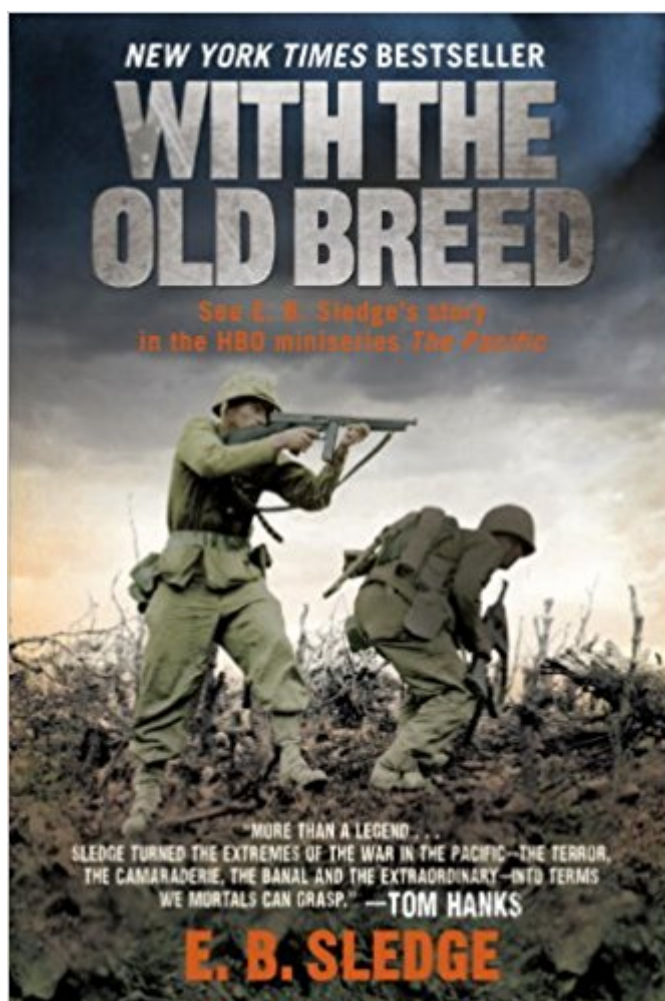


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With The Old Breed: At Peleliu And Okinawa



Synopsis

“Eugene Sledge became more than a legend with his memoir, *With The Old Breed*. He became a chronicler, a historian, a storyteller who turns the extremes of the war in the Pacific—the terror, the camaraderie, the banal and the extraordinary—into terms we mortals can grasp. Tom Hanks *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER In *The Wall Street Journal*, Victor Davis Hanson named *With the Old Breed* one of the top five books on epic twentieth-century battles. Studs Terkel interviewed the author for his definitive oral history, *The Good War*. Now E. B. Sledge’s acclaimed first-person account of fighting at Peleliu and Okinawa returns to thrill, edify, and inspire a new generation. An Alabama boy steeped in American history and enamored of such heroes as George Washington and Daniel Boone, Eugene B. Sledge became part of the war’s famous 1st Marine Division’s 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines. Even after intense training, he was shocked to be thrown into the battle of Peleliu, where “the world was a nightmare of flashes, explosions, and snapping bullets. By the time Sledge hit the hell of Okinawa, he was a combat vet, still filled with fear but no longer with panic. Based on notes Sledge secretly kept in a copy of the New Testament, *With the Old Breed* captures with utter simplicity and searing honesty the experience of a soldier in the fierce Pacific Theater. Here is what saved, threatened, and changed his life. Here, too, is the story of how he learned to hate and kill—and came to love his fellow man. “In all the literature on the Second World War, there is not a more honest, realistic or moving memoir than Eugene Sledge’s. This is the real deal, the real war: unvarnished, brutal, without a shred of sentimentality or false patriotism, a profound primer on what it actually was like to be in that war. It is a classic that will outlive all the armchair generals’ safe accounts of—not the “good war—but the worst war ever.” Ken Burns

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Customer Reviews

“Eugene Sledge became more than a legend with his memoir, *With The Old Breed*. He became a chronicler, a historian, a storyteller who turns the extremes of the war in the Pacific—the terror, the camaraderie, the banal and the extraordinary—into terms we mortals can grasp. Tom Hanks says, “In all the literature on the Second World War, there is not a more honest, realistic or moving memoir than Eugene Sledge’s.” This is the real deal, the real war: unvarnished, brutal, without a shred of sentimentality or false patriotism, a profound primer on what it actually was like to be in that war. It is a classic that will outlive all the armchair generals’ safe accounts of—not the good war—but the worst war ever. Ken Burns

E. B. Sledgehammer Sledge was born and grew up in Mobile. In late 1943 he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. After basic training, he was sent to the Pacific Theater where he fought at Peleliu and Okinawa, two of the fiercest battles of World War II. Following the Japanese surrender, Sledge served in China as part of the occupation force. Upon his return home, he obtained a Ph.D. in biology and joined the faculty of Alabama College (later the University of Montevallo), where he taught until retirement. Sledge initially wrote about his war experiences to explain them to his family, but he was persuaded by his wife to seek publication. Sledge died on March 3, 2001.

