



Evans Carlson, Marine Raider: The Man Who Commanded America's First Special Forces

By Duane Schultz

Westholme Publishing, U.S. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Evans Carlson, Marine Raider: The Man Who Commanded America's First Special Forces, Duane Schultz, On August 17, 1942, ten days after American marines had stormed Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands, two U.S. submarines secretly delivered a small force from the newly formed 2nd Marine Raider Battalion to Japanese-occupied Makin Island one thousand miles to the north. The raid was intended to gather intelligence and divert attention from the main American attack to the south. News of the success of this special operation took hold of the American imagination and provided a much needed boost to morale. The battalion's leader was Evans Carlson, a forty-six-year-old career marine office who had most recently served in China as a military observer. Carlson was also a friend of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and he had proposed the creation of a small elite raider force similar to the British Commandos. Having accompanied Chinese guerrillas in their war against Japan, Carlson incorporated some of their tactics into his raider training, including a method of esprit de corps called "gung ho," a word still used today for loyal enthusiasm. Carlson's raiders went on to conduct a lengthy operation...

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