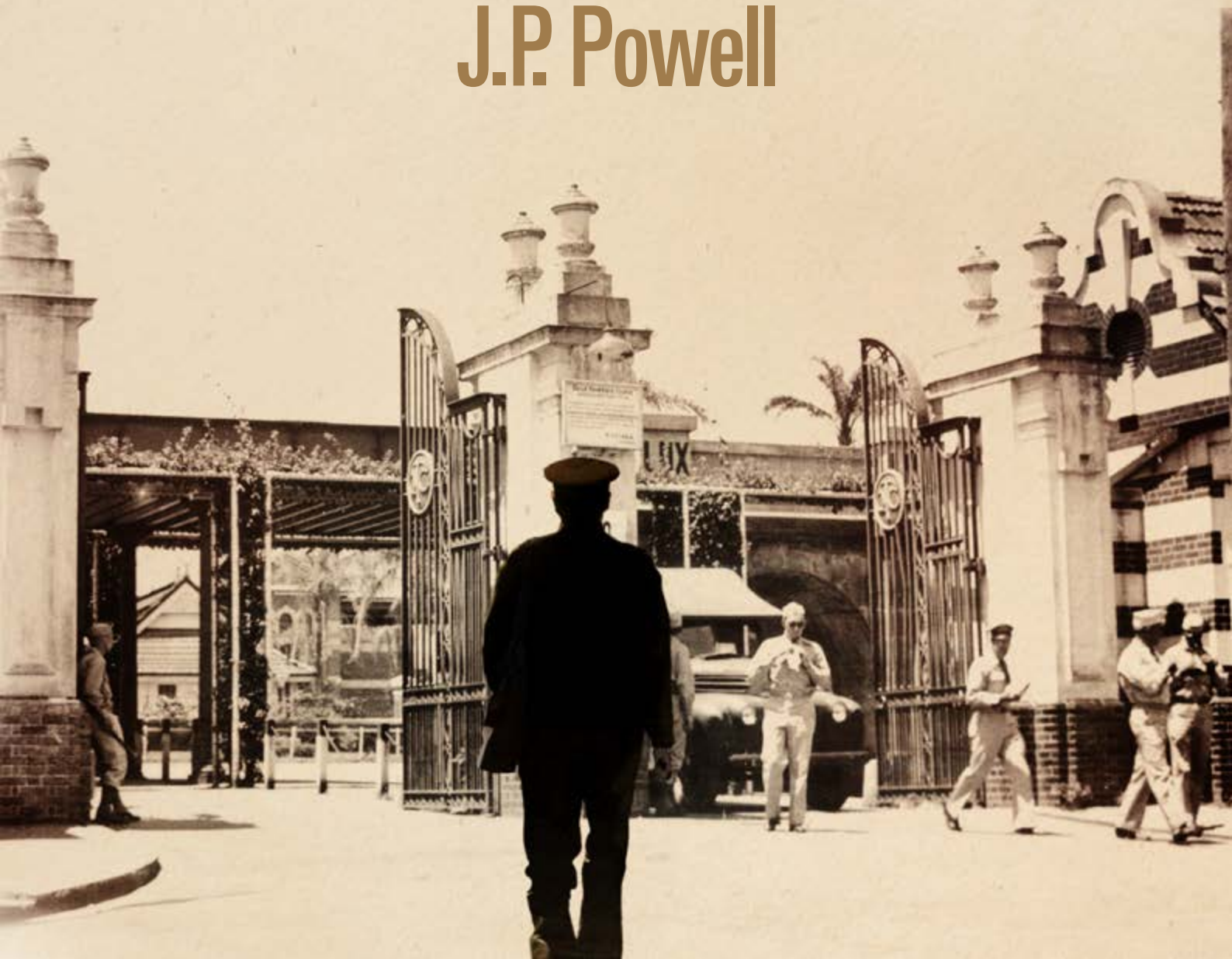


Book
Club Kit

The Brisbane Line

J.P. Powell



Biggest Crowd in the History of Brisbane Welcomes U.S. Naval Men



1 Man Killed, 8 Injured In City Riot

Six servicemen were shot, one fatally, a civilian was wounded by a bullet, and two other soldiers were injured when servicemen rioted at the corner of Creek and Adelaide Street last night. The riot began when



Dear Reader (I feel like Jane Austen)

Thank you for taking the time to read The Brisbane Line. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed writing it.

I have been drawn to this period for some time. My aunt, a painter, told stories told about working for naval signals and of painter friends who joined the Camouflage Corps. My mother described stopping for coffee on her way to the university and of an American soldier 'making a line'. And we all knew the expression that the Americans were 'overpaid, oversexed and over here'.

Then came the chance discovery of a series of crime files kept by an American Military Policeman based in Brisbane. One of the murders featured in these files was investigated by the corrupt Qld police detective, Frank Bischof. I was immediately hooked on the idea of writing a series of crime novels set in wartime Brisbane. And who better to navigate this world than an American, an outsider coming to grips with life in Brisbane, a place MacArthur is said to have called 'the most corrupt place in the South Pacific'.

I hope you enjoy walking through the streets of a Brisbane that has long disappeared - although remnants remain.

As do the stories told of that time.

JP Powell

jppowellauthor.wixsite.com/website

Discussion Questions

The novel

What does the title refer to?

