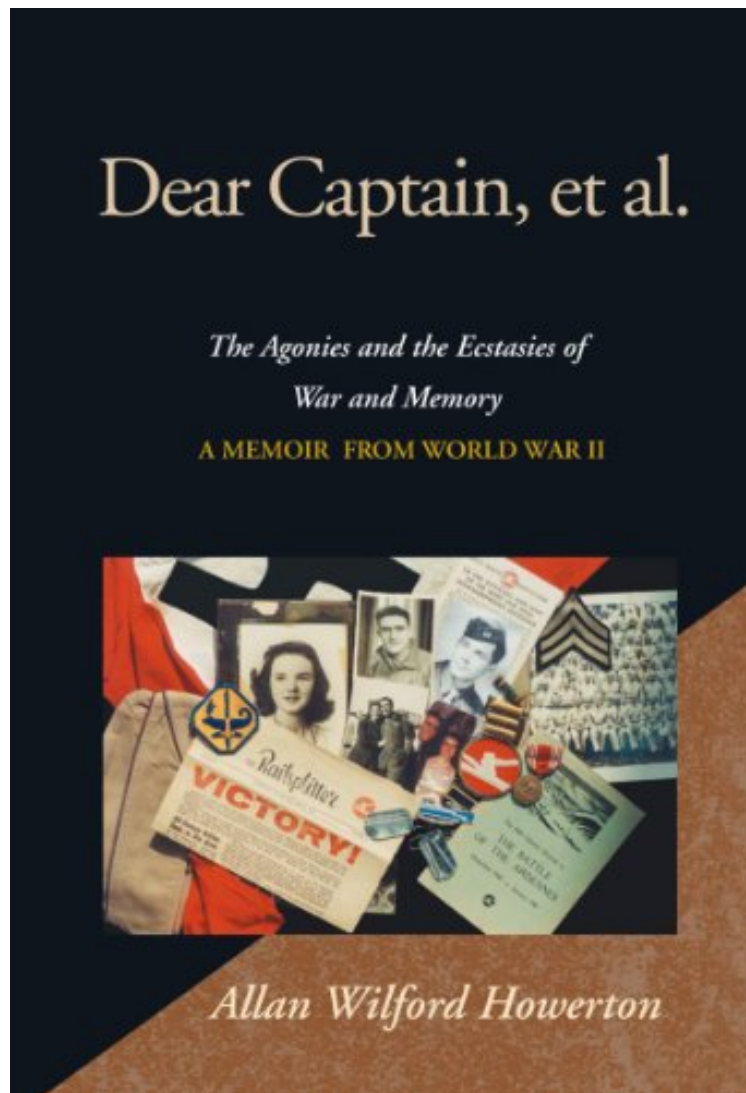


[Download] Dear Captain, et al.: The Agonies and the Ecstasies of War and Memory A Memoir From World War II (English Edition)

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Von Allan Wilford Howerton
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Von Allan Wilford Howerton : **Dear Captain, et al.: The Agonies and the Ecstasies of War and Memory A Memoir From World War II (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dear Captain, et al.: The Agonies and the Ecstasies of War and Memory A Memoir From World War II (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A

beautiful book about friendships; and a study of human behaviour under fire. Von Ia UaroTitle: Dear Captain, et al: The Ecstasies and Agonies of War ~ reviewed by Ia Uaro of www.sydneysong.netThis book was written by one of my very best friends, but I'll try to be objective here."Dear Captain, et al" is a witty, cracking good novel from a modest author who uses amazing factual details such as war records, friends' notes, and his personal notes and memory that have been diligently and scrupulously researched for accuracy 50 years later. I'd bought "Dear Captain, et al" over a year ago, but only had the chance to read it in May 2013. I wish I'd read it much earlier.Young Allan Howerton hoped to avoid the conscription for WW II. In 1943 he was studying at Drexel University under the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP), which aimed to produce civil engineers and pencil pushers ostensibly to occupy and rebuild Europe after the war was won. On weekends Allan visited his first love sweet Mary in a nearby town, planning that when he would become a lieutenant upon his graduation, to marry her and to whisk her away to live in Europe where he would be commissioned to carry out civil work. Alas, his dreams were dashed when the Army aborted the ASTP in 1944. The compulsory military recruitment age had been lowered, and the deeply disappointed, mad-as-hell ASTP boys were sent to the Army's training barracks in Claiborne, where none of them wanted to be. Here, brute and merciless officers shaped the unfortunate bunch to become combat soldiers. Several months later, as Company K, they were packed into a train to a destination they knew not, ended up being shipped to the war fronts at the border of Belgium and Germany, clawing in the mud, hiding in miserable foxholes, fighting in the extreme cold, shooting and being shot, most of the time not knowing what was happening or where they would be next, and always, they ended up in a war zone with worse miseries than the previous.In Company K, circumstances bonded the men together as a troop, and friendships developed between individuals. In the beginning Allan was very interested in the officers' antics, and later on his focus shifted to friends and their group effort to survive. A very keen observer, he scrutinized various personalities and noted their views and their habits. Allan, who was the loudest snorer, complained when one night his close friend Ceroni kept talking aloud preventing sleep; only to be heartbroken when it turned out to be this friend's final night alive. Even after 50 years his agony is palpable in his narration. His friends and leaders were important to Allan, yet one by one they became war casualties. His was a gentle soul that hurt inside, even while jokingly referring to the soldiers' injuries, followed by evacuation to hospitals which freed them from front-lines' horrors, as their million-dollar wounds.Since this is a war memoir ~ otherwise known as a series of unfortunate events ~ perhaps it was bad form of me to chuckle from time to time. Yet Allan has a fine sense of humor. Even during the war he rarely failed to notice the funny bits or the bright side of people, places or circumstances, even while grumbling, worrying, commiserating, sympathizing, or shaking in fear. I found myself glued to the pages in interest, engrossed in following detailed day-to-day conditions of the endless war, the actions, Company K's hard-luck movement, and what actually befell Allan's comrades. Many brilliant young lives met sickness or untimely end in horrendous ways. Many courageous souls developed amazing personalities, toughness, and various skills to support and to lead their own proficiently. Allan was later promoted to be Company K's communication sergeant, working close to its commanders in exciting actions, and eventually assisted the last one with his considerable staff knowledge from people-watching.This is a beautiful book about friendships, a behavioral study of how humans react and cope under fire, and firsthand's account of how a group of cynical college boys journeyed to become a crack military team.Allan Howerton is almost 90, one of my favorite people, and is the most remarkable and inspiring oldie I know. I've been telling whining young authors to pull their acts together, to stop complaining about having to learn new things, and to copy savvy Allan who is undeterred by changes, adapts accordingly, and never loses his infectious smile. I wish so much that no-one had had to experience or see what Company K had been through, but Dear Captain, et al shows me many elements that had helped to shape my beautiful friend's ever advancing mind, his dynamic strides in keeping up with changes, his smiles and his caring attitude towards others. The beginning is always the hardest, but tough times don't last. You are what you have overcome. Be grateful and kind, everyone you meet may be fighting a psychological battle. Definitely, we, whining younger generations, can learn a thing or two.

