

**Welcome Home-Paul B.  
American Legion Post 11-11  
Desmond T. Doss, Medal of Honor Recipient**



Corporal Desmond T. Doss was a devout 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist who was always praying, or reading his Bible. Doss was a war protestor even though he joined the Army to serve his country. Doss suffered taunts, jeers and boots thrown at him in the barracks for his religious beliefs . Desmond also refused to march or train on Saturdays or carry a weapon in the Army.

So what do you do with an individual who rejects military practices , defies orders and becomes a misfit in the Army. Apparently, the Army had enough of Corporal Doss, so the brass decided to wash him out of the service with a Section 8, discharge , under a Court Martial trial. Doss really desired to serve his country, he just did not want to kill another human. The Court Martial proceedings failed to stand up to his dedication and intense desire to serve in the Army. So, Desmond went on to serve as a Medic in the 77<sup>th</sup> Division with the 307<sup>th</sup> Infantry at Leyte, Guam and Okinawa.

So Doss went to war at Leyte, time after time Doss braved enemy fire to go to the wounded and remove them from safety. Doss performed this action consistently for the wounded soldiers to remove them to a safe zone. His actions on Okinawa between April 29, and May 21, 1945 earned Doss the Nation's highest honor for bravery. Many times, Doss would braved mortar and shelling to administer Plasma or carry wounded soldiers to the American lines. Doss himself was wounded by shrapnel and suffered a broken arm in one firefight. Doss rigged a splint on his arm with the stock of a rifle, and then when he was carried off on a litter, he hopped off the litter so that another serious wounded soldier could receive immediate care for his wounds. Doss also suffered serious wounds to his legs from a grenade.

During one advance upon reaching a 400 foot cliff, Doss and his troops suffered 75 casualties, but Doss continued to brave shelling, and lower the wounded soldiers one by one back down the cliff to friendly forces. Private First Class Doss Desmond was the first soldier to receive the Medal of Honor as a Conscientious Objector, but Doss always referred to himself as a Conscientious Cooperator. PFC Doss Desmond would conclude his reports with the same Official Answer-" We prayed"

Reference Credits-      Wikipedia Encyclopedia  
                                  "The Unlikeliest Hero" by Booton Herndon, 2004  
                                  "Desmond Doss" Conscientious Objector" by Frances M. Doss 2005