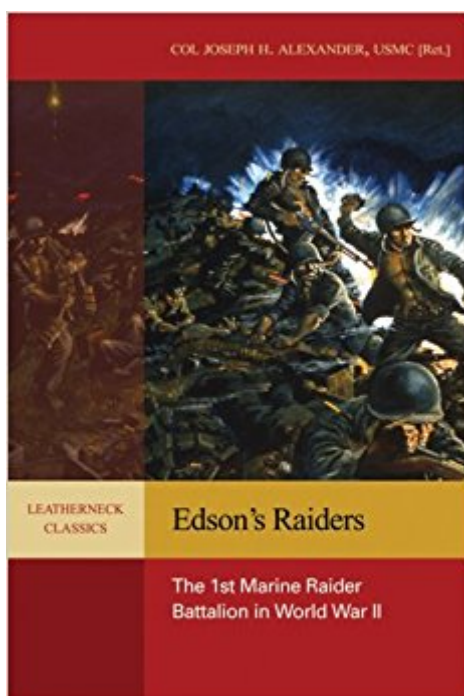


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Edson's Raiders: The 1st Marine Raider Battalion In World War II (Leatherneck Classics)



Synopsis

Under the fiery leadership of Merritt "Red Mike" Edson, the 1st Marine Raider Battalion provided the vanguard of a strategic experiment with seaborne commando units in the Pacific. From 1942 to 1943 Edson's Raiders fought seven critical battles in Tulagi, Guadalcanal, and New Georgia against some of Japan's most experienced jungle fighters. Twenty-four Raiders had ships named in their honor. Col. Joseph Alexander's book presents abundant first-person accounts of the conflicts, from Edson himself to such hard-nosed NCOs as Angus Goss, Walter Burak, and Anthony Palonis.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Joseph Alexander was a retired colonel of the U.S. Marine Corps, with 29 years' service as an assault amphibian officer. He commanded a company in Vietnam, served five years at sea with amphibious task forces, and graduated with distinction from the Naval War College. Prior to retirement he served as chief of staff of the 3d Marine Division in the western Pacific. Alexander wrote six books, including *Utmost Savagery: The Three Days of Tarawa*; *The Battle History of the U.S. Marines*; and *Edson's Raiders: The 1st Marine Raider Battalion in World War II*. He was Naval Institute Author of the Year in 1996 and Naval History Author of the Year in 2010. He served as scriptwriter and on-screen authority for 28 military documentaries for cable television networks. He was the principal historian and writer on the exhibit design team for the construction and expansion of the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

Excellent book on the 1st Marine Raider battalion in WWII Pacific. The book covers the pre-WWII creation of the battalion and the role Merritt Edson played in its creation and its leadership. The book is well written and the author being a retired Marine himself uses his knowledge of Marine doctrine and strategy as a way to enhance many of the events. I would highly recommend this book to any WWII buff.

I wanted to read this book because my Dad was a Marine Raider and Edson was his commander. Dad would never talk about the war, so I thought this book would give me some good information. It did NOT fail! Wonderful book, well detailed and so well written. I really am glad I bought it. There are some more you have that I will be buying. Thank You for having books of this history.

I became interested in the 1st Marine Raider Battalion after discovering my dad, Albin Dabrowski, was a member of the unit. We always knew he was in the first battalion on Guadalcanal, but never realized his status as a Raider. This book took us through exactly what these men endured and accomplished in spite of the odds being against them. Most of these soldiers were mere children, my dad was 19 years-old, and were asked to do things that in other circumstances would have been almost unimaginable. They did what needed to be done and were victorious in the end. My dad was a very proud Marine and instilled that pride and mindset to his children. After reading their story of battle in the Pacific, we couldn't be more grateful and impressed by what this elite group accomplished. Dad passed away in 1963 but I am certain he is standing proudly in Heaven and yelling, "Gung Ho-Semper Fi!" Thank you, Colonel, for this outstanding insight to what this determined group endured.

good read

I wish it had more photos. But a good read.

Joe Alexander writes well, and he knows the topic (Marine Corps) from the inside. He tells the story of the Raiders with fact and personality.

When the President of the US tells you to form a unit, you do - regardless of what you think. That's part of the origin of the US Marine "Raiders". In the early days of WW2, Roosevelt was enamored by the British Commandos and ordered the Marines to create a similar organization for deep raids,

reconnaissance & commando operations. He also desperately needed some good PR. Four battalions were formed; infamous "Red" Mike Edson's being one of them. This is an operational history of that battalion - the history behind FDR's order, political & military backdrop told anecdotally, rich with excellent maps analysis of weapons and tactics of the US and Japan. It's a very, very good read on some of the top notch fighters in Marine history. With 29 years experience in the Marines, Alexander is fully qualified to write about leadership and the exploits of Edson's Raiders - if you guess he's a big fan of Edson, that'd be an understatement. As interesting as the battles of the Raiders were, I found the best parts the analysis of the effectiveness of these types of units the best. Alexander takes the mainstream view that the Marines did not need "an elite unit in an elite Corps", that any Marine Infantry battalion could do the same. That is no slight on the Raiders, the conclusions are logical, hold the test of time and correct. These were units trained almost to the same edge as the SEALs, but used more commonly as infantry. Very highly recommended reading for anyone interested in small unit leadership, heroism, the Marines and how a few exceptional men helped at during the US darkest times in the Pacific War.

My uncle was a 1st Marine Raider who won the Navy Cross at the Ridge. He survived and passed away in 2009. He was not a Marine but a navy Pharmacist Mate 2 which was what they called Corpsman in those days. I could not pry much information out of him as it seemed too painful for him. Each of us handles things differently so the men who are willing to talk are only doing it their way..nothing more. He did admire marines to the end of his life and I don't think there was any lack of respect from marines toward the navy volunteers who served with them. He, like many others who went through this, found forgiving the enemy almost impossible. He earned the right to his feelings. I always wanted to know the genesis and history of the Raiders from beginning to end and here it is written superbly. I have a difficult time putting the book down and will keep it for rereading. I was shocked by the fact that the best personal weapons available were not given to the Marines but to the European theater. Thanks to Col. Alexander for a wonderful historical account of the legendary Raiders

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