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To Hell And Back



Synopsis

The classic bestselling war memoir by the most decorated American soldier in World War II, back in print in a trade paperbackOriginally published in 1949, *To Hell and Back* was a smash bestseller for fourteen weeks and later became a major motion picture starring Audie Murphy as himself. More than fifty years later, this classic wartime memoir is just as gripping as it was then. Desperate to see action but rejected by both the marines and paratroopers because he was too short, Murphy eventually found a home with the infantry. He fought through campaigns in Sicily, Italy, France, and Germany. Although still under twenty-one years old on V-E Day, he was credited with having killed, captured, or wounded 240 Germans. He emerged from the war as America's most decorated soldier, having received twenty-one medals, including our highest military decoration, the Congressional Medal of Honor. *To Hell and Back* is a powerfully real portrayal of American GI's at war.

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Customer Reviews

Texan Audie Murphy was the most highly decorated G.I. of World War II, being awarded almost every medal the Army could offer as well as the Congressional Medal of Honor. His memoir of the war is a classic, still retaining some popularity. Tom Parker brings this terse yet vivid and articulate memoir to life. Able to give each of Murphy's comrades credible accents and characterizations, Parker's clear and well-paced reading is a joy. For popular and military collections. AMichael T. Fein, Catawba Valley Community Coll., Hickory, NC
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--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Audie Murphy was the most decorated American soldier during World War II. He went on to a long film career, starring in *The Red Badge of Courage*, *The Quiet American*, and his own *To Hell and Back*. He was killed in a plane crash in 1971 at age forty-six.

Outstanding book with a graphic view of war from a man who lived through it during WWII. Audie Murphy wrote this four years after the war ended and it led to a Hollywood movie of the same title starring Murphy. Astonishing stories of daily life on the battlefield, Murphy relates the tragedy of war and the comedy of his comrades even under the grimmest circumstances. This book is a **MUST READ** by all Americans. It will give you new perspectives of war and a greater appreciation for our military personnel who willingly live through hell for the cause of Freedom. You will never see war the same way again. And you'll want to hug every war veteran you meet.

This was not the easiest book to read. It has had a profound effect on me, though. I finished it a couple weeks ago and didn't want to review it right away. The takeaway is that WWII front line men had to essentially see other soldiers as a thing that needed to move forward. The enemy was also not a group of people; they were barriers that needed to be dropped. Rarely does the term "shot him" come up. There are so many words used besides the ultimate "I killed him." My father was an infantryman. I understand him so much better than I ever thought I could. I did keep waiting for something to happen, to read the other side of the soldiers' lives, but that didn't happen. It is grit from beginning to end. No wonder WWII vets never talked. Their battle fatigue was real. They learned too well how to compartmentalize.

"I am well acquainted with fear. It strikes first in the stomach, coming like the disemboweling hand that is thrust into the carcass of a chicken. I feel now as though icy fingers have reached into my mid-parts and twisted the intestines into knots." -Pg. 96. I assume this vivid description was probably written by a ghost writer who helped Audie with the book, but it graphically describes what vivid accounts are contained in Audie's recounting his experiences on the battle field. I roomed in graduate school with a student who had been an officer of a roving band of fighters in the Vietnam war. I would ask him about his experiences and some of his stories of killing prisoners and keeping a small gun in case he was captured in order to take his own life so that he wouldn't be tortured, were chilling. He finally said, "I cannot explain war to you, you have to have been there to experience it

first hand in order to understand war." His words rung true in reading Audie Murphy's memoir "To Hell and Back", and seeing from Audie's eyes, the incredible story of his life on the front line. His division lost 4,500 men over a 7 month period. His friends and companions that he started off with were all killed. At times his determination and drive turned him into a one-man killing machine and his own personal war. I grew up not caring for Audie Murphy's movies, as this clean-cut young man, with the boyish face, he did not look like the Medal of Honor winner that I pictured in my mind and didn't fit in with the movie roles that he was in as the lead hero. But after reading his book, I watched his movie of the same title of his war experience with a renewed fascination and appreciation for his accomplishments and what he endured. To those that watched the movie too, the book is more in depth and the accounts of the casualties are more graphic. I have never been to war, but I have a better appreciation for those that have given their all after reading his account. We are fortunate to have the latest Medal of Honor recipient, Dakota Meyers, from the adjoining county. After reading Audie's book, I have ordered Dakota's book "Into the Fire". This is a true hard-to-put-down book with riveting action. One wonders that if Audie had lived, if he may have beaten Reagan to the Commander In Chief position!

Incredible read.. If you've seen the movie - this is nothing like it. Hard and gritty talk. Tells of the deprivations, danger, fear and black humor of the combat infantryman. incredible insight to the man. Wish they'd remake the movie in the style of "Saving Private Ryan" - not the sanitized version made in the 1950's. Tremendous story of one of our country's greatest heroes.

Wow excellent book. I'll bet I've read 30-40 books written by men who went to war and this one is by far is one of the most gripping personal accounts of war that I've ever read. And to think he was only 19 when he was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Audie Murphy - WWII hero. But he was also much more. So much more. I was constantly amazed as his story advanced, about how he (or any GI) survived the war and came back to make something of the life our Lord gave to him. He did suffer for many years with PTSD, but he kept moving forward, gained a family of his own, and found a new career as an actor. It was our sorrow to lose him in a plane crash, at an early age (his 40s). I can't offer enough praise about this book, which, is of course, about his life. Thanks to Audie for sharing this with us all.

The book, written by Murphy himself, is very interesting, action packed, and shows the reader the

darker side of war. (The darkness of a soldier's mind, when he has given up on living through the war) Murphy tells the tale of his time during WWII, his missions, the men he fought with, and the thoughts he had throughout the war. Never once does he draw attention to himself in a "look at me" manner. The missions he was awarded medals for appear as just another day in the life of a soldier, and I had to go online to other places to read about his heroism. I highly recommend this book for anyone interested in WWII, Audie Murphy from a personal point, or just the camaraderie of soldiers fighting together in a bleak situation. One thing I have noticed from most of the books I've read about people awarded the medal of honor, is that they don't seem to dwell on the actions of themselves. They seem to see it as they just doing their jobs, and most feel like they don't understand how they were the ones to survive. This book is no different. I would have liked to have met Mr. Murphy in real life. I think he must have been inspirational, even without the war.

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