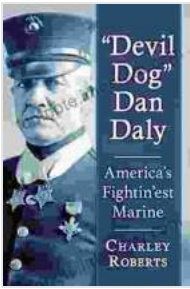


# America's Fightingest Marine: The Extraordinary Story of John Basilone



In the annals of American military history, few figures stand taller than John Basilone. A legendary Marine who fought with unmatched valor during World War II, Basilone's story is one of courage, sacrifice, and unwavering patriotism. From his humble beginnings as a son of Italian immigrants to his heroic actions on the blood-soaked beaches of Guadalcanal, Basilone's life is a testament to the indomitable spirit of the American fighting man.



## "Devil Dog" Dan Daly: America's Fightin'est Marine

by F. W. Walbank

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 7037 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 310 pages



### Early Life and Military Service

John Basilone was born in Raritan, New Jersey, on November 4, 1916. The son of Salvatore and Dora Basilone, he grew up in a working-class family and attended local schools. After graduating high school, Basilone worked as a truck driver and later enlisted in the Army in 1940. However, he quickly transferred to the Marine Corps, where he found his true calling.

Basilone's basic training at Parris Island was challenging, but he excelled in every aspect. His instructors recognized his natural leadership abilities and promoted him to corporal within months. After completing his training, Basilone was assigned to the 1st Marine Division and deployed to the Pacific Theater in 1942.

### Heroism at Guadalcanal

The Battle of Guadalcanal was one of the most intense and bloody conflicts of World War II. Basilone's unit landed on the island on August 7, 1942, and immediately faced relentless Japanese attacks. During the Battle of

Henderson Field, Basilone's machine gun squad played a pivotal role in repelling a massive Japanese assault.

With his fellow Marines falling around him, Basilone fearlessly manned his machine gun, mowing down enemy soldiers with incredible accuracy. Despite being wounded twice, Basilone refused to retreat and continued to fire his weapon until the Japanese were defeated. For his extraordinary heroism, Basilone was awarded the Navy Cross.

### **Lunga Point and the Medal of Honor**

In October 1942, Basilone's unit was assigned to defend Lunga Point, a strategic airfield on Guadalcanal. The Japanese launched a fierce assault on the airfield, and Basilone once again found himself in the thick of the fighting.

With his machine guns destroyed and his ammunition running low, Basilone charged into the Japanese lines with a bayonet. He fought hand-to-hand, killing multiple enemies and inspiring his fellow Marines. Despite being severely wounded, Basilone continued to fight until the Japanese were driven back.

For his extraordinary bravery at Lunga Point, Basilone was awarded the Medal of Honor, the United States' highest military decoration. He was the first living Marine to receive the medal during World War II.

### **Legacy and Impact**

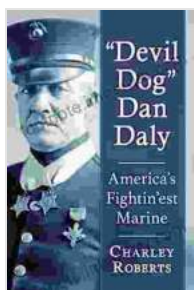
John Basilone's heroic actions during World War II made him a national icon. He became a symbol of American courage and sacrifice, and his story continues to inspire generations of Americans.

Basilone's Medal of Honor was stolen from his family in 1966, but it was later recovered and returned to them. In 2019, Basilone was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Today, Basilone's legacy lives on through numerous memorials and tributes. His hometown of Raritan, New Jersey, has erected a statue in his honor, and the United States Navy has named a destroyer after him. Additionally, several schools and libraries bear his name.

The story of John Basilone is one that deserves to be told and retold. He was a true American hero who embodied the values of courage, sacrifice, and unwavering patriotism. His actions during World War II helped secure victory for the United States and inspired generations of Americans to strive for excellence in all they do.

Basilone's legacy is a reminder that even in the darkest of times, there are always those who are willing to stand up for what is right and fight for their country. His story is an inspiration to us all and a testament to the indomitable spirit of the American fighting man.



## "Devil Dog" Dan Daly: America's Fightin'est Marine

by F. W. Walbank

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 7037 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 310 pages

FREE

DOWNLOAD E-BOOK



## Pearl Harbor: The Day That Changed World History

On December 7, 1941, Japan launched a surprise attack on the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor in Honolulu, Hawaii. The attack resulted in...



## Unveiling the Secrets of Abundance Distribution and Energetics in Ecology and Evolution

The **\*\*Theory of Abundance Distribution and Energetics\*\*** is a groundbreaking framework that revolutionizes our understanding of...