

**ARMOUR BOOKS RELEASES *HEAVEN TEMPERS THE WIND*
AUGUST 2016.**

A true story of hope and the power of prayer

Hazel Barker's book, *Heaven Tempers the Wind. Story of a War Child*, made the final short list of the Great Aussie Book Competition of 2014, and excerpts of her story have won awards and been selected for publication in several anthologies.

Hazel's idyllic childhood is torn apart by the bombing of Rangoon, just prior to Christmas 1941. Her parents convince her she is off on a marvellous holiday as they flee the city - leaving her precious dolls behind.

The Japanese armies overrun Burma, forcing her family to flee from one refuge to another. Hazel's father, a Muslim, has worked for the British government and initially relies on the official refugee policy. Her mother, a Catholic, fears for her children - especially Hazel's older brothers who take daring opportunities to harass the Japanese. Although sick and starving, the two boys remain firm in their beliefs despite attempts to entice them to abandon their Christian faith.

Told through a child's eyes, this story tells of a family's travails during the darkest days of enemy occupation. Threaded with light, shot through with hope, it recounts Hazel's hard-won passage from innocence to maturity.

“This is an interesting and symmetrical story line: the Burma setting and its *forgotten war* will intrigue many readers, as will the personal battles of the family against the backdrop of war, and the story reaches a satisfying resolution. There is also a tension from main episode to episode which lures the reader on.”
QWC's Manuscript Appraisal Service.

“The story is likely to have a receptive audience. Within the context of a familiar war it tells an unfamiliar story. **Driftwood Manuscripts, Writers Manuscript Services.**

“This is a record of tyranny and hope and ultimate survival. The story has great potential. The writing is good and the plot engrossing. **The Manuscript Appraisal Agency.**

“The judges were very impressed with your work, you made the final short list and I wish you all the best with it.” **Manisha Amin, Marketing Director, Great Aussie Book Prize, Barnardos, Australia.**