



Band of Brothers: E Company, 506th Regiment, 101st Airborne from Normandy to Hitler's Eagle's Nest

By Stephen E. Ambrose

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Band of Brothers: E Company, 506th Regiment, 101st Airborne from Normandy to Hitler's Eagle's Nest By Stephen E. Ambrose

Stephen E. Ambrose's iconic *New York Times* bestseller about the ordinary men who became the World War II's most extraordinary soldiers: Easy Company, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, US Army.

They came together, citizen soldiers, in the summer of 1942, drawn to Airborne by the \$50 monthly bonus and a desire to be better than the other guy. And at its peak—in Holland and the Ardennes—Easy Company was as good a rifle company as any in the world.

From the rigorous training in Georgia in 1942 to the disbanding in 1945, Stephen E. Ambrose tells the story of this remarkable company. In combat, the reward for a job well done is the next tough assignment, and as they advanced through Europe, the men of Easy kept getting the tough assignments.

They parachuted into France early D-Day morning and knocked out a battery of four 105 mm cannon looking down Utah Beach; they parachuted into Holland during the Arnhem campaign; they were the Battered Bastards of the Bastion of Bastogne, brought in to hold the line, although surrounded, in the Battle of the Bulge; and then they spearheaded the counteroffensive. Finally, they captured Hitler's Bavarian outpost, his Eagle's Nest at Berchtesgaden.

They were rough-and-ready guys, battered by the Depression, mistrustful and suspicious. They drank too much French wine, looted too many German cameras and watches, and fought too often with other GIs. But in training and combat they learned selflessness and found the closest brotherhood they ever knew. They discovered that in war, men who loved life would give their lives for them.

This is the story of the men who fought, of the martinet they hated who trained them well, and of the captain they loved who led them. E Company was a company of men who went hungry, froze, and died for each other, a company that took 150 percent casualties, a company where the Purple Heart was not a medal—it was a badge of office.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

As grippingly as any novelist, preeminent World War II historian Stephen Ambrose tells the horrifying, hallucinatory saga of Easy Company, whose 147 members he calls the nonpareil combat paratroopers on earth circa 1941-45. Ambrose takes us along on Easy Company's trip from grueling basic training to Utah Beach on D-day, where a dozen of them turned German cannons into dynamited ruins resembling "half-peeled bananas," on to the Battle of the Bulge, the liberation of part of the Dachau concentration camp, and a large party at Hitler's "Eagle's Nest," where they drank the madman's (surprisingly inferior) champagne. Of Ambrose's main sources, three soldiers became rich civilians; at least eight became teachers; one became Albert Speer's jailer; one prosecuted Bobby Kennedy's assassin; another became a mountain recluse; the despised, sadistic C.O. who first trained Easy Company (and to whose strictness many soldiers attributed their survival of the war) wound up a suicidal loner whose own sons skipped his funeral.

The Easy Company survivors describe the hell and confusion of any war: the senseless death of the nicest kid in the company when a souvenir Luger goes off in his pocket; the execution of a G.I. by his C.O. for disobeying an order not to get drunk. Despite the gratuitous horrors it relates, *Band of Brothers* illustrates what one of Ambrose's sources calls "the secret attractions of war ... the delight in comradeship, the delight in destruction ... war as spectacle." --*Tim Appelo*

From Publishers Weekly

Ambrose (Pegasus Bridge) narrates in vivid detail the adventures, misadventures, triumphs and tragedies of a single U.S. Army infantry company over its span of organizational life. Formed in July 1944 and deactivated in November 1945, E Company was one of the most successful light infantry units in the European theater. Its troops saw their first action on D-Day behind the Normandy beachhead, took part in Operation Market Garden in Holland, held the perimeter around Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge, and were the first to reach Hitler's Bavarian outpost at Berchtesgaden. The book is enlivened with pertinent comments by veterans of "Easy Company," who recall not only the combat action but their relations with their officers (one company commander was a petty tyrant of the worst type, but his oppressive ways had much to do with the unit's impressive esprit de corps) and their impressions of the countries through which they campaigned (hated the French, loved the Germans). This is a terrific read for WW II actions buffs.

Photos. Military Book Club main selection; Literary Guild alternate.

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From Library Journal

Ambrose (history, Univ. of New Orleans), who has written numerous military histories, intersperses his text with reminiscences, diary entries, and letters from the men who served in a single elite airborne company from its formation until after the war's end. The focus on one company, combined with the author's solid research and excellent prose, produces a book that vividly evokes both the excitement of battle and the hours of boredom away from combat. Like Harold P. Leinbaugh and John D. Campbell's *The Men of Company K: The Autobiography of a World War II Rifle Company* (LJ 12/85), this book accurately describes the lives of the men who bore the brunt of war. If a library could make only one purchase covering the American soldier in combat during World War II in Europe, this would be the book. Highly recommended for all libraries.

Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 2/15/92.

-*Dennis L. Noble, Washington State Lib., Clallam Bay Corrections Ctr.*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jeremiah Burroughs:

This book untitled Band of Brothers: E Company, 506th Regiment, 101st Airborne from Normandy to Hitler's Eagle's Nest to be one of several books that will best seller in this year, that is because when you read this e-book you can get a lot of benefit into it. You will easily to buy this kind of book in the book store or you can order it through online. The publisher of the book sells the e-book too. It makes you quicker to read this book, since you can read this book in your Mobile phone. So there is no reason for you to past this book from your list.

Suzanne Crider:

A lot of people always spent their own free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity this is look different you can read any book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent all day every day to reading a guide. The book Band of Brothers: E Company, 506th Regiment, 101st Airborne from Normandy to Hitler's Eagle's Nest it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore easily to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book offers high quality.

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