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# Desmond Doss: Conscientious Objector



## Synopsis

Infantry men who once ridiculed and scoffed at Desmond's simple faith and refusal to carry a weapon owed their lives to him. In the midst of a fierce firefight on Okinawa that felled approximately 75 men from the 1st Battalion, Private Doss refused to seek cover and carried his stricken comrades to safety one by one. This and other heroic acts earned him the highest honor America can bestow on one of her sons—the Congressional Medal of Honor. But his story doesn't end in 1945. There have been many other battles and victories for the man known as the unlikely hero, and this book tells those stories. From an accident-prone childhood to World War II gallantry, the tragic loss of his first wife, Dorothy, and his battles with deafness and cancer, Desmond Doss has lived a life of unsurpassed devotion. Devotion to his country, his convictions, and his God.

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## Customer Reviews

I came across this movie on tv one day completely by accident. I am a huge history buff and WWII is one of my favorites. I realized halfway through the movie that my mouth was hanging open. I was

blown away by Mr. Doss and his story. How often do you find someone who stands by their morals....no matter what? The level of integrity this man displayed was beyond reproach. I would've loved to have met him to thank him for the lessons he taught me. I find it ironic that the officer that gave him such a hard time in the beginning and tried to get him kicked out, ended up being the one who deserted his men in the heat of battle. I served in the U.S. Army for 11 years, and I can count on one hand (with a few fingers left over) how many true "leaders" there were. Real leaders lead by example, never ask their soldiers to do something they aren't willing to do themselves, and go to bat for their people no matter who they have to go up against. You will find those leader's soldiers giving them 110%. Mr. Doss never compromised, even in the face of evil, even when he was being humiliated by his fellow soldiers and superiors, and not even in the middle of treacherous battle. He risked his life for the same people that a few months before hated his guts. He gave, not even knowing, or caring, that he would get something in return. He forgave those that persecuted him. We should all be like Mr. Doss, the world would be better for it.

This is my favorite WWII story of all. The DVD is worth buying, I watch it every Memorial Day. I was channel surfing one Memorial Day and it was on TV, I found Desmond's address on the internet and wrote to him and he send me this book. He died last year, but I will never forget him.

This book about Desmond Doss was written by his second wife. (His first wife had died in a car accident.) The book tells of Desmonds early life through the extensive use of flashbacks as Doss is crossing the ocean on a troopship. It also covers his life after he received the Medal of Honor. When I first read about Desmond Doss (in a comic book published in 1948), I had a hard time believing he actually did what the book claimed. After much research, I have decided that the actions he took that led to him being awarded the Medal of Honor, comprise the MOST amazing story of WWII. It was a good and entertaining read.

I had watched a TV special about Desmond Doss (the only conscientious objector to win the Medal of Honor), and I wanted to learn more about him. What an extraordinary man! There are people in this life who see things in black and white, and I think he's one of them. They can be exasperating, though. My oldest brother was like that - no gray areas - and he couldn't understand why I would eat chocolate when it wasn't good for me. In Desmond Doss' case, even in times of battle, he did not use that as an excuse not to spend time with God every day in prayer and Bible reading. The only explanation of how he was able to save so many lives and to have the STRENGTH to do it ALL

night - lowering wounded men one by one over a cliff without being shot - is that it was a miracle. A direct result of his closeness to God. He was not afraid nor did he doubt he could do it, and so many men owe their lives to him. So many men who mocked and ridiculed him owe their lives to him. He didn't leave any behind. If you want to read a truly inspirational book, this is a good one. He did not get out of the war or life without injury or troubles, but that one extraordinary night of his life when he was able single-handedly to save so many lives was perhaps why he came into this world. Like the words of Mordecai to Queen Esther, (Esther 4:14) "who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" So many times we are afraid or are in circumstances where we feel we have a good excuse, but Doss did not use the war (!) as his excuse not to honor God in everything he did. You will be amazed at what he went through and at his steadfastness in so many circumstances, and the payoff was that one incredible night. What led up to it is fascinating, as well as his life post-war.

It is an interesting read and uplifting in how this man stood on his faith in God knowing that he could serve his country without having to use a weapon, trusting in the Lord to help him take care of wounded soldiers and comforting them in their time of need. He trusted God to take care of him and his family during and after WWII and lived a better life because of it. I very much appreciated that he did not put down those soldiers who learned to use weapons of war and chose to respect his fellowmen and fight for the same cause in different but effective ways.

This book is for younger people. Does not detail the war experiences as much. Read the book by Booten Herndon instead. WATCH FOR THE MOVIE VERSION starring Andrew Garfield as Doss and directed by Mel Gibson. This is going to be a smash hit.

This is a well written book and an incredible story about a true hero. A hero that didn't really conform to traditional standards in time of war. So intriguing we watched other documentaries and read other books about his military experience during World War II.

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