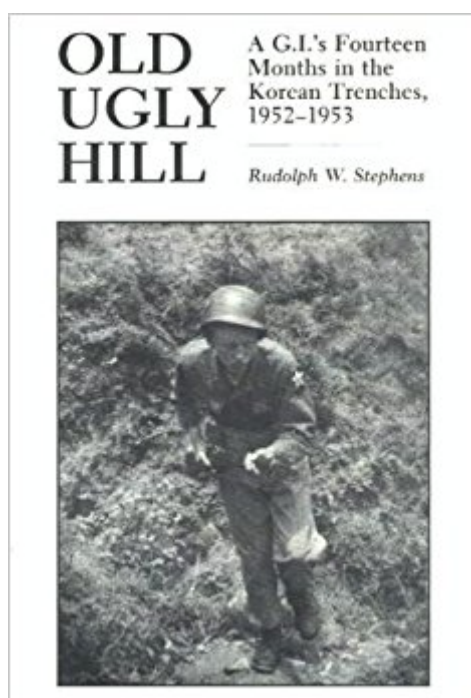


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Old Ugly Hill: A G.I.'s Fourteen Months In The Korean Trenches, 1952-1953



Synopsis

From his induction and boot camp to the terrible fighting to capture a Korean hill called Old Baldy, from his gut-wrenching work in the medic corps to the mind-numbing cold in the trenches, this is one G.I.'s story of the Korean War. It is not a story of heroes, but one of everyday soldiers fighting and surviving in some of the worst conditions imaginable.

Book Information

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: McFarland & Company (January 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0786400595

ISBN-13: 978-0786400591

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,256,597 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #73 in [Books > History > Military > Korean War > Personal Narratives](#) #6094 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Military](#) #16314 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders & Notable People > Military](#)

Customer Reviews

"fusillades of all calibers create a cacophony of fury that could be spliced in with the combat scenes in Platoon...would strongly supplement large collections" -- Booklist/RBB

ordered for my husband. said it was the best book and couldn't lay it down. So personal, great read...

OLD UGLY HILL If you want to read a book about the Korean War years of 1952-53, This Is It. Other than Col. Hackworth's book, About Face. All I've ever been able to find coverage about 52-53 are the peace talks going on. Being a Korean Vet, (Heartbreak Ridge), during that period I &, I'm sure, other Vets of 52-53 appreciate this book. Approximately 50% of KIA & WIA occurred in 1952-53. SGT. Stephens did an excellent job covering the War going on across the front. RUDOLF W. STEVENS, Thanks for this book. (I'm sorry I didn't come across this book sooner than I did!!!

I grew up next the Stephens and I am so glad he told his story. I could not put the book down and read it in one afternoon.

Was there at the time

Mr. Stevens's Book has such an innocent ring to it. Acknowledging he was just a small part of the big picture, he wrote this book at the urging of his children and grandchildren. The book reads as if you were a wide eyed, sniffeling little urchin sitting on Mr. Steven's lap as he shares his whole military experience with you..."the train went by a big mountain in Washington with alot of snow on it. They call that mounatin Mt. Rainier. ..on my first patrol I fell asleep and was shaken awake by my own sargeant!..on another patrol trying to get a prisoner so we could R&R in Japan, we managed to capture an enemy soldier sleeping against a tree...only to find he had been dead for a week!"Its not all fun, games and bedside tales in this book. One patrol that suffered 11 casualties left the author wondering 'if the military brass had enough sense to get out of bed without breaking a leg.' Stevens also refers to the fragging of an unpopular Colonel 'Ortega'(the name is fictitious) with two sticks of dynamite under his bunk. Like many other Korean War vets, he feels the blood shed over nameless ridges--Old Baldy, in this case--was senseless. The terrain they could survey from the top of old baldy could easily be searched by spotter plane.Despite some sour spots--the author speaks unkindly about the performance of 'a platoon of Puerto Ricans'-- this is a good story. Not a cuss nor swear word to be found. As a sense of gloom and forebodeing swept the troops going across the sea of Japan from Sasebo to Pusan, the author glumly reports that "there sure was a sense that the SHIP soon was gonna hit the SAND."

Old Ugly Hill is a great survivors story of the give and take war so typified in Korea. One can only imagine the frustration of having to sieze a seemingly useless hill only to lose it to the Red Chinese days later and then have to re-assault it again! This is a great story told in a welcome fireside chat manner the way Grandpa did.

A nightmarish frustrating battle experience written in a clear, calm, objective manner his description of the conditions at Old Baldy and Pork Chop Hill is absolutely accurate. His writing style is precise and to the point. It is a page turner.

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