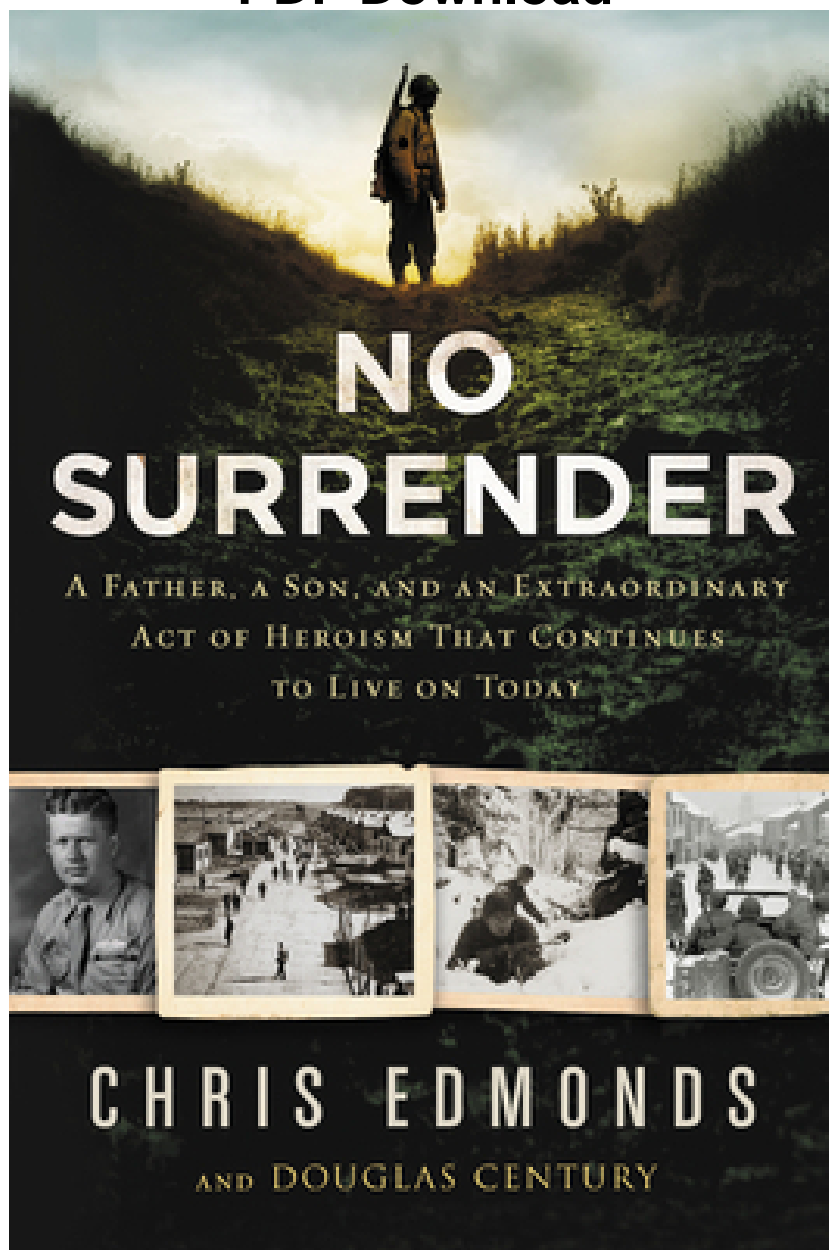


# No Surrender: A Father, a Son, and an Extraordinary Act of Heroism That Continues to Live on Today Book PDF Download



By:  
**Christopher Edmonds**

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## What people Say:

### Lisa Dunckley

Decades after his father passed away, during a random Google search, Chris Edmonds discovers that his father is a hero.

Roddie Edmonds was a Staff Sergeant assigned to the 422nd Infantry Regiment of the 106th Infantry Division, who were shipped to Europe. They were stationed outside Saint. Vith near the Allied front, a position that was supposed to be light action, ideal for seasoning soldiers who hadn't experienced combat before. Instead, they ended up where the Germans concentrated their

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The nonstop fighting started December 16th, and Edmond's troops were captured by Nazis on December 19th. The Nazis had been massacring surrendering, unarmed men—killing soldiers, civilians, and POWs. From the moment the men were taken prisoner, it became clear that the Nazi soldiers had no intention of abiding by the Geneva Conventions—the International Standards for Treatment in War—including prohibitions against violence, cruel treatment, torture—and murder. (Incidentally, I learned that Germany's actions, their intentional cruelty despite having signed the earlier Geneva Conventions, were a direct cause of the expansions of the Geneva Conventions articles in 1949!)

Chris Edmonds had his father's diaries from the war, the notebooks he'd written in while he was in the SS run POW camp—but at some point his father had torn out multiple pages. There were chopped off sentences and incomplete paragraphs, like "I enjoyed my last meal on the evening of the 17th, because the morning of and then NOTHING! Missing pages, and then a paragraph that seemed unrelated, "the reason I am writing this, mainly, is to relieve my mind, and while some of the events are fresh in my mind."

Chris had always wanted to know more, but it took on critical importance the day he read that 300 WWII veterans were passing away on a daily basis. Eventually they would all be gone, and the information would be lost forever. No one would know what happened.

Chris starts on an odyssey to track down the remaining men that his father commanded, to find out what happened before it was too late. What Chris finds out is that his father is in fact a hero—a hero by ANY definition or accounting.

