

NAVAJO CODE TALKERS



U.S. Marine soldiers of American Indian decent who created and used a code to keep military secrets during World War II.

Over 12,000 American Indians served in World War I —About 25 percent of the male American Indian population at that time. During World War II, when the total American Indian population was less than 350,000, an estimated 44,000 Indian men and women served.

THE NAVAJO CODE IS THE ONLY UNBROKEN CODE IN MODERN MILITARY HISTORY.



In 1942, there were about 50,000 Navajo tribe members. As of 1945, about 540 Navajos served as Marines. From 375 to 420 of those trained as code talkers; the rest served in other capacities.

"Were it not for the Navajos, the Marines would never have taken Iwo Jima."

Maj. Howard Connor
5th Marine Division
signal officer

**NAVAJO
CODE TALKERS
DAY IS
AUGUST 14TH**

TRIBES OF THE CODE TALKERS

Code Talkers from at least 16 tribes.



WHY NAVAJO?

Philip Johnson suggested the idea of using a similar code as was used in WWI. He said that all other American tribes had been infiltrated by Germans, who studied other tribes language under the guise of students learning about art and anthropology.

Navajo code talkers took part in every assault the U.S. Marines conducted in the Pacific from 1942 to 1945.



THEY COULD ENCODE, SEND, AND DECODE MESSAGES IN MERE SECONDS.



SAMPLE OF THE CODE

Native word	Tribe	Literal meaning	Code Meaning
tushka chipota	Choctaw	warrior soldier	soldier
atsá	Navajo	eagle	transport plane
paaki	Hopi	houses on water	ships
wakaree'e	Comanche	turtle	tank

Resources:
National Museum of the American Indian
Naval History and Heritage Command
Encyclopedia Britannica
navajocodetalkers.org