

The Cover Story by A. Stephen Patrick

The Hero of Hacksaw Ridge

The Academy of Motion Pictures has nominated Hacksaw Ridge for an Oscar for Best Picture. The hero of the movie is a soft spoken, humble Virginian who served as a non-combatant medic in WW II named Desmond T. Doss [Figure 1 on the Front Cover].

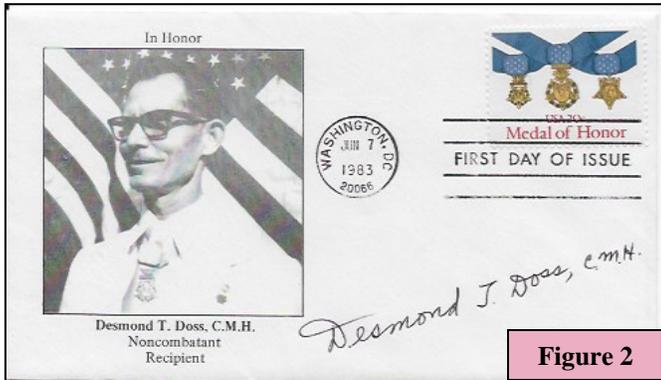


Figure 2

There were very few accommodations for conscientious objectors (CO) in WW II. Many members of the Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) church faced the sixth commandment “Thou shalt not kill” as a mandate not to bear arms. Doss was one of those, yet he enlisted to help the war effort. He was ridiculed and hazed by the other soldiers who felt he was acting as a coward.

PFC Doss served in several venues in the Pacific, but the climax of his service started beginning on April 29, 1945, on a jagged escarpment 400 feet high near Orasoo-Mura, Okinawa. Over a month long period he rescued and treated several

soldiers, but on his last day, he helped save more than 75 wounded soldiers carrying them to the edge of the escarpment and lowering them with a rope supported litter. He was wounded twice himself, but gave up his litter for a man worse off than himself.

President Truman hung the Congressional Medal of Honor around his neck saying, “You deserve this. I consider it a greater honor than being President.”

After the war he moved to Lookout Mountain, Georgia, just south of Chattanooga, Tennessee. He farmed and supported his local SDA church as first elder. In 1958, he appeared on the popular TV show “This is Your Life” where his life story was recounted by emcee Ralph Edwards.



Figure 3

After Pearl Harbor and until the late 1960s the SDA church developed a program for their denominational high schools called Medical Cadet Corps (MCC). Students would spend a semester learning marching, camping out, military courtesy, and rigorous training in first aid in order for them to be ready if drafted for military service and chose to be CO. In Michigan Camp Au Sable was established to train those that didn't have the opportunity to take MCC in school. The camp was renamed and hundreds attended Camp Doss. Once the volunteer army was established, these programs ended.

There are two covers that accompany this article. One is a first day of Scott # 2045 issued June 7, 1983 [Figure 2]. A designer named Pat McDougal did the add-on cachet honoring Doss, and I am happy that a friend of mine got me an autographed copy. I believe that the occasion for the signature was in celebration of the 75th anniversary of Collegedale, Tennessee, on July 4, 1991. Doss was one of the two Grand Marshals for the parade [Figure 3]. Collegedale is the home of Southern Missionary College, now known as Southern Adventist University where I earned my B. A. degree in History in 1968.

As a boy I met Desmond Doss and heard him tell his life story at camp meeting. I knew his son Tommy from summer camp. He was a sincere and good Christian man whom I am proud to have known. I have yet to see the movie, but I will. Although full of war violence, I have heard that Academy nominated Director Mel Gibson has told his story true to the man who won this honor. Actor Andrew Garfield was nominated for Best Actor. I treasure these two covers and the memory of a brave man.

New Member Spotlight: Mike Linthicum

Like most of us, my stamp collecting history started when I was young, about 12 years old. My Brother gave me a gift of a H.E. Harris Liberty Stamp Album and it started an adventure that has lasted 51 years now. Initially I collected only United States stamps and would visit a local stamp store (remember those) that was run by a very kind gentleman who was very old, probably in his 50s or 60s but to a 12 year old that's old, not to me now of course. My Mother would take me there and be very patient while I browsed and he tried to teach me about the various types of stamps, soaking them, perforations etc. I eventually picked up a Harris Worldwide Stamp Album, which I still have today and began collecting the world, which was very exciting to be able to learn about the history and travel to other countries through their stamps and never leave my house.



After a period of not being involved with my collection, in the mid-1990s out they came again, and this time with my new interest in American Civil War history and my genealogy I decided to start to collect Confederate Philately. I also transferred my U.S. Collection over to the Scott National Albums and purchased one to house my Confederate collection. With no album pages being printed at the time to house the Confederate stamps, I designed and had printed pages that I sold through the Confederate Stamp Alliance. I also published an article in Lynn's Stamp News about the creative process of the pages, which was published.

About 4 years ago my albums came back out again and have been working more often now with them. My U.S. Collection is complete from about 1930 to 1990 with a focus now on earlier U.S. stamps. In January I decided to start an Ireland collection to coincide with some genealogy research and that along with the U.S. stamps is my focus now. I was able to purchase a Lighthouse hingeless album at an auction in the UK with complete Ireland MNH stamps from 1950 to 1989 – a really good start for the Irish collection!

I'm no longer a member of the Confederate Stamp Alliance although I still pick up a piece or two for my collection of that time period from time to time, but do enjoy my membership with the APS and the Eire Philatelic Association. I look forward to meeting many of you at the upcoming meetings. I attended one in January and was very pleased with the hospitality of members who came up to me and introduced themselves.

[Editor's Note: I do encourage every new member to write a short biographic piece – call it an introduction!]

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| | <p>This oddity from 11.15.1934 has been provided by CFSC member Richard Cohen. Why is it odd -- you might wonder? It has a stamp from the country slightly north of us, but it was mailed from Los Angeles, CA to Avon Lake, OH. Strange?</p> <p>It would seem that Canada's postage is valid in the United States, as there is NO evidence of postage due or an invalid postage marking on the envelope.</p> <p>It has to make one wonder.....</p> |
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