WOW, what a book! It really made an impact on me—I don't know if it's just that, like Roddie Edmonds, these heroes don't go around telling their tales, and so we don't KNOW this stuff, or if I just haven't read the right histories, but this book was shocking, heartbreaking, and inspiring. I had no idea about the treatment that these POWs received at the hands of the Nazis—it was literally the same as the concentration camp victims.

Also, the descriptions of the battle are terrifying. Chris has done an excellent job telling a thrilling and suspenseful story, and clearly he wouldn't have been able to without the willingness of the survivors to relive their memories. What hit me so hard was that this was all true.

## Schuyler Wallace

This war story is among the best I've read for its sincerity, graphic descriptions, and lessons as remembered by its aged survivors. Chris Edmonds, a Tennessee pastor, prompted by a daughter who wanted to write a school paper about her paternal grandfather, realized he knew very little about his own World War II veteran father. It started a frenzied search through his father's journals, hunting down living buddies of his father's from the war, traveling many miles to interview them, and putting

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The author perused brief journal notes in his father's own handwriting. There were bare facts, terse descriptions, and fragmented sentences, written in personal shorthand and scribbled in haste. He knew his father was captured by the Nazis and sent to brutal POW camps, but it was the stories he was told by living survivors that really brought home the fact that his father was a revered hero, all because of two episodes. In both, he had defied brutal camp supervisors, his bold defiance saving the lives of his fellow prisoners while almost certainly inviting his own death.

Refusing to follow orders in a prison camp run by maniacal Nazi thugs was a sure way to get

executed. Two times Roddie, the leader of the prisoner group based on his rank and seniority, stood firmly in front of an infuriated Nazi madman and refused to follow his orders, once with the officer's Luger pistol aimed at his forehead. His men stood defiantly behind him while secretly fearing what would happen to him. As it turns out, nothing happened, either to him or his men.

The biggest part of the book tells the frightening story of war, the fighting, bombing, shelling, and hand-to-hand combat and overwhelming terror of facing death at every turn. The stench, hunger, and debilitating cold are constant companions. The GIs are finally overrun and thousands of prisoners are force-marched to inhospitable prison camps that are hellholes with no comfort or food, and brutal assaults are constantly rained upon the hapless men. Through it all, Edmonds discovers that his father, Roddie, is an inspiration to all and a spiritual leader that the men are devoted to.

Edmonds tells a heartwarming story amid the horrors of war and imprisonment. He goes on to give updates of their life after they are freed and return home. I found the book to be inspirational and heartwarming. Real heroes are those who are behind the spotlight as they perform their heroic acts. So it was with Roddie Edmonds.

## Julianne Bailey

Chris Edmonds discovers, in serendipitous fashion, that his father was a war hero during his time in a Nazi POW camp. He sets out to discover the role his father played in saving the lives of Jewish POWs and its last impact years later. Roddie's story was fascinating, and there were quite a few historical facts mentioned in this book about other areas of the war that were new to me.

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The first two or three chapters were fairly clumsily written and I felt like they were disjointed. But then the story picks up, the writing improves, and I was riveted, especially for the last half. I do wish there had been more follow up for certain characters. I felt like Roddie's actions were incredibly impressive and this book is so sincere in how it handles the story.

I enjoyed the scope of the book, its point of view, and the story. Thank you Netgalley for a free digital advanced copy!

## David

When I started this book I was not sure that I wanted to finish it. The book begins with the writer's discovery of his father's service in WWII. The writer went into detail about how he found out about his father's war experiences. Like most WWII veterans, his father never spoke of his time in the war. However, once the book moved into a detailed account of his father, Roddie's, time in service, I was not able to put it down.

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The book is a good example of a collection of personal narratives of those who served with Roddie. The writer spent months tracking down those who knew Roddie and preserving their stories. To a man, they remembered him as a great leader. One who had courage born of a deep faith.

On three occasions during Roddie's time a POW, his faith strengthened him and those who served under his command. He serves as a great example of a common man who acted in an extraordinary

way when confronted with a desperate situation.

The authors last paragraphs sum up the book: "I guess that's what's most remarkable about my journey to discover what my father did in the Second World War--the realization that any one of us has the untapped potential to do something incredibly courageous. Not a day passes for me now when I don't marvel at this epiphany: we all have the potential to change the world simply by standing up for what's right."

Thanks to the publisher and NetGalley for providing an advance reader copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

## Shirley

A testament of faith

I loved the passages from the word of God that Chris used throughout his book.

The story of his father Roddie Edmonds and his father's fellow soldiers was an inspirational story. It was a story of survival and a story of faith. A story of a soldier that put his own life on the line to save the lives of others.

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It was a story of life as a soldier at the front and life in POW camps. It told the story of the savagery of the Nazi Army and the faith and determination of the capture U.S. Forces. How he was



responsible for saving over 200 American Jewish soldiers and later 1200 American servicemen from the death march as the war was ending.

It is a testimony to all the POWs he served with that they kept their dignity and helped each other, the strong helping the weak. One of my favorite parts was the Christmas in the boxcar. They were locked in a small boxcar, cold, hungry, thirsty and tired, but somehow they still were able to celebrate Christmas by praying and singing hymns.

I was impressed that after the war they went on with their lives and lived good lives preferring to put the war behind them and go on with life. It did give them a new appreciation of everything we all take for granted. Little things like a cup of coffee, a good meal, and big things like freedom and a loving family. Their faith was tested and they never lost their faith.