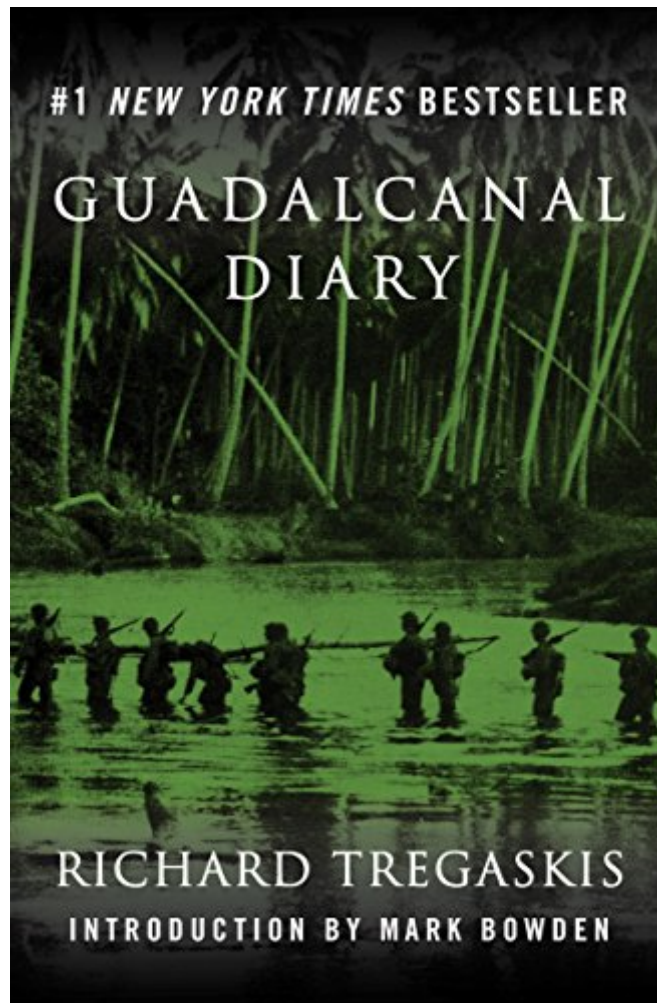




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Guadalcanal Diary



Synopsis

#1 New York Times Bestseller: The definitive eyewitness account of one of the bloodiest and most pivotal battles of World War II. On August 7, 1942, eleven thousand US Marines landed on Tulagi and Guadalcanal Islands in the South Pacific. It was the first major Allied offensive against Japanese forces; the first time in history that a combined air, land, and sea assault had ever been attempted; and, after six months of vicious fighting, a crushing defeat for the Empire of Japan and a major turning point in the Pacific War. ã ã Volunteer combat correspondent Richard Tregaskis was one of only two journalists on hand to witness the invasion of Guadalcanal. He risked life and limb to give American readers a soldier's experience of the war in the Pacific, from the suffocating heat and humidity to the unique terror of fighting in tall, razor-sharp grass and in crocodile-infested jungle streams against a concealed enemy. In understated yet graceful prose, Tregaskis details the first two months of the campaign and describes the courage and camaraderie of young marines who prepared for battle knowing that one in four of them wouldn't make it home. ã ã An instant bestseller when it was first published in 1943 and the basis for a popular film of the same name, Guadalcanal Diary set the standard for World War II reportage. Hailed by the New York Times as "one of the literary events of its time," it is a masterpiece of war journalism whose influence can be found in classic works such as John Hersey's Hiroshima, Michael Herr's Dispatches, and Dexter Filkins's The Forever War. ã ã This ebook features an illustrated biography of Richard Tregaskis including rare images from the American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming. ã ã

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Customer Reviews

Tregaskis did a very nice job on this--setting the standard for modern war correspondents. This book covers just the first two months of the Guadalcanal Campaign. Tregaskis was 26 at the time, Like a lot of folks on Guadalcanal, he was eventually evacuated when he got sick. He kept copious notes as he covered the campaign--making sure to note the hometown of every enlisted man or officer he talked to (the folks back home in Muleshoe Missouri would certainly like to hear that Billy Smith did this or that on Guadalcanal). He started to write this book while he was being flown from Espiritu Santo to Pearl Harbor for further medical treatment. When he got to Pearl Harbor the Navy took his notes--classified information after all--but let him continue to write the book in a secure room during the day. He sent his first draft to Bennett Cerf expecting that it would need further editing before being published. Cerf wrote back--"Your draft will be published as the next Book of The Month club selection!" And so it was. Tregaskis went on to cover the war in Italy (where he received a head wound that left a metal plate in his head) the push out from Normandy, Korea, and Viet Nam. His personal story is also interesting. He was 6 feet six or seven; rail thin; a diabetic who carried some early instructions on diabetic treatment in his knapsack on Guadalcanal. He had to eat a lot to maintain his weight--tough to do on Guadalcanal in the early going; he had a size fourteen foot--tough to get boots that size in the USMC supply chain in 1942. W

I read Invasion Diary several months ago so I was eager to read Guadalcanal Diary. The writing style is very similar in both books. I found both books equally good in telling the story of US forces in combat. After reading both books, my admiration for Richard Tregaskis as a war correspondent has grown immensely. It takes a certain person who's willing to place himself in harm's way as a non-combatant. I read the Kindle Edition of Guadalcanal Diary. My only complaint is that there were no maps. I had to print out my own maps of Guadalcanal which helped give me an understanding of what was happening as I was reading.

Terrific period piece, written as contemporaneous reporting of the first effort of the US Marines to take back territory from the previously invincible empire of Japan in World War II. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor and the military defeats and loss of the Philippines and Wake Island, there was great uncertainty as to whether the US and its allies could be ultimately successful militarily against the Japanese juggernaut. Guadalcanal posed a threat as a launching point for a possible attack and subjugation of Australia. The author was embedded with the first Marines as they made an amphibious landing at Guadalcanal, had their first military encounters with Japanese forces, took a strategic airfield, were isolated without assurance of further support following a naval defeat, and persevered until support was re-established. The first hand account captures both the uncertainty of combat as well as the can-do attitudes of the US Marine Corps. Well worth reading for its descriptions of the experiences of the men on the ground; inspirational with regard to the American fighting spirit.

Interesting and easy read. Might have lacked some detail but must keep in mind what Mr. Tregaskis was doing there. Reporting the war, not necessarily writing a book. Honestly, the details about Richard Tregaskis at the end of the book were most interesting. He lead quite a life and gained much respect from me. Thank you Richard for being there and sharing history with us. Godspeed

Excellent told viewpoint of someone who was there and in contact with the average soldier on the ground. You get to see his view and the officer's view. Learn how they moved inch by inch and trying to island hop.

I can't believe I had never read this gripping eyewitness account of WWII in the Pacific. It is just excellent in its coverage and journalistic style. A must read for anyone interested in the war against Japan.

This account puts the reader at the front line soldiers shoulder. Other is little to no grand vision or what is happening on a larger scale. Your scope is limited to what is seen by the infantry which can be pretty disjointed. Overall a good read, but Neptunes Inferno is better.

Written during the event, the book told nothing about the miscues and poor handling of the amphibious landing--the first in (I believe) our nation's history. Didn't tell about the mis-loading of the

transports, which left before food and ammunition could be offloaded, told nothing about the suicidal charges apparently ordered by a general commanding, (which failed to do anything except kill a lot of marines.) But, considering that most books at the time were wartime propaganda for the folks back home, it at least satisfied their curiosity about what was being accomplished.

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