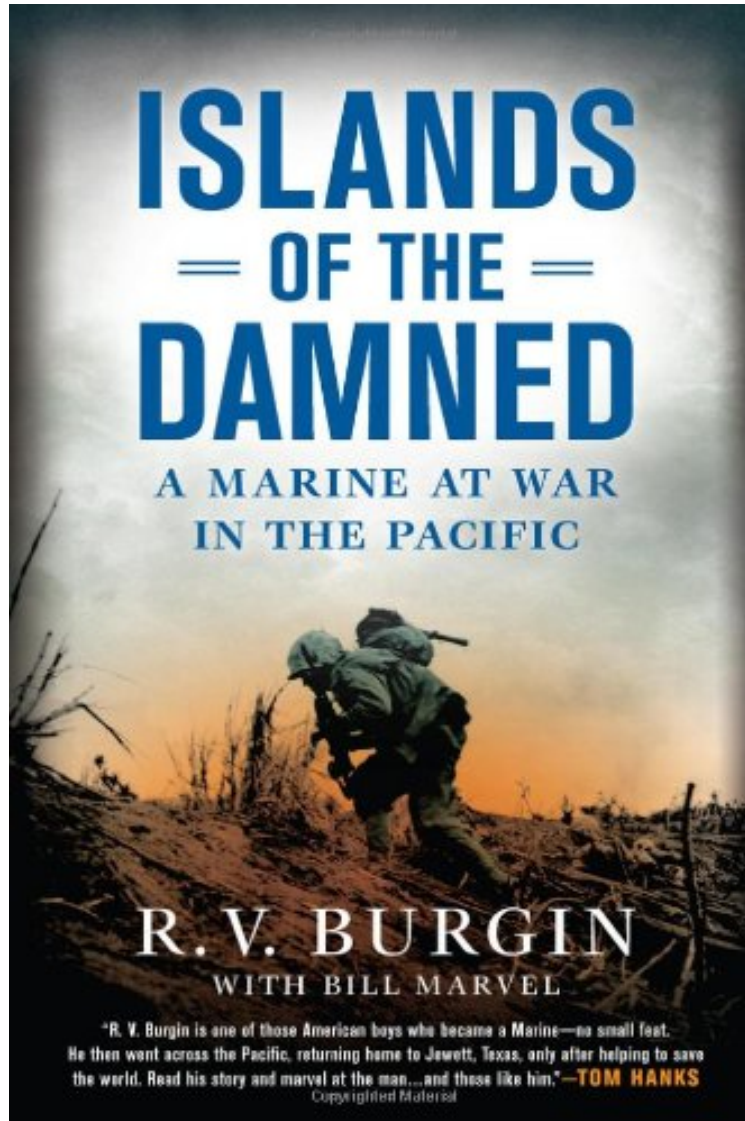


[Mobile pdf] Islands of the Damned: A Marine at War in the Pacific

Islands of the Damned: A Marine at War in the Pacific

R.V. Burgin, Bill Marvel

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R.V. Burgin, Bill Marvel : Islands of the Damned: A Marine at War in the Pacific before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Islands of the Damned: A Marine at War in the Pacific:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Perhaps too optimisticBy adrenalinI have been reading several war books this year, among others With the Old Breed: At Peleliu and Okinawa and All Quiet on the Western Front and

