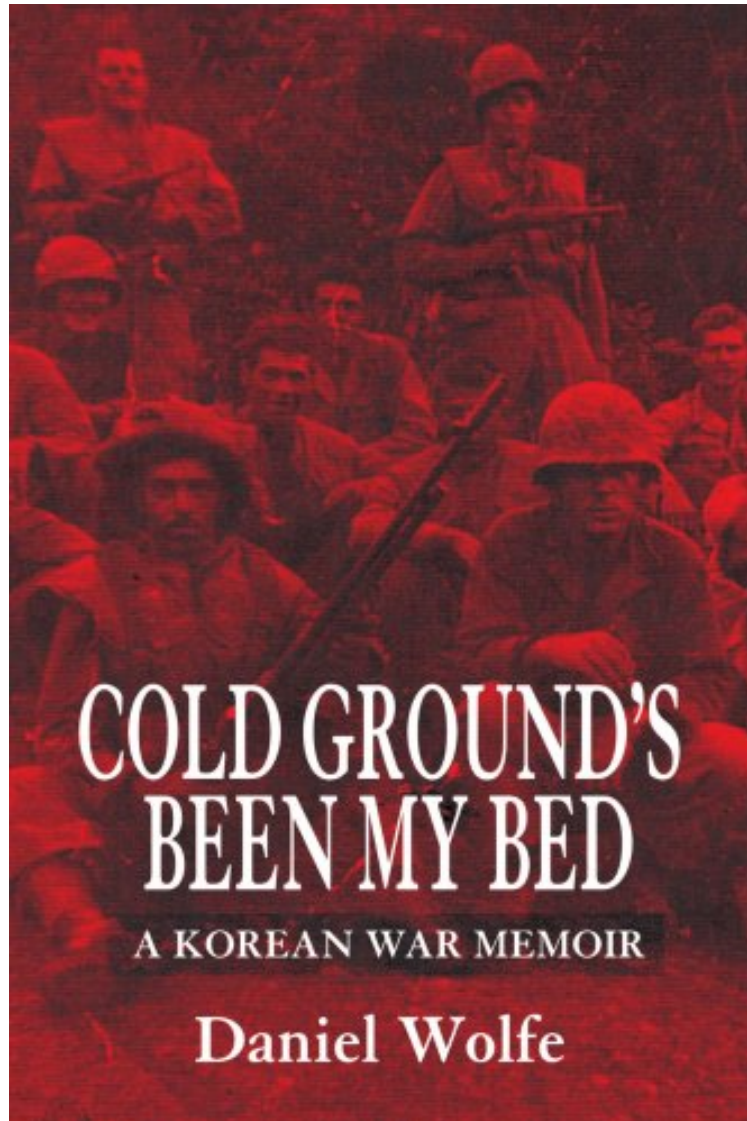


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Cold Ground's Been My Bed: A Korean War Memoir

Daniel Wolfe

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Daniel Wolfe : Cold Ground's Been My Bed: A Korean War Memoir before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cold Ground's Been My Bed: A Korean War Memoir:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good first-hand account of the Korean War By moneyman Received promptly. As advertized. Good first-hand account of the Korean War. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Ordinary Men Extraordinary Times By Marilyn Fast The Korean War memoir is only a backdrop for this story of a young Jewish man, raised in an apartment in the Bronx, who is thrust into a larger world. Wolfe, with keen perception and humorous insights, shows us a twenty-two-year old who thought people from Brooklyn and Long Island had

foreign accents and then finds himself in the company of an American Indian from Oklahoma and Southerners with incomprehensible draws. He describes the "hole in the ground called a bunker" on the MLR (front line), the place he will call home for weeks on end. He shows us the hopes and fears of all young men, the letter-writing to girls back home, the fooling around. Wolfe's endless questions help us to see the young men in the war. "Will I be out there, part of that noise?" "Could I handle this?" "What the hell kind of operation is this?" "Where's Wayne?" He portrays scenes where he felt the military had made poor decisions. For example, when the starving South Koreans raided the garbage dump for food, the Army ordered the dump to be soaked with gasoline and set on fire subsequently, instead of providing the food scraps for the Koreans. And he leaves us with haunting doubts on the validity of wars where "I've noticed nearly all the dead were hardly more than boys." This is not a somber, heart-wrenching read. You will chuckle frequently. And at the end, you will see the "boys" of Wolfe's company fifty years later, ordinary people thrust into extraordinary circumstances, most of whom performed nobly and with compassion. They were sent to do a job. They did it as best they could and then went home to go on with their lives. You will laugh and cry with them. Admire them for their honesty and courage. And you will follow Wolfe on his quest to find out what happened to Wayne. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. You Had to Have Been There By R. Potter But if you missed the Korean conflict (The Forgotten War), Dan Wolfe will take you back as a young man from the Bronx suddenly thrust into battle. In Wolfe's hands the obligatory basic training sequence is fresh and often hilarious. Battle descriptions are those of a foot-soldier, up front and personal. Readers will welcome the dozens of photographs of Wolfe's buddies from his unit, both during and after the war. This is a very personal book, not the big picture. As such it has a compelling vitality, and the most real sense of "you are there" .

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.

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, bypass 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.