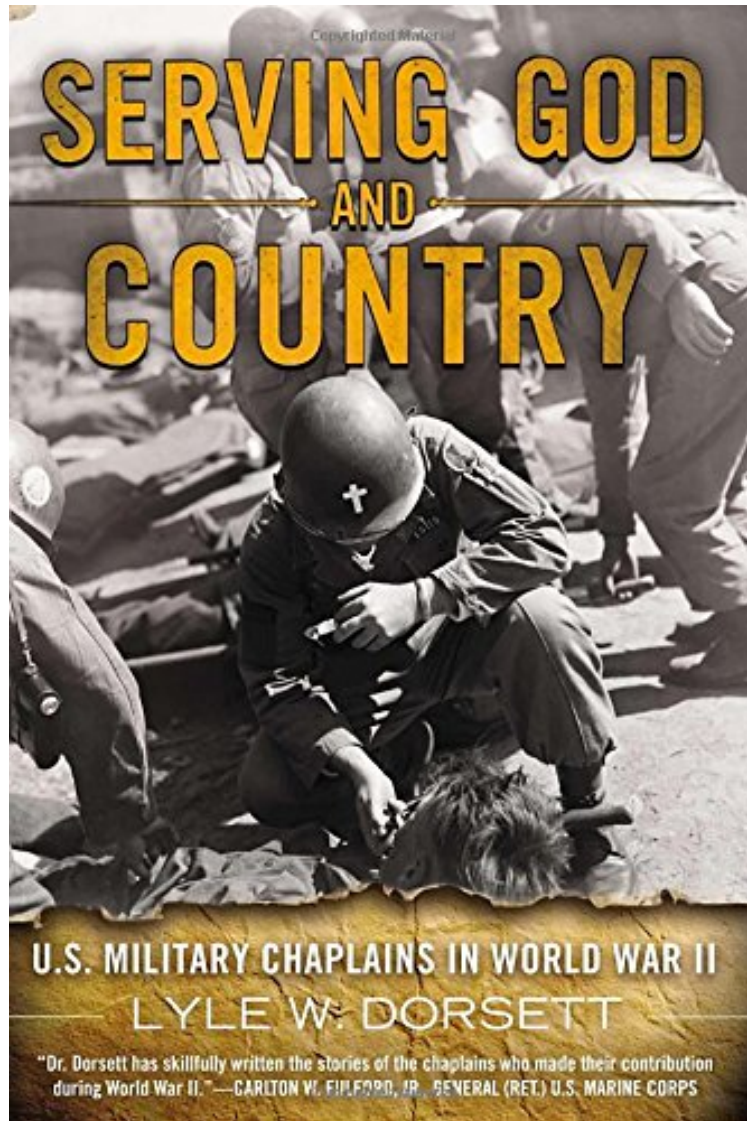


[Free pdf] Serving God and Country: United States Military Chaplains in World War II

Serving God and Country: United States Military Chaplains in World War II

Lyle W. Dorsett

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Lyle W. Dorsett : Serving God and Country: United States Military Chaplains in World War II before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Serving God and Country: United States Military Chaplains in World War II:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A readable and inspirational history By Anson Cassel Mills Lyle Dorsett is an academic historian, a Protestant clergyman, a former Marine reservist, and the owner of a small private

