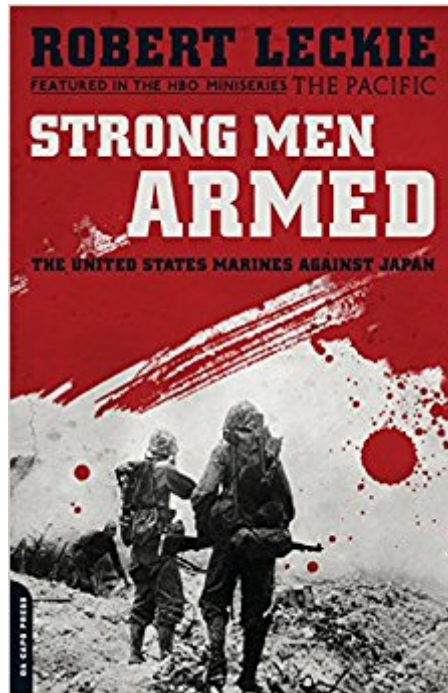




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Strong Men Armed: The United States Marines Against Japan



Synopsis

Written by Robert Leckie, whose wartime exploits will be featured this spring in the upcoming Tom Hanks/Steven Spielberg HBO miniseries *The Pacific*, *Strong Men Armed* has been a perennial bestselling classic account of the Pacific theater in World War II. As scout and machine-gunner for the First Marine Division, Leckie fought in all its engagements until his wounding at Peleliu. Here he uses firsthand experience and impeccable research to re-create the nightmarish battles of the Pacific campaign.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This is a carefully researched history of the Marines from Guadalcanal to Okinawa," said LJ's reviewer of this title, which incorporates information from both American and Japanese sources. Offering the points of view of enlisted men and officers alike for a balanced look at the battles, the text is bolstered with numerous photos and maps. For public and academic military collections. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Raw, heartbreaking, and superb." ---Christian Science Monitor --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

To expand on the other positive reviewers, who I wholly agree with...Beyond all I am simply grateful that Robert Leckie not only wrote, but chose to take it upon himself to write about our history in the

way that he did. After deciding that media was failing history, Leckie started with his own account of the battles of the Pacific, then from there put more than forty scholarly works together to tell many American stories that, in my opinion, should be told exactly his way--raw, poignant, simple and yet all-encompassing. He goes day by day, moment by moment, telling a moving story that most writers can barely do with a bias narrative of one life, yet he does it for an entire war. He tells objectively about courage and doesn't stray away from the harsh realities--we see Marines cheering at the agonizing enemy, and getting blown away by their own artillery. But he writes so broadly that we are not swayed to form brash opinions. It is just history, real history made of real stories, told by a man who knows what history is made of. If I were a history teacher, I would assign only his books. That's a serious endorsement, but in today's world and in today's schools we need real literature like this. Frankly, it doesn't surprise me in the least that Leckie's works are generally unheard of when Howard Zinn's *A People's History* and Caputo's *A Rumor of War* are required reading in college today.

An amazing recounting of the battles of the Pacific during WW2. I have read other books by this author and they are all good. The stories in this book gives me more reason to appreciate what the WW2 vets did so that I had so many opportunities in my life. I did 2 tours of Vietnam but never experienced anything like the horrific battles the Marines faced on so many islands. So many acts of heroism, so many lives lost. This is a book of history that every young person should read before enlisting and everyone who did not serve should know the cost of freedom.

Robert Leckie is a great writer, which makes "Strong Men Armed" an excellent read for those interested in the Pacific Campaign of World War II. I've owned a hard copy for years and have nearly worn it out with re-reading, so I'm happy to have it available on Kindle. Leckie skilfully combines personal accounts of battle with overviews of strategy to give a clear picture of the Marine Corps action in the Pacific. Now, all that said, you must understand that Leckie himself was a Marine at Guadalcanal and other battles, and tells his story from the Marine point of view. The subtitle, "The United States Marines Against Japan" says it all: if the Army and Navy had just gotten out of the way, the Marines could have defeated Japan all by themselves in record time! The book is about the Marine's war; other American or Allied services are referenced only as they affect Marine action. Even with the USMC bias, this is a great book, fun to read, well written and worth five stars. You will love it!

I read this book after reading *Helmet for my Pillow*, *With the Old Breed*, and *Red Blood, Black Sand*. The last three were tremendous, but left me wanting to know more about the overall effort in the Pacific, including strategy and Naval Ops. *Strong Men Armed* was perfect. It is not a short book (600 pages for the paperback, I read the kindle). I wish it were even longer. Robert Leckie is a superb writer. He wrote the book in narrative without distracting footnotes, etc, and it flows very well, mostly chronologically. I cannot recommend this book enough for either the casual reader of history, or for someone who has read individual accounts, and wants more. It is at the same time inspiring, and heartbreaking. It is a good book of history, but written by someone who was there, and who honors others there who deserve it.

I read this book the first time in 1964 when I was in elementary school. It inspired me and set the seed of wanting to be a Marine. Having been raised in a Navy household there were a number of Marines in my neighborhood and a majority were WWII veterans and a few had been infantry and had fought on Iwojima and Okinawa. I was young and naive and asked pointed questions in reference to this book and surprisingly I got honest and very blunt answers. After joining the Marine Corps I was stationed on Okinawa twice, I walked those battle fields, with a map of the battle. I still hold those Marine and Army infantrymen in AWE and to this day admire the unbelievable courage it took to go forward in the face of the enemy. This book is concise, straightforward, no punches pulled account of how truly difficult the Pacific combat was for the Marine infantrymen and how courageous these men were!

A well written overview of the role the Marines played in the Pacific. Every island campaign the Marines undertook on the way to Japan is covered here. While not as detailed an account as *"With the Old Breed"* or *"Helmet for my Pillow"*, it has plenty of personal moments. Highly recommended. There is only one minor issue I have with the book. It is the same issue I have with the majority of books that describe tactics and battles. Too few maps. While there is a map for each campaign, there is usually only one. It tends to show the island on D-Day and the landing areas, there are no maps showing movement beyond that. That being said, it does not take away from the content of the book in any way. You just have to bookmark and flip back and forth a bit. When you read about what they went through and endured, flipping back and forth to maps becomes a mighty small issue.

The last Japanese island to be wrested from the Japanese during WWII was one of the bloodiest

battles fought in the Pacific War. In-as-much as I am a student of WWII, the story fascinated me. The story was very well written, and seemed somewhat more sophisticated in its prose. My own father was a marine during WWII, and until his dying day wouldn't speak of his time in the Pacific, therefore I have to read about the war in books written by others. My father was barometer on Guadalcanal in 1942, and his war was over, as he was sent home to recuperate.

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