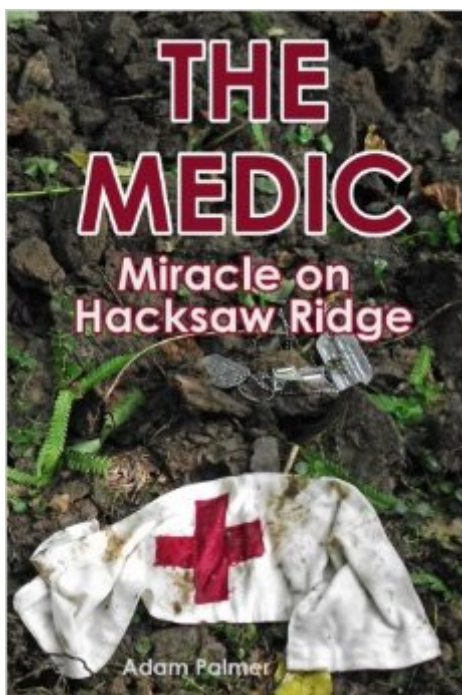


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# The Medic: Miracle On Hacksaw Ridge



## Synopsis

During WWII, a young man from Lynchburg, Virginia was drafted into the Army and sent to the 77th Infantry Division. When he arrived at camp for basic training, he promptly made it known that he was a pacifist and would be unwilling to take a life or even so much as touch a weapon. He did however say that he would be proud to serve his country as a medic, if they would let him. No matter how much pressure the Army applied, the medic was unwilling to compromise his convictions. The other soldiers in his unit came to hate the conscientious objector, going so far as to throw their boots at him while he knelt by his bunk at night to pray. When the men of Company B assaulted Hacksaw Ridge on the island of Okinawa, something happened that would change their opinion of the medic forever.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (110 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

I received a free copy of THE MEDIC from the author to read and review. Here is my honest review. This is an exciting, interesting, and may I say, inspiring "non-fiction novel" about Desmond Doss, a conscientious objector because of his deeply held faith in the Seventh Day Adventist church. Nonetheless, Doss allowed himself to be drafted as a non-combatant, to serve as a medic in the U.S. Army. The early pages of the book describe the disdain, even abuse, Doss attracted from other draftees and from officers. It was not an easy stand to take, being a CO in a war that began when your country was attacked, but Doss perseveres, devoted to prayer and worship, even as others scoff. That showed his fortitude and character. But as the book moves on into chapters devoted to the combat missions of his regiment, Doss' true courage shines. Truly, if the events described in the book were not attested to in official documents, and other personal accounts, they

would be hard to credit. But, they happened, and Desmond Doss was awarded the Medal of Honor. Mr. Palmer, the author is not a writer by trade, but he was devoted to telling the story of this nearly forgotten hero and he does it wonderfully well. THE MEDIC is not just a recitation of the facts; the author relates Pvt. Doss' fear in the hellish maelstrom of combat, and of Doss conquering his fear through prayer. The men around him, even those who scoffed at his piety, come to admire, even revere him. Doss becomes, in a way a paladin to them, guiding them, protecting them through prayer, giving his total concentration to giving them aid. As I wrote, Mr. Palmer is not a pro and there are a few errors.

As part of my work, I am a WWII historian and author. I primarily research soldiers who fought in the war and usually were Killed In Action. I had not yet stumbled upon a story in my research of a man whose religious beliefs did not allow him to bear arms. Then author Adam Palmer asked me to read and review his new fiction book based on a real man, "The Medic." I appreciate stories about individual soldiers or groups of soldiers that put you in the action. They make you feel like you are there and time passes without you realizing it as you read the book. That is how this book made me feel. Pvt. Doss, the primary soldier in this story, was part of the 77th infantry as a Medic. His religious beliefs do not allow him to bear arms but he still chooses to take part in the fight in a way that will help people. Throughout the story he encounters a lot of bullying and negativity for his position. A position he maintains no matter the circumstances. Yet through his actions, he is slowly accepted and appreciated for the gifts he has to help and heal. The only thing I wish would appear in books like this, historical fiction based on real events, is a list of sources used. It is not common to put in sources in these types of books. For researchers such as myself, the bibliography and sources are the first thing I look at in a WWII book. I always want to know where else I can find resources. I have learned to try to contact the author if I have questions and usually they provide answers and sources. I recommend this book for several reasons. It is the first I have come across someone telling a story about a conscientious objector who chose to fight. We always hear the stories about those who refuse and go to jail or stories of soldiers who fought.

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