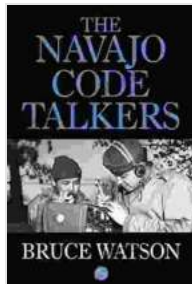


# Unveiling the Unsung Heroes: The Navajo Code Talkers by Oz Montgomery

During the tumultuous years of World War II, when the fate of nations hung in the balance, a group of extraordinary individuals emerged from the shadows to play a pivotal role in the Allied victory. These were the Navajo Code Talkers, a small band of Native American soldiers who possessed an unbreakable code that would confound the enemy and help secure the Allied triumph.



## The Navajo Code Talkers by Oz Montgomery

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 932 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 13 pages  
Lending : Enabled



## The Birth of the Code

The idea of using the Navajo language as a code originated with Philip Johnston, a missionary who had lived among the Navajo people and was fluent in their complex and intricate language. Realizing the code's potential, he approached the United States Marine Corps with his proposal.

The Marines, desperate for a secure method of communication, agreed to recruit and train Navajo speakers. In May 1942, the first group of 29 Navajo men arrived at Camp Pendleton in California. There, under the guidance of instructors like Johnston, they began developing the code.

## **The Unbreakable Code**

The Navajo code was based on the Navajo language, which has no written form and is spoken by only a small group of people. The code assigned Navajo words to military terms, creating an unbreakable cipher that could not be deciphered by the Japanese.

For example, the word "tseebii" meant "ant," but in the code, it represented the letter "A." "Tsidi" (eagle) stood for "B," and "losh" (cat) denoted "C." By combining these words, the Code Talkers could transmit messages that were virtually impossible for the enemy to decode.

## **Deployment and Impact**

In the heat of battle, Navajo Code Talkers served on the front lines, transmitting messages from the battlefield to command centers. Their code proved invaluable in coordinating troop movements, directing artillery fire, and providing vital intelligence.

Their accuracy and speed were unmatched, and their contributions significantly reduced casualties and accelerated Allied victories. The code's significance was particularly evident in the relentless fighting of the Pacific Theater, where the Code Talkers relayed crucial messages in the thick of combat.

## **Personal Stories**

Oz Montgomery's book, *The Navajo Code Talkers*, delves into the personal stories of these extraordinary men. Through interviews with surviving Code Talkers and their families, Montgomery paints a vivid portrait of their lives, their struggles, and their unwavering commitment.

One such story is that of Samuel Sandoval, who served in the 5th Marine Division. During the fierce fighting at Iwo Jima, Sandoval transmitted an urgent message that saved the lives of hundreds of Marines. Despite being wounded in action, he continued to send messages, ensuring the successful capture of the island.

## **Recognition and Legacy**

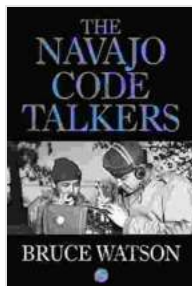
Despite their invaluable contributions, the Navajo Code Talkers' story remained largely unknown for decades after the war. In 1992, Congress finally recognized their service, awarding them the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Their legacy continues to inspire generations. The Navajo Code Talkers stand as a testament to the power of language, the resilience of the human spirit, and the enduring contributions of Native Americans to the fabric of our nation.

Oz Montgomery's *The Navajo Code Talkers* is a captivating account of the extraordinary men who saved countless lives and helped secure Allied victory in World War II. Their unbreakable code, personal sacrifices, and unwavering determination serve as an enduring legacy of courage, ingenuity, and the unyielding spirit of the human race.

**\*\*Image Alt Attributes:\*\***

\* Image of a Navajo Code Talker in uniform: "Navajo Code Talker in World War II" \* Image of the Navajo Code Book: "The secret code book used by the Navajo Code Talkers" \* Image of Oz Montgomery's book cover: "The Navajo Code Talkers by Oz Montgomery" \* Image of a montage of Navajo Code Talkers: "Group of Navajo Code Talkers" \* Image of a Navajo Code Talker receiving the Congressional Medal of Honor: "Honoring the Navajo Code Talkers with the Congressional Medal of Honor"



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