



Omaha Beach: D-Day, June 6, 1944

By Joseph Balkoski

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Balkoski's depiction of 'Bloody Omaha' is the literary accompaniment to the white-knuckle Omaha Beach scene that opens Steven Spielberg's *Saving Private Ryan*. -- John Hillen, *New York Post*

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Balkoski (*Beyond the Beachhead: The 29th Division in Normandy*) makes officer and enlisted-men's first-person testimony the center of this account, with light contextualization in between, along with 34 b&w photos and 27 maps.

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Review

Balkoski is sometimes referred to as the finest living D-Day historian. For my money, the title fits. Anyone who wants to know anything about Omaha Beach, where the fighting was heaviest and bloodiest, must begin with this foundational book by a true maestro of original history. "History can provide at least a little solace that there was some meaning to it all," he writes movingly. "D-Day was the decisive chapter of a twentieth century Iliad." Indeed it was--and Balkoski is its Homer. -- John McManus, *Wall Street Journal*

"This is probably the best book ever written about Omaha Beach." (Bill Stone *Stone & Stone Second World War Books* 2004-03-21)

From the Author

From *Wall Street Journal*, May 10, 2014, reviewed by John C. McManus

OMAHA BEACH

By Joseph Balkoski (2004)

Balkoski is sometimes referred to as the finest living D-Day historian. For my money, the title fits. Anyone who wants to know anything about Omaha Beach, where the fighting was heaviest and bloodiest, must begin with this foundational book by a true maestro of original history. The research is unparalleled and comprehensive enough to satisfy even the most skeptical scholar, yet the story is absorbing. The carnage of Omaha Beach comes to life with vivid contemporary descriptions from participants and witnesses, while the whole tale is deftly steered along by Balkoski's steady narration and his sense of the battle's larger significance. "History can provide at least a little solace that there was some meaning to it all," he writes movingly. "D-Day was the decisive chapter of a twentieth century Iliad." Indeed it was--and Balkoski is its Homer.

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