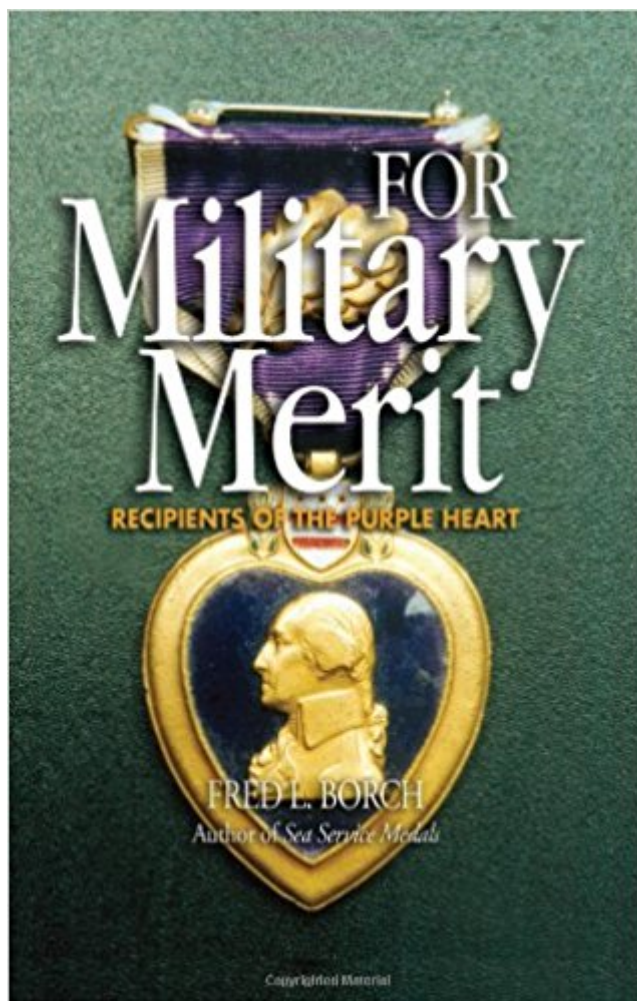


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For Military Merit: Recipients Of The Purple Heart



Synopsis

More than one million men and women have received the Purple Heart since its creation as an award for military merit in 1932. This book provides a brief history of the Purple Heart, with a focus on how the decoration's award criteria have evolved over the last 75 years. The book then takes a representative look at Purple Heart recipients from all the services by conflict, starting with the Civil War and concluding with the on-going conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Fred L. Borch served 25 years active duty as an Army lawyer and retired in 2005. A professionally trained historian (M.A., Univ. of Virginia), he now serves as the Regimental Historian and Archivist for the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps. He is the author and co-author of many books and articles on military medals, including The Air Force Cross, The Purple Heart, The Silver Star and Kimmel, Short and Pearl Harbor. He lives in Charlottesville, VA.

OUTSRANDING

Typical Fred L Borch writing. Not recommended. Don't waste your money on this book or any other written by Borch.

Good book. Excellent short history of the PH medal. Mostly discusses numerous medal recipients from all services. Well written book.

The best way to understand the Purple Heart is to learn the stories of a variety of Americans who received this award -- usually, but not always, for being wounded in battle. The author of "For Military Merit" is a recognized expert on awards and decorations. More importantly, he has interviewed and researched the stories of Americans who were decorated. The many dozens of Purple Heart recipients covered in this book include some who also received higher awards, like Medal of Honor holder Audie Murphy; some who served in war but became better known in other fields, like actor James Garner; and some who received the award for unusual reasons, like Pacific air war leader George C. Kenney. Borch tells us the origins of the Purple Heart -- with both George Washington and Douglas MacArthur having pivotal roles. But the real value of this book is in its many dozens of human stories of Americans who were recognized for their service and sacrifice. This book is a good read for the history buff and is suitable for all ages. The World War II history cited below would have been better if only this reference source had been available earlier. Hell Hawks!: The Untold Story of the American Fliers Who Savaged Hitler's Wehrmacht

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