

A Hero Comes

INTRODUCTION

On Sunday, 27 September, three companies 7th Marines in landing craft. Landed in Guadalcanal west of the river, drive out the Japanese, and establish a patrol base on the west side of the Matanikau.

The landing craft were dispatched from Lunga Base. Douglas Munro, just two weeks short of his twenty-third birthday, took charge of ten LCPs and LCTs (tank lighters) to transport Puller's men from Lunga Point to a small cove west of Point Cruz.

After the Marines landed, Munro and the boats returned to Lunga Point Base. A single LCP remained behind to take off the immediate wounded.

As Munro arrived at the Lunga Point base, word arrived that the Marines were in trouble and were being driven back toward the beach.

The landing craft had meanwhile been readied at Lunga Point Base. Again, virtually the same boats that had put the Marines on the beach were assembled to extract them. Douglas Munro, who had taken charge of the original landing, volunteered to lead the boats back to the beach. None of these boats were heavily armed or well protected. For instance, Munro's Higgin's boat had a plywood hull, it was slow, vulnerable to small arms fire, and was armed only with two air-cooled .30 caliber Lewis machine guns.

As Munro led the boats ashore the Japanese fired on the small craft from Point Cruz, the ridges abandoned by the Marines, and from positions east of the beach. This intense fire from three strong interlocking positions disrupted the landing and caused a number of casualties among the virtually defenseless crews in the boats. Despite the intense fire Munro led the boats ashore. Reaching the shore in waves, Munro led them to the beach two or three at a time to pick up the Marines. Munro and Petty Officer Raymond Evans provided covering fire from an exposed position on the beach.

As the Marines reembarked, the Japanese pressed toward the beach making the withdrawal more dangerous with each second. The Marines arrived on the beach to

embark on the landing craft while the Japanese kept up a murderous fire from the ridges about 500 yards from the beach. Munro, seeing the dangerous situation, maneuvered his boat between the enemy and those withdrawing to protect the remnants of the battalion. Successfully providing cover, all the Marines including twenty-five wounded managed to escape.

With all the Marines safely in the small craft, Munro and Evans steered their LCP off shore. As they passed towards Point Cruz they noticed an LCT full of Marines grounded on the beach. Munro steered his craft and directed another tank lighter to pull it off. Twenty minutes later, the craft was free and heading to sea. Before they could get far from shore, the Japanese set up a machine gun and began firing at the boats. Evans saw the fire and shouted a warning to Munro. The roar of the boat's engine, however, prevented Munro from hearing and a single bullet hit him in the base of the skull. Petty Officer Munro died before reaching the operating base, but due to his extraordinary heroism, outstanding leadership and gallantry, Munro posthumously received the Medal of Honor.

On that day imagine the emotions of those trapped marines when against overwhelming odds, Petty officer Munro lead his landing craft back to the beach. Imagine their awe when he stared death in face a placed his plywood landing craft between enemies gunfire and the trapped Marines. Imagine their sorrow, when a stray bullet struck him down form behind.

Is their any wonder why 22 year old Signalman 1st class Douglas Munro was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Innately we understand that what makes a hero. We understand the truth of John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

HEARING THE JOURNEY CALL THIS EASTER SEASON MEANS RECOGNIZING JESUS IS THE HERO WHO COMES TO LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR US.

T.S. The apostle Paul describes our hero in Phillippians 2:5-11. Turn there with me now.

Phil 2:5-11

5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature God,

did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,
 7 but made himself nothing,
 taking the very nature of a servant,
 being made in human likeness.
 8 And being found in appearance as a man,
 he humbled himself
 and became obedient to death-
 even death on a cross!
 9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
 and gave him the name that is above every name,
 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
 to the glory of God the Father.
 NIV

T.S. We embrace Jesus as our hero because

I. He came from humble beginnings.

One of the interesting traits in many epic tales is that the hero often starts off in a very humble state. In Tolkien's Trilogy the Lord of the Rings, the ring bearer Frodo Baggins is just a hobbit. A small fur footed, lover of food and parties. Yet from this humble beginning a hero rises.

Jesus our hero humbled himself and became like us.

7 but made himself nothing,
 taking the very nature of a servant,
 being made in human likeness.

II. He was destined for greatness.

In the Lord of the rings one of the most intriguing characters is the Aragorn, the ranger who is also last king of Gondor. Through out the story his true royal nature overshadows his rough exterior. It is apparent early on that is destined for more.

Our savior Jesus does not just come as a humble teacher a good example he is destined for something much more, much greater. He is destined for a role that will raise him to highest place at which every knee will bow and every tongue confess. Jesus is Lord.

A. Specially gifted

being in very nature God,

B. Lives have prepared them for the deeds ahead.

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient

III. He embraced a mission.

What truly makes a hero is that he puts his life at risk embracing a mission or a challenge of significance.

- Frodo takes the ring
- William Wallace leads the scotts to war.

- Douglas Munro leads LCT back to the beach
- Forrest Gump runs back in to the jungle to search for bubba.

Every hero needs a heroic mission. Jesus name is above all other names because he embraces the greatest mission.

and became obedient to death-
even death on a cross!

A. Buy our freedom

Rev 1:4-6

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, 6 and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father-to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.
NIV

B. Purchase our restoration

2 Cor 5:18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ

IV. He prevailed even at the cost of his own life.

8 And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to death-
even death on a cross!

 **HEARING THE JOURNEY CALL THIS EASTER SEASON MEANS RECOGNIZING
JESUS IS THE HERO WHO COMES TO LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR US.**

SUMMARY

from him, he won't listen to us, we are already condemned, and we are facing punishment.

CHALLENGE

As our Hero Jesus is worthy of our praise, thanks our awe our worship. What will you give him this next week?