



Cold Ground's Been My Bed: A Korean War Memoir

By Daniel Wolfe

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Dan Wolfe was a Bronx, New York, teenager whose passions were baseball, fooling around in school, and hanging out at the candy store in the 1940s. Three years out of high school, he was drafted and sent to Korea. Cold Ground's Been My Bed is his no-holds-barred memoir of the experience, from his physical to deployment into a frontline platoon. Dan tells the story with unflinching honesty and humor amid the tragedies that befell his company. Feeling inadequate about handling the Browning Automatic Rifle in basic training, he expressed his doubts to a cadre man, who assured him, "You don't have to worry about it, kid. It's given to the biggest men in the squad." The day he arrived on the front line, Dan, five-foot-seven and 133 pounds, was assigned the twenty-pound BAR. When his platoon was ambushed, Dan crawled over fire-swept terrain to retrieve the body of his sergeant. Decades later he learned that he'd been cited for the Silver Star, but the Jeep carrying the papers was blown up by mortar rounds. When a GI was killed by negligent "friendly fire," the victim's buddy carried out a revenge murder. In recounting his story, Dan never pretends to be more than he was, a young man being shocked and shaped by the reality of war.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Daniel Wolfe upon discharge from the service, with the aid of the GI Bill attended the City College of New York, where he received his Bachelor's Degree. He taught biology for 35 years at Jane Addams HS in the Bronx while living with his family in Chestnut Ridge, NY. After a forty year hiatus, he reconnected with his army buddies and then began recording his and their memories of the Korean War. Wolfe keeps track of the survivors of his Company L and publishes a newsletter full of reminiscences, corny GI humor, and reports of knee replacements, by-pass surgeries, prostate problems and visits to VA hospitals. His stories have been read on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" and published in "The Urban Hiker," a literary magazine in Durham, North Carolina. He recently completed Seabury Place: A Bronx Memoir about his happy childhood and coming of age in the Great Depression.

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