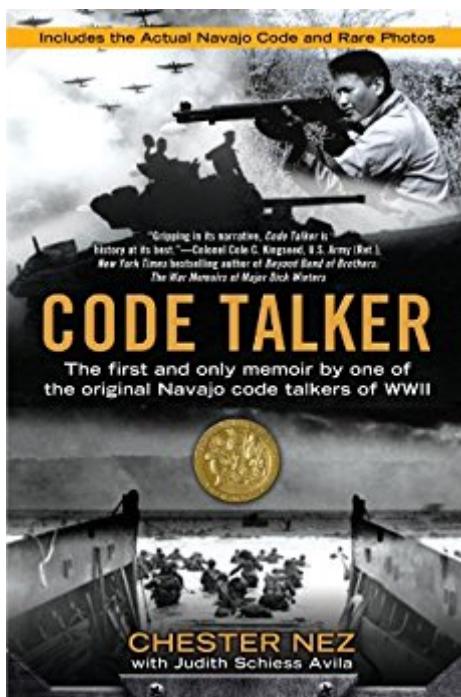


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# Code Talker: The First And Only Memoir By One Of The Original Navajo Code Talkers Of WWII



## **Synopsis**

The first and only memoir by one of the original Navajo code talkers of WWII-includes the actual Navajo Code and rare photos. Although more than 400 Navajos served in the military during World War II as top-secret code talkers, even those fighting shoulder to shoulder with them were not told of their covert function. And, after the war, the Navajos were forbidden to speak of their service until 1968, when the code was finally declassified. Of the original twenty- nine Navajo code talkers, only two are still alive. Chester Nez is one of them. In this memoir, the eighty-nine-year-old Nez chronicles both his war years and his life growing up on the Checkerboard Area of the Navajo Reservation-the hard life that gave him the strength, both physical and mental, to become a Marine. His story puts a living face on the legendary men who developed what is still the only unbroken code in modern warfare.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Code Talker Memoir of the last original code talker, Chester Nez as told to Judith Schiess Avila This is a story that truly has something for everyone. History, touching human drama and Native

American experiences woven brilliantly into a beautifully written story that restores your faith in the strength and courage of humanity. Sometimes a hero bursts upon the scene like Superman leaping over a tall building in a single bound. But sometimes a hero puts one foot in front of the other to face the trials and challenges of life with courage, faith and quiet dignity. Chester Nez spent most of his life as one of those unknown heroes. His footsteps took him from the Navajo reservation where he was born to the school where he was forbidden to speak his native language. When he left school to join the marines those footsteps took him to the shores of Guadalcanal in World War II. Using the Navajo language he became a member of the team that developed the only code the Japanese were unable to break. This system enabled the US to communicate plans that helped bring victory earlier and saved countless lives. But there was no welcoming parade for Nez when the war was over, he returned to face the prejudice of living as a minority. The role of the code talkers remained secret for decades. After meeting Nez, Avila also put one foot in front of herself for four years to bring his unique personal story to light. The years spent interviewing Nez, researching and polishing this story were well spent. Her first book is considered to be an "important work" by historians and a "great read" in general. The human interest of this compelling story makes it a perfect choice for anyone simply looking for a good book.

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