This is a great account of a Marine Corps mortar man going from recruit to soldier in the south pacific. This account is detailed and graphic and it needs to be. The accounts show the bloody hell that was Pelilu and Okinawa! Sledge gives you pictures of the death, stench, dehydration, exhaustion, and misery that these men endured to win this war, and even a glimpse of what it was like to come home with those battles stills going on in his head. Students of history need more of these stories of what the men on the ground went through. Having just read an account by an army general about his strategies and troop movements in the pacific, the reality of what the real war was like can only be seen by the foot soldier! Sledge was the son of a doctor who after the war became a college professor, and this account is very well written and compelling. I would highly recommend

it!

I am starting to read *The Old Breed*, for the third time..As a Marine Veteran many things are familiar, However the main reason is the writing..You are there...Very little profanity, however Sledge is able to describe events very clearly...I would recommend the *Marine Corps* for those who want a lasting effect.The teachings of the Corps stay with you forever. The senior NCO's and Officers are like no others...I often wondered, where does The Corps find these men, Sledge was such a man..From a young killer to a college professor, same person, different lives...Every generation of Marines, hears the same thing, "It wasn't Like this In The Old Corps", Hence "*The Old Breed*"..."By The Grace Of God,And A Few Marines"...Dutch.....

An excellent read from the point of view from one of the men actually at the core of the fighting. In depth insights as to what it was like to be on the front lines for long periods of times. Many times a Marine did not know exactly where he was or what the objective of the battle was for. Eugene Sledge co-ordinates his experiences of combat together with the historical accounts of events to help the reader obtain a better view and account of his experiences. If your interested in the battles of the Pacific during WWII or what it was like to be there, this is the book for you!

WOW, if you are interested in how soldiers really fought in WW2 in the Pacific then this is the book to read. I couldn't put it down. I read almost constantly but have yet to read a book that made such a strong impression on me as this book. If you are wondering if using atomic weapons to end the war was a good choice read this book. It will give you an aspect of what the fighting was like and how nasty it would have been if the landing did happen on mainland Japan.

Good story, poetic moments, but undercut by a mournful or regretful tone. I enjoyed Robert Leckie's "*Helmet for my Pillow*" more, but neither compare to John McCormick's "*The Right Kind of War*", which is a true gem.Maybe it's just me, but I didn't find Sledge's character to be as engaging as "Lucky" Leckie in either this novel or HBO's mish-mash of these and other stories in the "*The Pacific*" mini-series.

I was extremely relieved to finish this book. Stressed me out. What a fantastic read. So glad Sledge documented and wrote the horrors of war. It gives such an amazing insight to the reality he had to face daily. Solidifies not taking anything for granted, and appreciating the freedoms I have living in

the United States.

A strikingly honest personal account of life as a Marine private in two of the most terrible battles in the Pacific in 1944-1945. Sledge does not doll it up with dramatics nor glamor, but for anyone in search of an inside description of daily life in combat, this is the book. It clearly describes the relentless grind and misery of the 10-week campaign to take Peleliu island, then does the same for the 12 weeks required to invade and conquer Okinawa. His recall of detail, burned in by those uncompromising cauldrons of continuous near-death experience, leaves about nothing to add to the picture of the do-or-die experience, including the author's own improbable escapes from injury or death, and the grim roll of the majority of his unit who made no such escape. Only 85 of the original 235 men of his K Company remained undamaged - physically - at the end, and all those survivors bore grim marks and memories beyond the imagination of we who recite the 'war is hell' mantra from safe spectator's seats. But in addition to the candid recitations of the fatigue, fears, stench, pains, exhaustion, and hatreds which relentlessly filled those days, E. B. Sledge also includes an unpretentious and grateful recognition of the bonds of support between the Marines who held up their end of their commitment to each other and to the Corps. That recognition does not rise to a complete redemption, since none of the survivors remained unmarked, but comes as close as humanly possible. They believed in their mission and in the price that citizens must sometimes pay to act for the wellbeing of their compatriots at home. Sledge is wholeheartedly blunt at wishing for an end to the part of human history where differences are settled by warfare, but until humans give up the drive to enforce by struggle their concept of the future on those who disagree, there's no optimism that such an end is anywhere near.

I bought this book (finally!) Because it was on Maddog Mattis's list of books that make a leader. This is a fine example of a military memoir -no trying to "set the record straight" nonsense, just the account of a single infantryman at two of the defining battles of the WWII Pacific. Great writing. This is a good book for high school and up. I would set it next to *Watership Down* for excellence in leadership training.

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