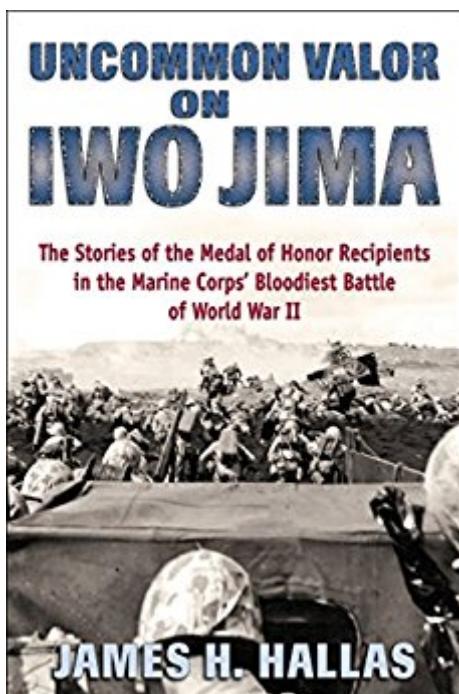


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# Uncommon Valor On Iwo Jima: The Story Of The Medal Of Honor Recipients In The Marine Corps' Bloodiest Battle Of World War II



## **Synopsis**

When the smoke cleared on Iwo Jima in March 1945, 19,000 American Marines had been wounded and 7,000 were dead, a casualty rate of nearly 39 percent. Lasting over a month, Iwo was the Marines' bloodiest battle of the war and the only Pacific battle in which a U.S. landing force suffered more casualties than it inflicted. It was also the most highly decorated single engagement in Marine Corps history.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This is one of the very best military books on WWII I have ever encountered. Not intended as a complete discussion of the entire Iwo Jima campaign, instead the author showcases the marines and corpsmen who earned the Medal of Honor in the battle, including a bio of their life before entering the service (and afterwards, if they survived). Also included is the story of John Basilone, who had already earned the CMOH on Guadalcanal and was KIA on Iwo Jima. He got the Navy Cross posthumously but arguably should have earned a second CMOH for what he did. Each recipient is presented in chronological order as to when they earned the medal in the course of the

battle, so that it reads as a continuous story as the Marines first landed on the beaches and took the southern end of Iwo, including Mt. Suribachi, and then moved north to take the three airfields. An awe-inspiring chronology of some of the most heroic members of the last great generation. Should be compulsory reading for high school students.

Having a second cousin, Lieutenant Robert (Bobby) Reese Braswell, 24 Marines, 24th Marine Division, who was KIA on Iwo Jima on March 3rd, 1945, I wanted to know more about that battle. Mr. Hallas has written a story that explains what the brave men that went ashore on Iwo Jima had to face. The stories of each man who earned Medals of Honor show you how and why they earned this distinction. But it also shows how brave each and every man was that fought on that island. Although I don't know much about my second cousin, I came away knowing what things must have been like for him over there and how grateful I am to all the men who have fought for our country. Thank you.

I have just finished reading this terrific book about the Medal of Honor recipients from the taking of Iwo Jima. It's hard to read about such brave men, so many of whom didn't make it back but we need to remember them and their great sacrifices. Reading this book, it's clear that it was a labor of love for Mr. Hallas and I'm grateful to him for educating people like me who were too young to know about it at the time and didn't study it in school. It's good to be reminded of what true heroes look like.

What a truly remarkable story of the brave men who fought on Iwo Jima. The author has presented us with the stories of all the soldiers who received our nation's highest award. We as citizens have only heard of the heroes that Hollywood wishes to make movies about. These men who set foot on the beaches of Iwo Jima knew the chances of returning were slim but they did not hesitate to "lock and load" and do their duty. They fought a relentless enemy who had prepared for their arrival for years. We should all thank God for this generation of brave souls. Remarkable stories of courage that leaves one shaking their heads in amazement. Many of them came home never discussing their heroic deeds or wanting the recognition they rightly deserved. Mr. Hallas has done so for them. God bless those who perished on this hellhole of an island.

Well written, but take your time when reading the book!

Great. What courage and valor. Well put together

I have not finished reading his book at this time, mostly because its difficult to read one brave moment after the other. However I cannot help but commend Mr. Hallas for this writing. We had a brother who was KIA on Iwo Jima and who served with Medal of Honor winner Capt Joseph McCarthy, and who was KIA on Iwo Jima. This book gives us another example of the brave men who fought and who some died for what we have today. What made them perform the actions for which they are credited will long remain a mystery to most of us, but we are the benefactors of those actions. I intend to continue reading and will continue to wonder why they did it, the bravery is beyond words. I would recommend that anyone interested in heroism read this book.

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