



Voices of the Pacific: Untold Stories from the Marine Heroes of World War II

Adam Makos , Marcus Brotherton

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These are the stories from fifteen WWII Marines, compiled by Adam Makos and Marcus Brotherton but left unfiltered and in the words of the Marines who were there. Unflinching, brutal, and relentless, *Voices of the Pacific* will leave a reader gasping for air and dumbstruck in awe of the old heroes who won the Pacific war with bare hands, bayonets, and guts.

The book presents accounts of heroism and honor as told by World War II veterans Sid Phillips, R.V. Burgin, and Chuck Tatum—whose exploits were featured in the HBO mini-series *The Pacific*—and their Marine buddies from the legendary 1st Marine Division.

These Marines trace the action from the Pearl Harbor attack and intense boot camp training through battles with the Japanese on Guadalcanal, Cape Gloucester, Peleliu, and Okinawa, to their return home after V-J Day. With unflinching honesty, these men reveal harrowing accounts of combat with an implacable enemy, the friendships and camaraderie they found—and lost—and the aftermath of the war's impact on their lives.

With unprecedented access to the veterans, never-before-seen photographs, and unpublished memoirs, Makos and Brotherton have forged *Voices of the Pacific* into an incredible historic record of American bravery and sacrifice.

Voices of the Pacific: Untold Stories from the Marine Heroes of World War II Details

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Ed says

An excellent read. This book really takes you to WWII in the Pacific and details very well what our troops had to endure.

Philip says

It's harder to get better history than from a good oral history (**Bloods** even **World War Z**), and this is one of the best. **Voices of the Pacific** is an excellent companion piece to **Last of the Doughboys** (see my review - <https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>), but doesn't have the "extra" chapters that **Doughboys** did - it's straight first-person remembrance all the way through, from the frequent humor through the constant horror. Anyone with *any* level of interest in the War in the Pacific should try to find a copy of this amazing story.

Jeff Brateman says

Brutal, raw, unfiltered, awesome. These guys had it rough, and it was an amazing journey. Many of the stories were portrayed in the Pacific series, but these had an even more raw and depressing look on the Pacific theater. I recommend to all WW2 junkies.

Hans says

If you have seen HBO's The Pacific, you should also read this book. And if you didn't see it, and are interested in WWII, you should read it too.

The war in the Pacific was a completely different war from that in Europe. The Japanese soldier was a different enemy from the German, or Italian, soldier. It was also a different environment. What the book does make clear is that the fighting on islands like New Britain, Guadalcanal, Peleliu, Iwo Jima and Okinawa was tough. Next to a determined and often cunning foe, the soldiers had to cope with rain, endless rain, mud, tropical diseases, more rain, heat, humidity, lack of food or water, some more rain, and much more.

Reading the book, you will be following fifteen young American men that entered the USMC after Pearl Harbor. Some entered the next day, others later due to age. Why the Marine Corps? Some did this on purpose because they admired the reputation of the Corps, others fancied the uniform, and still others just went there because the line at the Navy and Air Force offices were just too long.

What was bootcamp like? What about the camaraderie with your fellow soldiers? The fighting on the islands is described in detail. Colorful, tense, as it was, gruesome. And after the fighting they needed to relax and get their health back, in the knowledge that they would be heading to yet another island soon.

Well known names like John Basilone, Eugene Sledge and Robert Leckie enter the stories too. The men in this book became close friends with them, or just happened to serve in the same unit.

Despite the fact that different 'voices' tell the stories, I never lost track of what was happening and where it took place. Some of the 'voices' were involved in the same action, so you get to see the different angles.

The book ends describing what happened to these young men after the war, and what their opinion is of what the world looks like now. A high price was paid and this needs to be remembered.

Diane Mchugh says

This told my dad's story. Since he never, ever spoke about it, it wasn't until after he passed away that I learned which battle gave him the shrapnel wounds in his thigh. I like love the writing style...in each man's own words. Their memories are amazing and the book provided the timeline that fill in all the blanks for me personally. Wonderful read!!

Katherine says

We read this for my military history class in college.
Wow..just wow..this book is amazing and I read it from cover to cover.
a chilling, brutal, real-life perspective of ww2.
my hats off to all those men.
wow...there aren't words for this book

Colleen Oster says

This book was so awesome! I love picking it up and browsing through stories here and there! It's very entertaining to hear all the personal accounts and experiences from those that were there and lived it.

Jimmy says

My hats off to the Marine veterans of World War Two. This book reminds me why that generation was the greatest generation America has ever known. And also why they are one of the best generation of Marines we've ever had. This book tells the account of fifteen Marines who fought in the Pacific in their own words. As the author stated in the beginning, these are the last words of men who are in their nineties and some of the stories of what happened in World War two have never told by these survivors before. The book is simply incredible.

The book tries to follow a chronological order. It begins with the account of these Marines' vivid memory of hearing about the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Some were so moved that they went to enlist right away. This was a time when the Marines were not as well-known as they are now. I thought it was funny to read of

how many of the guys originally tried to sign up for the other branches before they ended up joining the Marines. Some of the reasons were rather trivial—the Marine recruiting office had the shortest lines or the other services rejected them but the Marines took them. The book then transition to record how these new recruits went through Boot Camp and embarking on ship for the Pacific. What a window into the “Old Corps.”

