Desmond Doss: A Pacifist’s Tale



Terminology

**CO – conscientious objector** – someone who objects to war because of their conscience about killing

**court martial** – a military trial

**furlough** – holiday

**pacifism** - the belief that all violence is wrong

**Seventh Day Adventist** – a type of Christianity that believes in Saturday as the day of rest and worship instead of Sunday

**sabbath** – a religious day of rest & worship

**Section 8 discharge** – when somebody is removed from the army for being insane

Religious teachings

‘Thou shalt not ­­\_\_\_\_.’ (10 Commandments)

‘Turn the other c\_\_\_\_\_.’ (Jesus)

‘A n\_\_ commandment I g­\_\_\_ unto you that you l\_\_\_\_ one another as I have loved you.’ (Jesus)

‘Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.’ (Jesus)

Questions

1. Desmond’s father is against war because…
2. Captain Glover mocks Doss because …
3. Sarge does not agree with Doss because…
4. One argument against Desmond’s actions at the trial is…

One argument in his defence is …

1. Desmond’s personal reason for not touching weapons is…
2. Practised what teaching towards the Japanese?
3. How many did Desmond Doss rescue at Hacksaw Ridge?
4. What reward was he given?

Extension work:

1. Explain two religious teachings on fighting in wars. [4 marks]
2. Explain two contrasting beliefs about pacifism. In your answer you must refer to scripture.

Exam question

1. ‘Pacifism cannot work in the real world.’ Do you agree? [12 marks]

Other famous pacifists



Martin Luther King campaigned non-violently against racist laws in the USA in the 1950s and 1960s.



Thich Nhat Hanh is a peace campaigner who has rescued refugees from different countries. His organization is called Engaged Buddhism.