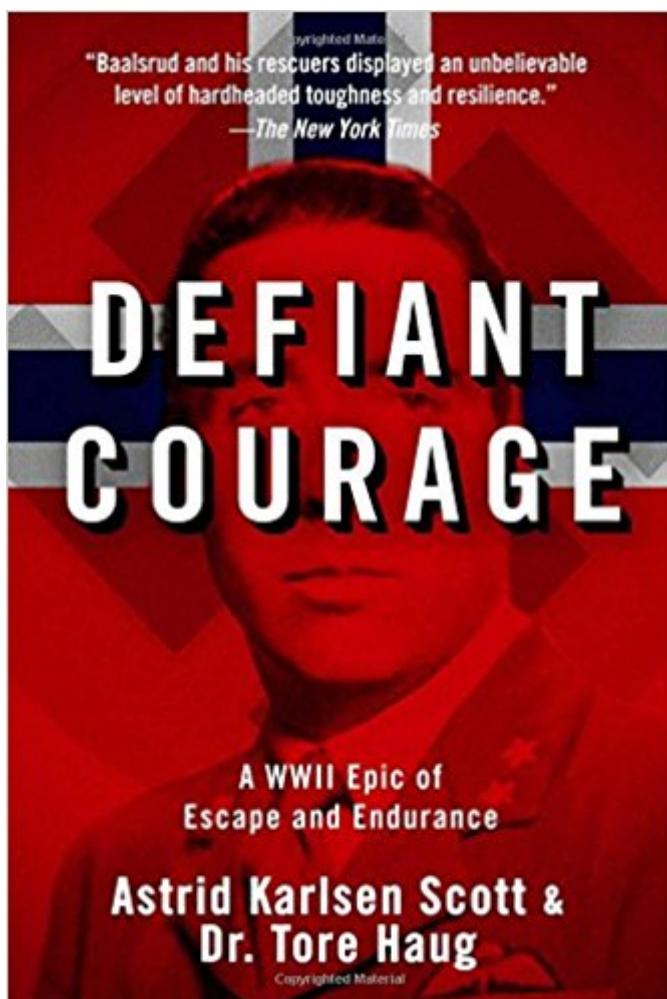


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# Defiant Courage: A WWII Epic Of Escape And Endurance



## Synopsis

"I remember reading *We Die Alone* in 1970 and I could never forget it. Then when we went to Norway to do a docudrama, people told us again and again that certain parts were pure fiction. Since I was a Norwegian that was not good enough; I had to find the truth. I sincerely believe we did," writes author Astrid Karlsen Scott. *Defiant Courage* is the true story of what Jan Baalsrud endured as he tried to escape from the Gestapo in Norway's Troms District. In late March 1943, in the midst of WWII, four Norwegian saboteurs arrived in northern Norway on a fishing cutter and set anchor in Toftefjord to establish a base for their operations. However, they were betrayed, and a German boat attacked the cutter, creating a battlefield and spiraling Jan Baalsrud into the adventure of his life. The only survivor and wounded, Baalsrud begins a perilous journey to freedom, swimming icy fjords, climbing snow-covered peaks, enduring snowstorms, and getting caught in a monstrous avalanche. Suffering from snowblindness and frostbite, more than sixty people of the Troms District risk their lives to help Baalsrud to freedom. Meticulously researched for more than five years, Karlsen Scott and Haug bring forth the truth behind this captivating, edge-of-your-seat, real-life survival story.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

*Defiant Courage* by Astrid Karlsen Scott & Dr. Tore Haug is a World War II Epic of escape and endurance. This book, written so long after the book *We Die Alone* by David Howarth just ten years after World War II, is the revised and authenticated story of the facts about the real-life Norwegian hero Jan Baalstrud, who along with three other men in a fishing boat were sent to Toftefjord to

establish a secret base to sabotage German Nazi occupation of Norway. They were betrayed and the Germans attacked their boat in a beautiful, tranquil fjord and killed the other men. Baalstrud's harrowing escape forced him to swim through icy waters, hike high icy peaks, go blind in snow storms, get frost bite so severely that he amputated his own toes when gangrene threatened his life. His unbelievable tale of man's will to survive would not have been possible if not for the 60 men and women who lived along his treacherous route had not bravely put their own lives at perilous risk to aid him. This new book is the result of many years of researching the true facts to set the record straight from the former book and to honor the hero and promote Norwegian culture. Well written and amazing story.

This was a beautiful story of courage, but i found it tedious to read. The authors deemed it necessary to include every minute detail, possibly because they wanted all facts to be unforgotten. I would have preferred the story be told as a tale of intrigue...with a timeline of facts written at the end. Its hard to be critical, since this is a story of horrendous endurance where many lost their lives to save the One. I always ask myself, would i have had the courage to risk my life for a stranger? I hope the answer would be yes.

The hero of this true story is almost too heroic, tenacious, persistent and patient to be real. I cried out loud while reading of the consistent courage and endurance of this young Norwegian man during World War II. Those who helped Jan through his ordeals also deserve kudos. There would have been no other way to escape the insane grasp of the German Gestapo through the gripping, life-sapping cold of Norway. Who's to say whether we might be tempted to save our own lives and that of our loved ones by revealing the whereabouts of Jan to the Gestapo. Everyone was in need of food, clothing, shelter and warmth. The gripping events in this revealing book will break your heart. We can't afford to go through events like this--ever again!

This sets the record straight - if you want the amazing true story of Jan Baalsrud, you need to read this. The Norwegian author did the painstaking research with the original witnesses. The English prose is a little clunky at times, but the story is well told, and is better than any fiction.

This is the same story written about in the book 'We Die Alone'...just done over. I think it is more suited for a Norwegian to read as it goes into quite a lot of detail and names kids and parents and everything that had contact with the Hero Jan. I was quite disappointed when I started reading it and

realized that it was the same story as covered in 'We Die Alone' by David Howarth. I think that one was a way better read.

It is amazing what occurred during WWII that is just coming to light. This story is about an attempt to fortify the resistance to the Nazi regime in Norway. Unfortunately, the new recruits going there were captured. That is all but one. The story of how that one managed to reach Sweden in order to escape is gripping. The geographic hurdles, the danger to whole villages if this man was captured and the life he led afterwards is captivating.

This is an extraordinary story about one man's physical and emotional courage and desire to live. The book would make a wonderful film. As a book, however, it needed some deft editing. All in all, a good indie filmmaker might find this a rare narrative.

Can you say bboooorriinnnng. Great ordeal and I admire the people involved, but trekking through the wet and the cold and the slush and the snow and the slopes and the cold streams and then doing it all again the next day just gets to be too much. I'm glad things turned out fairly well for a few people. I did not finish it.....they lost me in the 68th frozen snow drift.

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