The most incredible accounts in the book were the Marines’ account of combat. The combat gets worst and worst as the war dragged on. I cringed reading about the Marines’ stories of being shelled and bombed by the Japanese. Then there’s the Banzai charge and all night vigilance for Japanese sneak attack. As a kid I grew up reading a lot about the Marines in World War two but now that I’m older and a Marine veteran of another war I appreciate the Marines in the Pacific so much more and what they gone through. The hand to hand combat. Fixed bayonets. Eye-gouging. Point blank shooting. Use of flame-throwers. These were tough Marines. And the book covers from the first offensive in Guadalcanal to the last battle of Okinawa.

Some of the characters that the various Marines gave an account of are well known and legendary especially after the HBO miniseries on the Pacific. Readers will appreciate the heroism and larger than life Marines like John Basilone and Chesty Puller. But it is the survivors’ account of them as men rather than monuments that I appreciate.

It is hard to put this book down. It is hard not to get emotional reading this. The selflessness and humility of the various Marines will move you. The stories of how the Marines got injured and taken out of combat is not easy to read. Especially of the horrific ways that these Marines witnessed other Marines get killed.

I also appreciated the book covering the veterans account of coming back home. I’m amazed at how these guys came back home and still wanted to contribute to society and were not looking for a handout. These guys were glad to be alive. They came back and dealt with their traumatic experience by being busy. I think their examples are incredibly inspiring.

This book is a must read. I’m glad that I read this book.

Dave Hoff says

First hand accounts of the island hopping invasion horror stories by the Marines who fought them. Amazing these brave marines lived, many didn't. And also Peleliu, the island that could have been bypassed except for MacArthur's poor judgement. Should be read by today's college kids to learn the price of freedom.

David Eppenstein says

This is a book every American needs to read and especially kids in high school. As the author correctly describes his book it's like gathering a group of aged Marine vets around a table and letting them tell their stories. It's not about battle strategy or tactics or politics. This book is about boys that went into the Marines during WWII became men and then went through a hell nobody today could imagine. This is their story in their words and it's something we all should listen to because we owe it them and the ones that didn't come home.

Bert Hopkins says

Tells the story of 15 Marines that fought in the Pacific. They are all heros and it is almost imaginable what

they endured in service to our country. Covers battles unknown to most Americans such as the battle of Cape Gloucester on New Britain, and Pelieu. But, more well known battles of Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima and Okinawa are also covered. Well worth the time.

Adam is a talented author and I have also read his book Devotion about a Navy F4U Corsair pilot Thomas Hudner who crashed landed his plane to rescue his comrade.

Ksorb says

My father-in-law was a US Marine in the 1st Division, and attacked Guadalcanal with these guys. He was moved to the 3rd Marines and attacked Bougainville, He would never talk much about the war, except to look with haunted eyes and tell of seeing his best friend, in the 2nd Marine Division but on the same transport ship over, get off the boat to head to help take Tarawa. Second day of action and he was never seen again.. He is still MIA. I got to find his name on the wall of heroes in the Punchbowl, Honolulu, this winter for the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor commemorations. So when I found this book I knew I had to read it, to fill in the gaps, to understand. It was brutal - the soldiers spoke freely for the first time in their lives, most of them, telling "the rest of the story" which they had hidden from wives, parents, children, buddies for over 70 years. Hard to read, hard to put down, hard to cope with the intense sorrow and admiration for the incredible courage, determination, perseverance, and suffering of these heroes of World War II.

Jon says

A continuing collection of stories gathered from the few Marines still alive, so all first hand. Having read many books about the war in the Pacific, one that didn't receive nearly the press that our war in Europe did, I recognized a lot of the men in this book. A Marine that is mentioned frequently in this book, one who did not survive WWII, is a Marine by the name of John Basilone, a Medal Of Honor recipient, from his actions on Guadalcanal. If you ever want to read about an honest to God true American hero, read what his fellow Marines have to say about him. He was killed on the first day of our landing on Iwo Jima, February 19, 1945. He has been the subject of several books written by his fellow Marines. He is one of the many reasons why people in Australia and New Zealand never had to learn to speak Japanese. Google his name, and see what I mean. Most of the real true heroes, like John Basilone, never made it home. It is our job to keep their memory alive. Ask a high school student if they know about Iwo Jima, or Guadalcanal, or Peleliu, or The Solomons. They have no clue. Sad.

Susan says

I wish I could give more stars to this book. This is the first book I have listened to as an audiobook. I prefer to read a real book, to actually hold a book and turn real pages. But this book was a fantastic choice to be my first audiobook. Hearing the voices of the veterans telling their stories really brought it to life. The narrator does a fantastic job. It feels like you are actually sitting and talking to these great Marines. The book is full of sadness but those guys manage to put some laughs in there, too. I am eternally grateful to our military and so extremely proud of them. I don't think could ever do what those men did, live through what they did and come home to resume their lives. No complaints, just return to civilian life. They were an amazing

generation. I highly recommend this book and I think audiobook is the way to go with it. However, before you settle down to listen, make sure you have the box of tissues ready because you will need them.

Mike Rabasco says

This is a well written book about one of the most brutal wars ever. These are personal insights tyhat these vets share with the reader that are not in most books. This was a great book.
