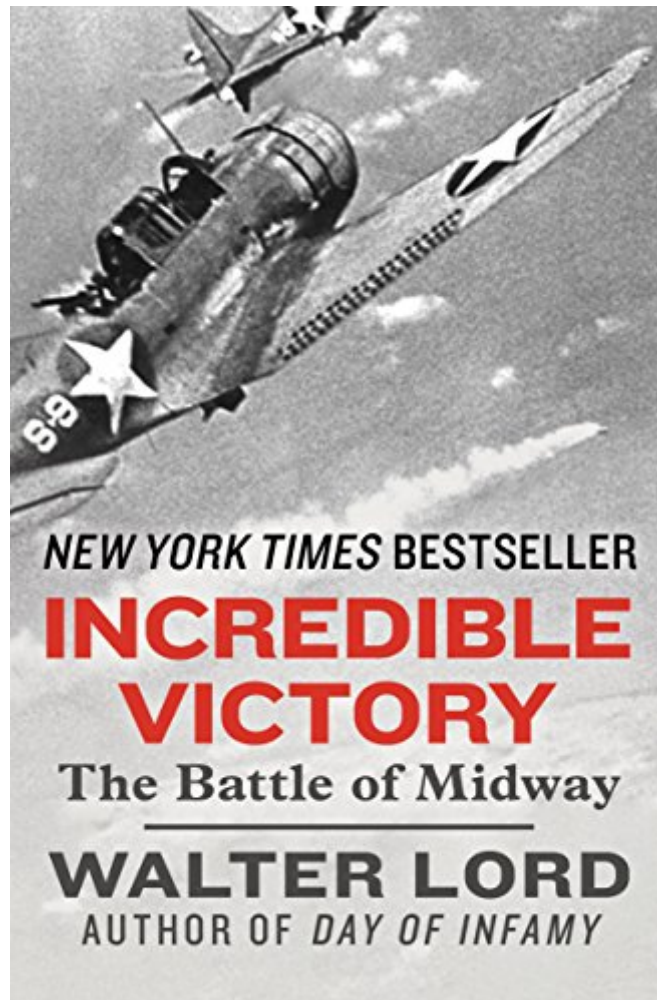




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Incredible Victory: The Battle Of Midway (Classics Of War)



Synopsis

New York Times Bestseller: Outgunned and outmanned on the Pacific Ocean, a small American fleet defied the odds and turned the tide of World War II. On the morning of June 4, 1942, doom sailed on Midway. Hoping to put itself within striking distance of Hawaii and California, the Japanese navy planned an ambush that would obliterate the remnants of the American Pacific fleet. On paper, the Americans had no chance of winning. They had fewer ships, slower fighters, and almost no battle experience. But because their codebreakers knew what was coming, the American navy was able to prepare an ambush of its own. Over two days of savage battle, American sailors and pilots broke the spine of the Japanese war machine. The United States prevailed against momentous odds; never again did Japan advance. In stunning detail, Walter Lord, the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Day of Infamy* and *A Night to Remember*, tells the story of one of the greatest upsets in naval history.

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Customer Reviews

I really enjoyed this book. Of course I like military history so I expected to enjoy it. One thing though...I don't think I much expanded my understanding of the battle or how the command

structure operated. Most of the key events I already knew from other reading. I also did not feel that the characters of the two admirals...Fletcher and Spruance...who were key came through at all. History turns on the individual actions of individual people who find themselves in extraordinary circumstance...I particularly wanted to know more about Spruance, but nothing comes through. It's a great read, well researched and understandable, but still left me a bit unsatisfied. Perhaps I am comparing it too much to something like "Killer Angels" where the role of Colonel Chamberlain and the 20th Maine at Little Round Top demonstrate how one man, leading determined and valiant troops will alter the course of history. I knew much of the battle, having researched it a bit for an add I wrote once about the value of early warning....situational awareness...in the military context. In this case, we found them before they found us. We got in the first blows..albeit with little damage...and the resulting disruption to the Japanese plans meant they never really recovered. That and the fact our commanders made the right decisions at the key moments...hit them, and then hit them again. Don't wait...don't hesitate.

This book is outstanding in the way it examines the assumptions each side made about the other and how those assumptions affected the way they each prepared for the encounter. On the Japanese side they assumed that their encrypted radio communications were secure when they were not. The US could read enough of their content to get a good grasp of the Japanese battle plan. The next obvious flaw in the Japanese preparation came when they 'gamed' their plan. The Red team (US) suddenly gained an advantage and the referees over-ruled it. A better approach when gaming is to allow everything to run to its conclusion then go back and see why that advantage was gained, then replan to avert the possibility of being bested in those circumstances. On the US side once they were in engagement with the enemy they made a very bad decision in committing torpedo bombers to attack the Japanese carriers. Torpedoes which could attain 33 knots versus carriers which could attain 29 knots when the carriers possessed a withering low level air defence system was never a viable attack option which the US discovered to their detriment when few if any attacking aircraft returned. The Japanese meantime had made a decision to re-role their air defence fighters to an attack role so left their fleet without air defence. At that point the US dive bombers arrived and within a very short period dispatched all 4 Japanese carriers to 'Davy Jones locker'. This book contains enough lesson in tactics, planning, and execution, that it should be in the library of every military training school and staff college. A well written analysis of a unique battle.

This book really brought home to me the war in the pacific and the naval men and marines who

fought in the early days after pearl harbor. I applaud the author for bringing the varied stories of the men and officers of both navies, US and Japanese. The most remarkable part of the book for me was the courage of the men who fought this battle. Early in the war the Japanese had the advantage of being the better trained and professional carrier trained. But as you read this book you see how the American tenacity, adaptability, do what it takes, and especially the courage of the sailors, pilots and marines to get the job done. The book is written in a very easy to read and effective style. For me it was a page turner that I read in same number of days as the battle raged. The book is aptly titled an incredible and courageous victory.

Wow..... I have read or seen the movie on this battle and thought I knew quite a lot about this battle. I found that the plans for invading Midway were much more extensive and that the preparation for the island defenses were much greater than I assumed. The Japanese had three fleets at sea for the preparation of the battle and the U.S. had the backing of command at the highest level to prepare the island for the attack. I learned that not only were four Japanese carriers sunk but, many other capital ships were sunk or badly damaged as well. The intelligence breaking of the Japanese code most definitely broke up all of Yamato's plans for securing the defense of Japan for many years and saved countless lives of the armed services of both sides during the Pacific war. Good planning and luck saved the day. The book is a fast read and one cannot wait to turn the next page.

I got the feeling that I really new what transpired, from both sides. The account makes it clear that it was a matter of timing of no more than 10 minutes that shifted the tide in favor of the Americans. The Americans made the decision to attack with what was available so as not to lose the momentum. The Japanese waited so that they could attack with their full force. The delay cost them the battle. The author researched the events thoroughly.

This was a brilliant telling of this historical event in the war. I hated reading history books in school and this book was one I could not put down. I wanted more. The deplorable loss of life, chaotic execution and lack of prepared of both forces was difficult to get through. In telling the drama of survival and toughness it never felt maudlin and never displayed over dramatized gratuitous heroism. Both my husband and my father were in the navy WWII. We read this together on our Kindles and shared writing this review. Bravo!

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