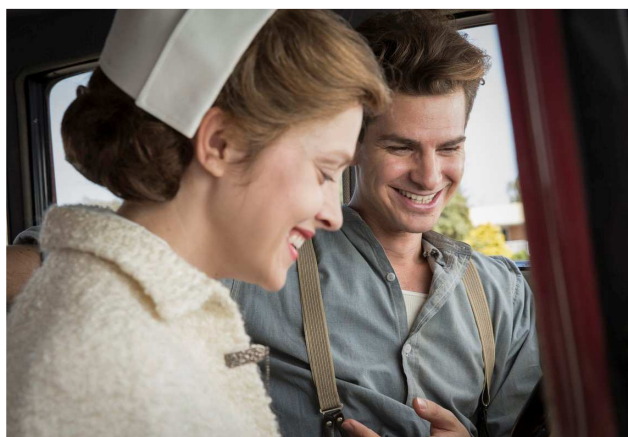


## Hacksaw Ridge – Review

The true story of Desmond T. Doss (Andrew Garfield), who won the Congressional Medal of Honor despite refusing to bear **arms** during WWII on religious grounds. Doss was drafted and ostracised by fellow soldiers for his **pacifist** stance but went on to **earn** respect and adoration for his **bravery**, selflessness and compassion after he risked his life, without firing a shot, to save 75 men in the Battle of Okinawa.

Despite agreeing to **volunteer** in the war, Desmond also promised God that he'd never carry a **weapon** or kill another human being. And as you might expect, that creates a few problems once he and his **squad** move to the shooting range, preparing for war. Desmond explains to his superiors that he volunteered to save lives as a **medic**, not take them. And even under **threat** of a court martial, and despite the **pleas** of those closest to him, Desmond refuses to **violate** those personal convictions.



It is a story of **courage**, **robustly** told by director Mel Gibson with screenwriters Robert Schenkkan and Andrew Knight, who create a brutally, even **unwatchable**, violent picture of war. Garfield himself delivers a **sympathetic**, plausible performance: more **mature** and substantial than his contribution to Martin Scorsese's *Silence*.



Hacksaw Ridge is an old-fashioned war film, **melded** with a kind of new-fashioned explicitly **violent** drama. It is definitely **riveting** cinema but also bloody—as bloody as we've seen on **screen** for a long time.