



The Unlikeliest Hero: The Story of Desmond T. Doss

Booton Herndon

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From Reader Review The Unlikeliest Hero: The Story of Desmond T. Doss for online ebook

Mickey Ask says

Good background for those who want to see the movie Hacksaw Ridge

Kylie Funk Kramer says

The story of Desmond Doss is a must-know! The book is not super-detailed, but gives a great overview of the man, the missions, and the hero. The book is hard to find, but if you can track a copy down, it's worth your time.

Desmond wins the MOH for saving roughly 75 American lives in an intense campaign on Okinawa during WWII. Desmond's faith is real and living. He is moved to action because of his belief in God, his obedience to the commandments, and his unconditional love for his fellow-man. I am inspired by this humble man and his story. But I am not alone in my admiration. The men of Desmond's company and battalion were also inspired by him and blessed by his example and actions. Please read this book for yourselves, but also to your children. Doss represents the caliber of people we should try and raise in this country.

Brook says

Just pushed the review from four to five stars.

This book tells the story of (at the time of writing) the only conscientious objector to be awarded the Medal of Honor since the creation of the award during the civil war. For the United States, starting with WWI, conscientious objectors could serve in non-combat roles, often as "ambulance men" or litter bearers. By the time the U.S. entered World War II, the U.S. military had developed a sort of "standard procedure" for conscientious objectors, enlisting them in the medical corps (which is where Doss spent some of his time, and was trained as a combat medic). Thus, Doss was by no means the first CO that the US had to accommodate when he entered service. The idea of a non-combatant being awarded the MOH for actions not related to defeating the enemy on the battlefield, though, probably hadn't crossed anyone's mind.

The shorthand of his exploits leading to the award can be read here:

<http://www.history.army.mil/html/moh/...>

That gives a good idea, but the book does a much better job. The author is a journalist who also served in the military, and did an *excellent* job of capturing the voice of a peaceful, loving man. You can hear Mr. Doss's plain speech clearly in the writing. There are no literary embellishments, there is no hyperbolic manufactured drama, there are no action-movie-esque speeches or ridiculous superman-like claims. There is the straightforward account of a CO medic who saved the lives of literally countless people (including at least 50 in one day, the Army thinks 75, witnesses said closer to 100) at great risk to himself.

The book is quick and positively riveting. His struggle to be accepted (there was less animosity than I

thought, although that could be because of who is telling the story), initial winning over of the troops by saving their lives, risking his own life time and time again (and again and again and again - the amount of combat this guy saw is staggering), losing close friends, and truly heroic acts seem tailor-made for a movie (I am surprised that one does not exist, and hope that this review does not make one happen, as it would probably be ruined). I quite literally could not put this down, and read it in one long sitting. The love that Mr. Doss had for his fellow man is wonderful to behold.

It should be noted that he saved no Japanese combatants. The first time he tried, two GIs pointed their rifles at him and told they would kill him if he did. He did not attempt to save any Japanese after that (their treatment during WWII of American POWs and local civilians was breathtakingly, disgustingly, almost indescribably horrible).

There have since been two other conscientious objectors, also both medics, to receive the MOH, both in Vietnam.

So do not come to this book for action (although there is plenty). Come to learn of a man whose dedication to his God forced him, happily for this reader, to stick with his principles.

[EDIT 2016-08-22: And now I found out that Mel Gibson, he of *We Were Soldiers*, is indeed making a movie out of this. Dammit, Mel. If you "*The Patriot*" this movie, I'm going to boycott...something.]

Jack Jacobson says

To really appreciate what he did, go look at the Maeda escarpment in Okinawa

Rod says

Much more religiously oriented than expected. Given how awful Doss' life after the war was, his faith is remarkable.

Evelynn says

4.5 stars. Review to come.

Lisa says

I am on chapter 4 and have to return the book. I hope to finish it after I return from a long trip. I don't like to take library books overseas.

I became interested in the book because I heard that there is a movie being released this first weekend of November about this soldier.

He is an Adventist and wow, talk about legalism about the Sabbath day on Saturday. But have to admire his convictions.

Cindy says

I discovered the library owned this book and realized it was the true story about Desmond Doss that the movie "Hacksaw Ridge" was about. Quick read the book and then my husband and I went to the movie. The book was good but the movie was tough. The sounds, realistic dying and things in the movie were tough to watch but still a good movie. Glad I read the book first of course.

Bill Fairchild says

Amazing story of a devout and brave man. The movie Hacksaw Ridge is about Doss.

Adam Palmer says

This book tells the true story of Desmond Doss who won the Medal of Honor while refusing to touch a gun during WWII. It tells of his strong religious convictions and determination not to break the 10 Commandments. I believe it is the most amazing story of WWII.

Duane says

A very interesting story from the times of World War 2. Desmond Doss would not touch a weapon because of his religion. He ended up earning the Medal of Honor and this book does a great job of explaining why Desmond was so serious in his faith and how that faith helped the men in his company. An older book that might be harder to find, but worth the search.

Jeff says

I read this book at a very young age, possibly 10-12 years old, for the first time. That is when I decided that if I ever had to serve my country, I would serve as Desmond T. Doss did as a conscientious objector too! A powerful story, and you will not be able to put this book down until you finish this amazing story of a love for mankind. Desmond T. Doss helped not only save American soldier's lives, he also managed to save several of the enemy fighting us, the Japanese. A true American Hero!

Steve says

An incredible book of Private Desmond T. Doss of Lynchburg, VA; Who as a medic in the Army 77th

Division won the Medal of Honor during the battle of Okinawa during World War II. Doss grew up Seventh Day Adventist and was a conscientious objector and refused to carry a weapon. He later joined the medical corps and his bravery and saving men's lives under enemy fire earned him the Medal of Honor.
