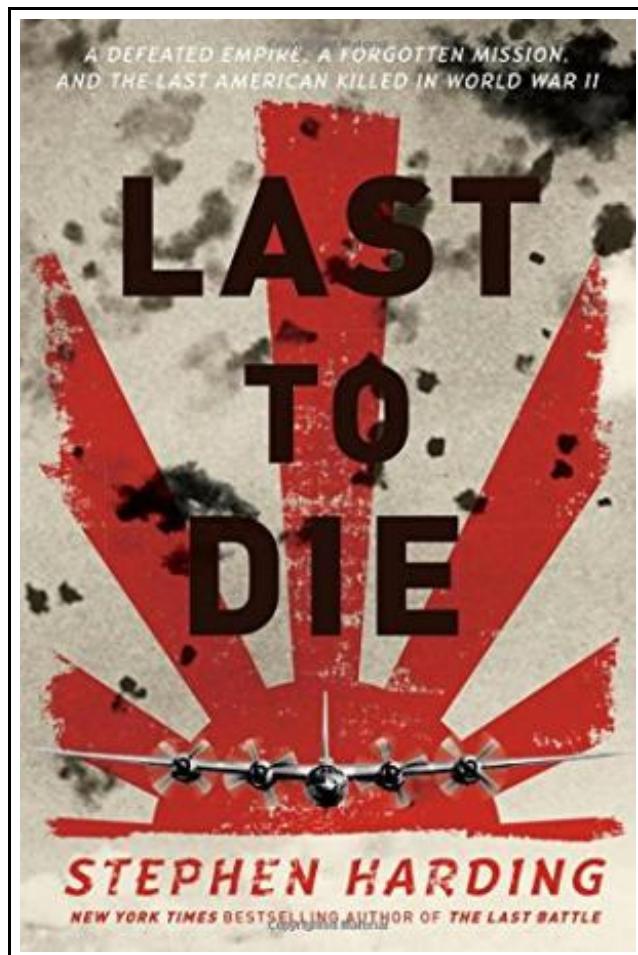


## Last to Die: A Defeated Empire, a Forgotten Mission, and the Last American Kille



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DaCapo. 1 Cloth(s), 2015. hard. Book Condition: New. On August 18, 1945 three days after Japan announced it would surrender American Army Air Force Sergeant Anthony J. Marchione bled to death on the deck of his lumbering B-32 bomber, high over Tokyo. He was the last U.S. serviceman killed in World War II, following an attack by a band of die-hard Japanese pilots who had decided to fight on. A longtime staffer of the U.S. Army's *Soldiers* magazine and now the editor-in-chief of *Military History*, Stephen Harding combines American and Japanese histories, personal memoirs, and his own interviews with many of the story's key participants to give us a portrait of airmen and their planes, full of bravery, cowardice, hubris, and determination. "An intense, quietly moving, and, of course, sad chronicle of a young life cut short. Harding treats the youth with admiration and affection that elicits compassion without becoming cloying or melodramatic. This is a superb look at the life and death of one young man among millions of others who loved, were loved by others, and died too soon." *Booklist* In a neat blend of military and technological history, Harding links Marchione's story to the development of the aircraft he staffed, a lumbering target called the Consolidated Dominator. A worthy sortie that explores a curtain-closing moment in history that might have gone very badly indeed. "Kirkus Reviews 253.



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