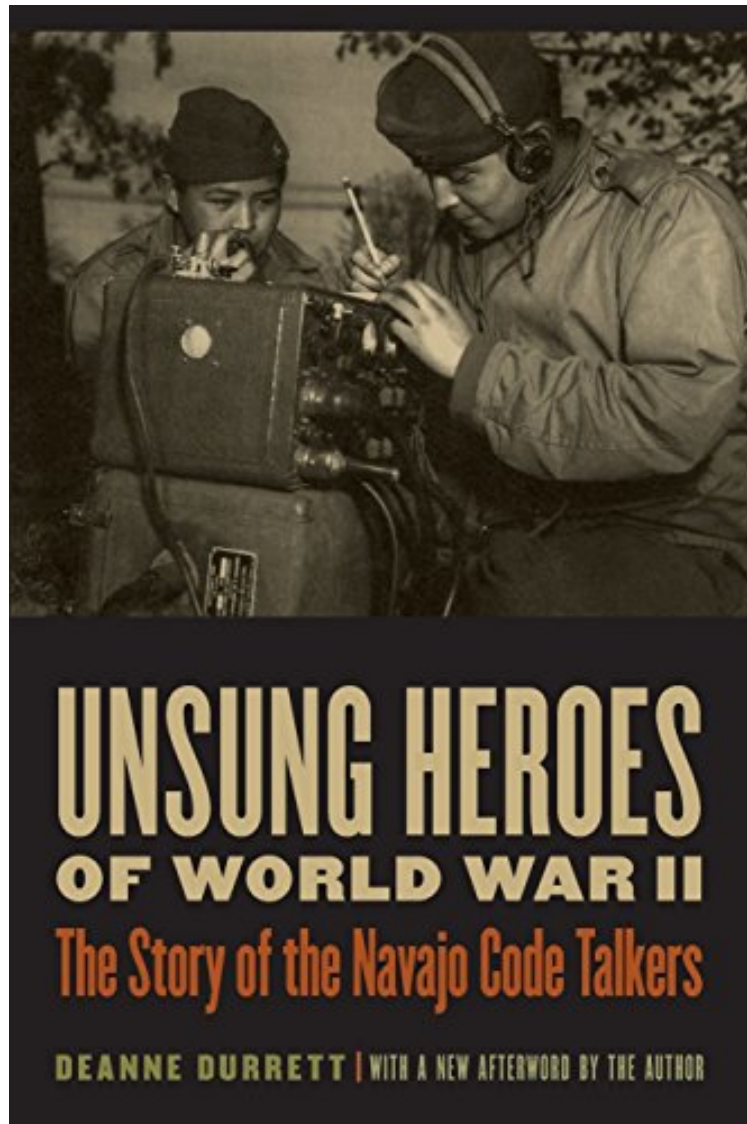


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Unsung Heroes of World War II: The Story of the Navajo Code Talkers

Deanne Durrett

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Deanne Durrett : *Unsung Heroes of World War II: The Story of the Navajo Code Talkers* before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Unsung Heroes of World War II: The Story of the Navajo Code Talkers*:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Very Good Summary of the Navajo Code Talker Program By T.B.I first read Chester Nez's memoir and then found myself in a Native American Studies Class in college. I wrote a

research paper on the code talkers and uses this book extensively.6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Unsung Heroes of World War IIBy Susie67This is a great book! I loved this book because the author discusses the history of the Navajo Code Talkers from beginning to end in great detail. I would highly recommend this book.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy msmarthavery interesting

On February 23, 1945, U.S. Marines claimed victory in the battle of Iwo Jima, one of the most important battles in the Pacific islands during World War II. Instrumental to this defeat of Japanese forces was a group of specialized Marines involved in a secret program. Throughout the war, Japanese intelligence agencies were able to intercept and break nearly every battlefield code the United States created. The Navajo Code Talkers, however, devised a complex code based on their native language and perfected it so that messages could be coded, transmitted, and decoded in minutes. The Navajo Code was the only battlefield code that Japan never deciphered. *Unsung Heroes of World War II* details the history of the men who created this secret code and used it on the battlefield to help the United States win World War II in the Pacific.

From School Library JournalGrade 6 Up-This book presents readers with a fine combination of Navajo history and culture and background information about World War II in the Pacific. In historical terms, the story of the Code Talkers is a recent one as it was kept secret for many years after the war. Durrett describes the establishment of the program from its inception through declassification and the official recognition of the Code Talkers' contributions. The well-written text examines the failures, successes, and problems that the program encountered from training the first group of Marines until the war's end. It also stresses the fact that the Navajo developed the code themselves rather than just using the language as it is normally spoken. Sidebars add interest and details to the text. Maps and vintage photos are well placed and fully documented. One minor flaw appears; the text states that President Roosevelt declared war on Japan; legally, only Congress can declare war. This title is similar to Nathan Aaseng's *Navajo Code Talkers* (Walker, 1992), but it focuses more on the individuals who were part of the original 29 Code Talkers while still presenting an overview of the whole subject. It's a definite purchase for World War II shelves, especially if the collection does not include Aaseng's title.Eldon Younce, Harper Elementary School, KSCopyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistThis volume in the Library of Native American History series couldn't be more timely. With young people's interest in World War II piqued, thanks to the film *Saving Private Ryan*, this strong, well-written resource about the Navajo's role in the Allied victory is a worthwhile acquisition for both its military and its cultural value. Until 1969, when the Navajo Code was officially declassified by the U.S. government, the 420 Navajo Code Talkers remained unacknowledged heroes of the war. Initially, 29 Native American marines devised the code, using the Navajo's complex, inflection-sensitive language. Their work was not only indecipherable to the enemy but also remarkably efficient. What high-tech machines did in four hours, the Code Talkers achieved in literally two minutes. Such astounding facts, as well as stirring personal accounts of battle, make for fascinating, educational reading. Endnotes; selected further reading list. Roger Leslie "This book presents readers with a fine combination of Navajo history and culture and background information about World War II in the Pacific. . . . The well-written text . . . stresses the fact that the Navajo developed the code themselves rather than just using the language as it is normally spoken. Sidebars add interest and details to the text. Maps and vintage photos are well placed and fully documented."—School Library Journal