How many 'lines' can you find in the novel? Are they personal, geographic, moral? Any others?

Does the book accurately recreate the 'feel' of Brisbane? Give some examples.

Do you think a crime novel is a good way to investigate a place or time? What other crime novels have you read that do this well?

Which are your favourite and least favourite characters and why?

Do the characters behave in ways you find believable? What are the constraints on them and on their actions?

What has Joe lost to the war and what has he gained? (You could ask this of each of the characters.)

What lies at the heart of the conflict between the American military authorities and the Queensland Police?

The historical background - characters and events

How did the country and Brisbane change with the war? The coming of the Americans etc

What do you know about the so-called Battle of Brisbane that broke out on Thanksgiving night in 1942?

Have you ever used the National Library's Trove? Look up newspapers for the dates in the book and see what was happening. What were locals talking about? buying? doing?

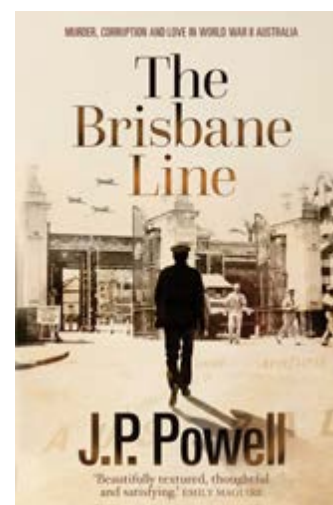
What happened to Frank Bischof?

Further reading

Judith Wright's first book of poetry, 'The Moving Image', was published in 1946. You will find some references to these poems in the novel.

Matt Condon's *Three Crooked Kings* trilogy is a true crime series outlining police corruption in Queensland. The *Brisbane Line* can be read as a fictional prequel to this series.

There are an enormous number of books written about World War Two and Australia's role in the war. But if you want to check out some specific details, I can thoroughly recommend Peter Dunn's website ozatwar.com.au



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 The only boy in the world who has been awarded a scholarship to study at the University of Cambridge, England, is a young Australian boy named **CHAS. KANEY**.
 He is a brilliant student and a very popular boy. He is now studying at the University of Cambridge, England.

THE COURIER-MAIL
 No. 2649 - BRISBANE, MONDAY, MARCH 2, 1942. 8 PAGES—2d

The Courier-Mail
 BRISBANE, MONDAY, MARCH 2, 1942. 8 PAGES—2d

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JAVA INVADIED: JAPS. LAND AT THREE POINTS

Allies Hammering Enemy Convoys: A.I.F. In Defence

The invasion of Java has begun. Japanese troops succeeded in landing at three points on the island on Saturday night.

The landings followed terrific air and naval fighting in the Java Sea, where Allied warships attempted to smash the invasion convoys.

Invasion points are:—Bantam province (on the western end of the island), in the Bay of Indramayu (100 miles east of Batavia), and near Rembang (125 miles from Sourabaya).

Australians are fighting with Dutch and American troops in withstanding the invaders.

Sunday's Dutch communique from Java stated that during the last 24 hours 15 Japanese transports had been set on fire and six others seriously damaged. Fifty transports, however, were reported to have forced their way to Java.

Unofficial estimates of the Japanese landing forces vary from a few thousand to four divisions.

The landing in Bantam (120 a.m.), stating that the Allies were putting up fierce resistance against the invaders. He asserted that air activity was continued over the whole front.

A broadcast message says that the biggest naval engagement of the war in the Far East has been raging in the Java Sea since Friday afternoon.

Japanese casualties are claimed to be heavy.

The situation on Java is described to be serious. Significant pointers are the fleets of the United States Navy, the British Royal Navy, and the Australian Navy, all of which are now in the Java Sea.

The Columbia Broadcasting Corporation in Java today reported New York on Sunday at



AUSTRALIANS SHARED IN PARATROOP RAID ON FRANCE

RAID LEADER, FILM STAR
 LONDON, March 1.—Wing Commander P. G. F. P. Wing, D.S.O., who commanded the paratroop raid on the French coast near Arnhem, is reported to have been awarded the Victoria Cross for his gallant leadership.

The raid was a surprise attack on the German paratroop training area near Arnhem. The raiders were supported by the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy.

The raid was a success, and the raiders were able to capture a large amount of German equipment and supplies.

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Heavy Jap. Raid On Moresby; R.A.A.F. Replies

JAPANESE bombers made a heavy raid on Port Moresby between 1 and 2 p.m. on Saturday, when one Japanese fighter was destroyed, and the pilot, parachuting, was captured—was a first Japanese combatant taken prisoner on Australian soil. Damage was slight.

An attempted attack by Australian planes on an enemy convoy and successful bombing of Gasmata aerodrome in New Britain by R.A.A.F. machines on Saturday night also are reported.

A communique issued by the Air Minister in London said:—
 "Between Japanese bombers and fighters attacked Port Moresby on Saturday afternoon. One Japanese fighter was destroyed, and the pilot, parachuting, was captured—was a first Japanese combatant taken prisoner on Australian soil. Damage was slight."

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Last Of Oil Wells Destroyed

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BATTLE FOR BATAN EASES

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Situation In Rangoon Very Serious

C.M. Zundel and A.P.F.
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Losses In Fierce Naval Battle

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Where Japs Landed

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 The tongue test says, "use PEPSODENT TOOTH PASTE"

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