

Doris Miller: The Unsung Hero of Pearl Harbor



Doris Miller-Hero of Pearl Harbor by Bill O'Neal

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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Text-to-Speech : Enabled

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Word Wise : Enabled

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On the morning of December 7, 1941, the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was attacked by the Japanese. The attack was a surprise, and the American forces were caught off guard. However, one man stood out that day for his bravery and heroism: Doris Miller, a mess attendant on the battleship West Virginia.

Early Life and Career

Doris Miller was born in Waco, Texas, on October 12, 1919. He was the son of sharecroppers, and he grew up in poverty. After graduating from high school, Miller worked a variety of jobs, including as a truck driver and a porter.

In 1940, Miller joined the United States Navy. He was assigned to the battleship West Virginia as a mess attendant. Mess attendants were responsible for cleaning the ship and serving food to the crew.

The Attack on Pearl Harbor

On the morning of December 7, 1941, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Miller was below deck, preparing breakfast for the crew, when the attack began. He heard the explosions and ran to the deck to see what was happening.

Miller saw that the West Virginia was under attack by Japanese planes. The ship was on fire, and the crew was abandoning ship. Miller could have easily jumped overboard and saved himself, but he chose to stay and help his fellow sailors.

Miller manned an anti-aircraft gun and began firing at the Japanese planes. He shot down several planes and helped to protect the ship from further damage.

Miller's actions that day were heroic. He was the first African American to be awarded the Navy Cross, the second highest military award for valor.

Later Life and Legacy

After the war, Miller continued to serve in the Navy. He retired in 1948 and returned to Waco, Texas. He worked as a waiter and a janitor, and he was active in the local community.

Miller died on May 25, 1996. He was 76 years old.

Doris Miller's story is an inspiring example of bravery, courage, and determination. He was a man who overcame adversity to become a hero. His story should be told and remembered for generations to come.

Doris Miller was a true American hero. He was a brave and courageous man who put the lives of others before his

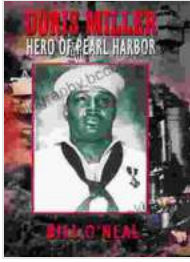
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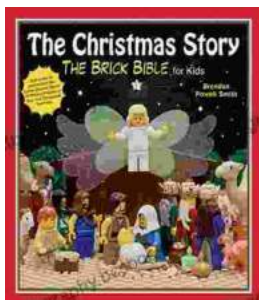


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