this was the last I can make before the year ends. This book refers quite often to Eugene Sledge's *With the Old Breed* and I am happy that I read it first because of that. Viewpoints are very different with - as someone commented - Sledge trying to survive and Burgin trying to win the war. After finally seeing and afterwards reading *Band of Brothers* I became interested in the brotherhood between men in extreme conditions. Then I got immersed in the Pacific warfare and filth and waste of human life came along with *With the Old Breed*, and a classic *All Quiet on the Western Front* gave even more depth in waste. When old men send young to die and your sergeant has more power over you than your mother ever had. All the time going to more miserable, desperate and pacifistic point. *Islands of the Damned* diverted from a path leading to deeper and deeper desperation. It is a story of a humble and simple person, who went and did the job and didn't really brag about it. My grandfather fought for five long years against Soviet Union in the Army of Finland and I think that my interest derives from that. I like to think that my grandfather was much like Burgin. He started his war in 1939 as a rifleman against far larger and badly outnumbered by everything, eventually ending the war as a sergeant of a machine gun squad. People like them deserve - and in my opinion should have even been required - to tell their story for us to learn about the hardships, brotherhood and endurance. If you can, read both *With the Old Breed* and *Islands of the Damned*, but if you are to choose, I would recommend *With the Old Breed*. Even if the point of view concerning war is narrower from private's point of view, scope of emotions is far wider and Eugene Sledge is superior writer.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. a good firsthand account
By Marc C. Waszkiewicz
One of the men featured in the HBO series *THE PACIFIC* wrote this firsthand account. A good book and story, at a regular soldier's language level. The real deal written in normal speak language.
6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Reads like a grandfather telling a story ...
By DACHokie
The HBO miniseries "The Pacific" has stoked interest in the Pacific Theatre of World War II, but more importantly, it has introduced many to some of the finest accounts of combat ever put on paper (E.B. Sledge's "With the Old Breed" and Robert Leckie's "Helmet for My Pillow"). R.V. Burgin's "Islands of the Damned" is a fine companion to the above-mentioned books. What makes Burgin's book worth the read is simple ... he's one of the dwindling number of World War II Marines alive that can still tell his story. My first introduction to R.V. Burgin was while watching the prologue to each episode of "The Pacific" that included brief but somber interviews with nameless grandfatherly men telling us what they experienced during the war. One gentleman in particular spoke of Peleliu in a stern and quiet manner that I found particularly mesmerizing. It wasn't until the end of the 10th and final episode that he was finally named: R.V. Burgin. He'd been portrayed in the series all along, as E.B. Sledge's sergeant and had more prominent roles in the final few episodes. When the credits revealed his "Islands of the Damned" as contributing to the miniseries, I had to buy it. More often than not, the fighting in the Pacific takes a back seat to the glory of Allied soldiers liberating historic European cities. However, the Pacific theatre arguably includes some of the most savage and intense combat of the entire war, including the Eastern Front. R.V. Burgin's personal account of his war experience echoes the brutal nature of the Pacific War as well as the misery the Marines endured and the bond that kept them together through it all. His story starts from childhood and carries on through the war to his current life in Texas (a perspective that the Leckie and Sledge books do not offer). His book reads exactly like he spoke in "The Pacific" prologues ... short, simple and effective sentences with no superfluous artistic drama added ... not that any is needed. Reading Burgin's book created an aura of sitting on a couch and listening to my grandfather tell stories of his youth. We're not only presented with the chaos, death and misery on places like Peleliu and Okinawa; we get a glimpse of his experience before and after the combat, aboard troopships and on the infamous island of Pavuvu. A major presence throughout the book is that of Florence, the woman he met while on leave in Australia (before he shipped off to Peleliu) who would become his wife after the war. The angst and pain experienced during a two-year courtship that ultimately depended on Burgin surviving Peleliu and Okinawa adds a point-of-view not common in many of the memoirs I've read. Additionally, I was left with the impression that Burgin's wartime experience had a less traumatizing effect on his life after the war (unlike E.B. Sledge), but then again, different people process horrible events in different ways. "Islands of the Damned" is a lot like the books that veterans of *Easy Company* wrote following "Band of Brothers" in that Burgin adds clarity and a different perspective to the miniseries storyline (such as Burgin being wounded on Okinawa). His recollection of events are presented clearly and in a humble fashion ... even the action on Okinawa that earned him a Bronze Star is somewhat downplayed. As with most of these World War II veterans' recollections, the credit is always given to the men serving with them ... Burgin upholds this tradition. I see value in most veteran's memoirs, especially now that so few are left to tell us about their role in such an amazing historical event ... R.V. Burgin's story is definitely one that holds value.

The true story of R.V. Burgin, the real-life World War II Marine Corps hero featured in HBO®'s *The Pacific*. "Read his story and marvel at the man...and those like him."—Tom Hanks
When R.V. Burgin joined the U.S. Marines on November 13th, 1942, he never imagined what was waiting for him and his fellow riflemen in the Pacific Islands during World War II. From New Britain through Peleliu to Okinawa, Burgin's platoon, Company K, Third Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, First Marine Division, encountered a ferocious, committed, and desperate enemy in the Japanese—engaging them in some of the most harrowing and horrifying conflicts of the war. In this harrowing

memoir, R.V. Burgin reveals his experiences as a marine at war in the Pacific Theater. Schooled in Melbourne, Australia, by the veterans who had just returned from combat in Guadalcanal, Company K confronted snipers, ambushes along narrow jungle trails, abandoned corpses of hara-kiri victims, and howling banzai attacks as they island-hopped from one bloody battle to the next. During his two years of service, Burgin rose from a green private to a seasoned sergeant, and earned a Bronze Star for his valor at Okinawa. With unforgettable drama and an understated elegance, Burgin's gripping narrative chronicles the waning days of World War II, bringing to life the hell that was the Pacific War.

From Booklist This well-narrated tale of a marine's Pacific campaigns on New Britain, Peleliu, and Okinawa inevitably invites comparison with E. B. Sledge's famed *With the Old Breed* (1981). Indeed, Sledge was part of Burgin's mortar platoon in the latter two campaigns. But Burgin's tale is more plainly told, as he was a Texas farm boy instead of a college student who dropped out of OCS to get into combat. But they were both good marines, who carried their weight through some of the ugliest fighting Americans have ever faced. One reads Burgin's narrative knowing that he survived and smiles when he comes home to marry his Australian fiancée and settle down to a career in the Postal Service and a retirement of attending First Marine Division reunions. --Roland Green "R.V. Burgin is one of those American boys who became a Marine—no small feat. He then went across the Pacific, returning home to Jewett, Texas only after helping to save the world. Read his story and marvel at the man... and those like him."—Tom Hanks, Oscar-winning Actor and Star of *Saving Private Ryan*, Executive Producer of *Band of Brothers* and *The Pacific* "An honest, straightforward memoir by an honest, straightforward man. Burgin has written an unforgettable, moving description of his experiences as an infantry Marine, from New Britain to Okinawa. The result is a classic combat account. I highly recommend this book."—John C. McManus, Author of *The Dead and Those About to Die* and *September Hope* "[A] well-written, excellently detailed personal narrative... Time is thinning the ranks of America's Pacific War veterans. But *Islands of the Damned* is a taut, engrossing, haunting book that will help keep their accomplishments and enormous sacrifices alive."—Dallas Morning News

About the Author R.V. Burgin earned a Bronze Star for his actions in the Battle of Okinawa in 1945. He was the platoon sergeant featured in Eugene Sledge's classic memoir, *With the Old Breed*, and was portrayed by Martin McCann in HBO's miniseries *The Pacific*. He lives in Lancaster, Texas.