1. Record Nr. UNINA9910810928403321 Autore Fitzpatrick Georgina (Historian) Titolo Australia's War Crimes Trials 1945-51 / / by Georgina Fitzpatrick, Tim McCormack, Narrelle Morris Pubbl/distr/stampa Leiden, The Netherlands:,: Brill Nijhoff c2016 **ISBN** 90-04-29205-5 1 online resource (911 pages): illustrations, maps Descrizione fisica Collana International Humanitarian Law Series; v. 48 Altri autori (Persone) McCormackTimothy L. H MorrisNarrelle Disciplina 341.690994 Soggetti War crime trials - Australia War criminals - Japan World War, 1939-1945 - Law and legislation - Australia World War, 1939-1945 - Atrocities - Pacific Area War crime trials War criminals Australia Japan Pacific Area Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali "IHUL 48." Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and indexes. Nota di contenuto Preliminary Material / Georgina Fitzpatrick, Tim McCormack and Narrelle Morris -- The Australian War Crimes Trials, 1945-51 / Tim McCormack and Narrelle Morris -- The Emperor's Army: Military Operations and Ideology in the War against Australia / Steven Bullard -- Jurisdiction of the Australian Military Courts 1945-51 / Tim McCormack -- The Australian Military Courts under the War Crimes Act 1945— Structure and Approach / Michael Paes -- Command Responsibility and Other Grounds of Criminal Responsibility / Gideon Boas and Lisa Lee -- Obedience to Superior Orders and Related

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Sommario/riassunto

This unique volume provides a detailed analysis of Australia's 300 war crimes trials of principally Japanese accused conducted in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War. Part I contains contextual essays explaining why Australia established military courts to conduct these trials and thematic essays considering various legal issues in, and historical perspectives on, the trials. Part II offers a comprehensive collection of eight location essays, one each for the physical locations where the trials were held. In Part III post-trial issues are reviewed, such as the operation of compounds for war criminals; the repatriation of convicted Japanese war criminals to serve the remainder of their sentences; and reflections of some of those convicted on their experience of the trials. In the final essay, a contemporary reflection on the fairness of the trials is provided, not on the basis of a twenty-first century critique of contemporary minimum standards of fair trial expected in the prosecution of war crimes, but by reviewing approaches taken in the trials themselves as well as from reactions to the trials by those associated with them. The essays are supported by a large collection of unique historical photographs, maps and statistical materials. There has been no systematic and comprehensive analysis of these trials so far, which has meant that they are virtually precluded from consideration as judicial precedent. This volume fills that gap, and offers scholars and practitioners an important and groundbreaking resource.