museum of World War II artifacts that includes scores of chaplains autobiographies. Obviously, the topic had met the man long before Dorsett actually began his formal research. In writing this book, the author intended it not only to fill a gap in the history of World War II arguing that chaplains were absolutely essential to America's victory but also to be inspirational, to challenge young Americans to consider becoming military chaplains themselves. Of course, World War II chaplains held religious services and offered personal counsel, but they had additional government mandated duties as well, such as keeping the grave registration and giving hortatory talks about sexual morality. Nevertheless, the best of the chaplains were flexible enough to give assistance wherever they could make a difference: everything from battlefield rescue, to assembling baseball equipment for bored soldiers, to protecting refugee women from the Russians, to comforting the wounded and dying and sending letters of condolence to their survivors. Dorsett especially endorses chaplains who were ecumenical in spirit and perhaps even overemphasizes the stories of Jewish chaplains, who were a tiny fraction of the total. Interestingly, the chaplaincy also seems to have been the first part of the U. S. military to have desegregated its professional training. The topic is an intriguing one, and Dorsett writes well enough. The weakness of this book is that it becomes, almost by necessity, a long series of anecdotes.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great personal accounts and stories
By LtCol ret E. Kennedy, Jr. Absolutely outstanding book about WWII U.S. chaplains. Great personal accounts and stories. Well-written and easy to read. Excellent resource on history of U.S. chaplains in WWII.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Lifting the Banner of Faith amid the Crucible of War
By Derek Atkins Chaplain (Major General) William Arnold once observed, "Battles are won by military power, but wars are won by spiritual power." In this very well-researched book, Lyle W. Dorsett makes his case that America's military chaplains were indispensable to helping America secure victory against the Axis during World War II. In making his case, Lyle also does an excellent job of illuminating an often-overlooked aspect of World War II--namely, the story of the service rendered by American chaplains. This book includes many brief vignettes of a variety of chaplains, including Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish chaplains, as well as the experiences of chaplains in the various different military services and operational theaters. But what shines through most in this book is the exceptional devotion of the vast majority of American military chaplains to their calling. Many of these chaplains were generous and sacrificial, truly living out their religious convictions, and providing their fellow soldiers with invaluable care, counsel, and encouragement, often in the face of horrendous conditions. Dorsett also does an excellent job of highlighting various aspects of the whole chaplain experience, including how chaplains from different faith traditions and even racial backgrounds learned from one another, and in essence lived out a more democratic, integrated life long before America's armed services themselves became integrated. He also highlights just how truly evil and barbaric the Nazis and Japanese were in many instances. This book also contains several dramatic accounts of how many chaplains intentionally went into harm's way to offer front-line soldiers much-needed spiritual support in the midst of combat. This book is by no means an exhaustive history of the role military chaplains in America's World War II military operations, but this book does a good job of introducing this often-overlooked aspect of World War II to general readers. I would recommend this book to those who are considering possibly entering the chaplaincy, as well as those who are interested in the religious lives of many American soldiers during World War II. I certainly learned a good deal from reading this book, and I'm sure others will, too!

In World War II, more than twelve thousand Protestant ministers, Catholic priests, and Jewish rabbis joined the Chaplain Corps. They were men of faith under fire. And they would charge straight into Hell to save the soul of a single soldier. Representing America's three major religious traditions, volunteers from across the country enlisted as noncombatant commissioned officers to provide spiritual strength and guidance for those fighting men who never knew if they were going to survive. Armed only with Bibles, Torahs, and the tools of their holy trade, these men of God went wherever the troops went. They prayed over men about to go into combat on land, at sea, and in the air. And, most important and difficult of all, they guided fallen fighting men of every faith as they breathed their last, and gave up their lives in the fight against tyranny. These are the personal stories of some of the bravest and most selfless men who served with the armed forces. Many lost their lives or suffered debilitating wounds as they strived to keep the military personnel spiritually awake, morally fit and prepared to make the journey from this world to the next without fear or despair, and with the trust of the Almighty in their hearts. INCLUDES PHOTOGRAPHS

Dr. Dorsett has skillfully written the stories of the chaplains who made their contribution during World War II... This is a tremendous work of interest to military historians, spiritual leaders from all faith groups, and patriotic Americans.

Carlton W. Fulford, Jr., General (Ret.) U.S. Marine Corps One of those rare books that delivers excellent history and realistic inspiration in equal measure.

Mark A. Noll, Francis A. McAnaney Professor of History, University of Notre Dame
Lyle Dorsett does a superb job at capturing the spirit, culture, and challenges chaplains of all denominations faced during World War II.

Chaplain (LTC) Robert Nay, 5X Skill ID, Military Historian, U.S. Army
About the Author
Lyle W. Dorsett has a Ph.D. in American history, served in the Marine Corps Reserves, and taught twentieth-century U.S. history at the University of Southern California, University of Missouri-St. Louis, University of Colorado-Denver, Denver University, and Wheaton College in Illinois. Dorsett is also rector of Christ the

King Anglican Church in Birmingham, Alabama, and he currently holds the Billy Graham Chair of Evangelism at Beeson Divinity School, Samford University.