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Contact:
Moshe Schulman
Schulman PR
moshe@schulmanpr.com
845-548-1943

93-YEAR-OLD WORLD WAR II VETERAN/PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT PUBLISHES FIRST BOOK

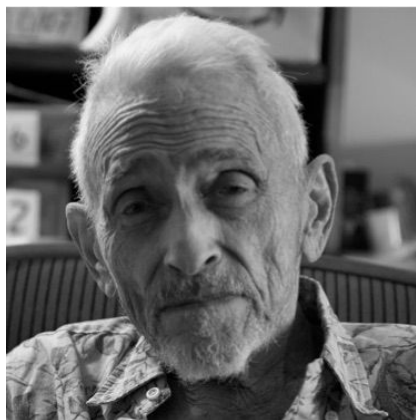
“In every war, there are heroes and sufferers, liars, and high-livers.”

World War II
Poetry

Memories
of an
Ordinary
Soldier

In 93-year-old Herbert Engelhardt’s debut poetry collection, *World War II* is made vivid for a new generation with clarity and conscience. The Purple-Heart veteran and poet writes of himself as a Morse Code-reading radio operator as well as those who’ve been forgotten: the frozen foot soldiers in France and Germany; the often-targeted flamethrowers in the Pacific Theater: *“Tell yourself/ It’s not your fault/ When someone’s luck runs out.”* Over 90 clear-eyed poems and a modest autobiography masterfully jump from suburban New Jersey to the Deep South to Okinawa and back again, piercing through any glorified myths with stories of the mundane, the savage, the unfair, and a soldier’s first kiss. *Ordinary Soldier* is a non-partisan history lesson from a dependable poet-memoirist whose sincerity rings crucial in the divisive present.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Herbert Engelhardt was born in New Jersey in 1925. He served in the Pacific Theater of World War II from 1943 to 1946 and was awarded the Purple Heart in the Battle of Okinawa in April 1945. He received his BA and MBA from Harvard in 1949 and 1951, respectively. He was employed in industry marketing, finance, and management from 1951 to 1981 and was Professor at NYU Stern School of Business Administration from 1982 to 2003. He started writing Poetry at age 75 and has written more than 3,000 of them. He’s been published at Harvard Review Online, Locuspoint, Best American Poetry, and elsewhere. He has lived in New York’s Greenwich Village since 1952.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Title: **WORLD WAR II POETRY: MEMORIES OF AN ORDINARY SOLDIER**
Author: Herbert Engelhardt
Publisher: CreateSpace/IngramSpark
Pub date: November 11, 2018
Format: Paperback/E-book
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WHAT HAPPENED

I joined the US Army in August 1943 and served for thirty-two months, about half overseas in the Pacific Theater. Assigned variously to the infantry, combat engineers, and signal corps, I participated in the invasion of Okinawa in April 1945, where I was wounded superficially during several weeks of combat experience. I was not a hero.

After Japan surrendered in August 1945, I spent eight months in the Philippines as a cook, mess sergeant, and supply sergeant.

I wrote this collection over the past ten years to describe events and feelings; reheated, salted, peppered, and spiced by friends, fellow veterans, workshopers, editors, relative, barstool acquaintances; my daydreams and nightmares; and some reading about WWII.

I have tried to show what it felt like to be an ordinary foot soldier or radioman or medic or truck driver: like Willie from St. Louis, teeth chattering in his fox-hole; Tennessean Alvin, demoted from the Air Corps, his sleeves showing where his sergeant stripes used to be; Californian Santos, practicing on his jury-rigged punching bag; Alabaman Albert, in his shined-to-brilliance paratrooper boots; New Yorker Lieutenant Matt, hysterical when his buddy Jim got killed; Maria and Margie, casualties in Iloilo in a war they endured.

The simplest way to put it might be that when I was eighteen, nineteen, and twenty, I went where the US Army sent me, did what I was told most of the time, and survived.