Kurzbeschreibung""Dear Captain, et al."" tells the story of Company K, 335th Infantry, 84th Division during the last six months of combat in Europe during World War II and the authors struggle for survival. As a rifleman, messenger, and communications sergeant, he was one of a handful of men who made it from the Siegfried Line, through the Battle of Bulge, and across the Roer, Rhine, and Weser rivers to finish at the Elbe near Berlin without becoming a casualty.Written from notes made just after hostilities ceased and melded with official military records, visits to battlefields and cemeteries, contemporary news stories, letters, and testimonials of company veterans, it is one of the most thorough accounts ever written about a combat unit. There are scores of interesting characters, eyewitness accounts of every battle, documentation of every casualty, and powerful descriptions of warfare. A poignant love story, woven through the story, adds a tender ecstasy. We read the authors love letters to and from a girl called Mary and share their anxieties amid circumstances that neither can control. Dear Captain, et al. is beautifully written with a passion that reminds of James Jones and the nostalgic longing of F. Scott Fitzgerald. While writing it the author was

often brought to tears. Memory is a bitch, he notes. WHAT READERS ARE SAYING . . . "The memoir is moving, filled with sadness, anger, humor, and joy . . . You do not hint at what is called the glory of battle, yet your account is full of human courage and determination. And love." VINCE RYAN, Army Security Agency. "This is a great effort . . . I bought the hardcover (will buy four or six more) and the ebook. All of my memories of (my father) were seeing him in the hospital." MIKE MATUSKA, son of Steve Matuska, severely wounded, Battle of the Bulge. "I cant say enough about how much I enjoyed your book, laughing and crying in parts, and to think you lived it makes everything you wrote much more interesting." MARILYN FLAHERTY, daughter of a Pacific, WW II veteran. "I feel privileged to have met Captain Carpenter, and Lt. Prewitt, and the others, too many to mention. I have never read a book before that brought tears to my eyes. The names (in the division roster) are now men." ANDY BRADLEY, North Yorkshire, UK. "It is a powerful story . . . easily the best book I have read about the infantry in World War II. I laughed when I heard you mimic (the Camp Claiborne first sergeants) language, color, and accent . . . was touched by the fantasy of the young Railsplitters who rest in peace together at Margraten close enough that they could visit back and forth . . . perhaps it is not a fantasy. The book was deja vu all over again." ROY OGLE, Hq-333, 84th Division, Clemson University Professor. "Outstanding. Particularly impressed by incorporation of so much research detail without interfering with the flow of the narrative. Should be read by anyone who was touched in any way by World War II." TED JOHNSON, Public Relations Professional. "I was delighted to find that Dear Captain, et al. is not just a book about war. It is also a beautiful love story." KATHY GILES, Alexandria, Virginia. Wife of a former Naval Officer. "Dear Captain, et al. is a bit of a personal memoir, a company history and a war novel. For those of us removed from foxhole fighting it paints a detailed picture of what it was like to be a dogface hoping each day wouldnt be your last." JOHN LUCAS Evansville (Indiana) Courier and Press. "Powerful Stuff!" Chris Sladen, Public History Group, Ruskin College, Oxford, UK. Order online above or via toll-free telephone at 1-888-795-4274 "Kurzbeschreibung" "Dear Captain, et al." tells the story of Company K, 335th Infantry, 84th Division during the last six months of combat in Europe during World War II and the authors struggle for survival. As a rifleman, messenger, and communications sergeant, he was one of a handful of men who made it from the Siegfried Line, through the Battle of Bulge, and across the Roer, Rhine, and Weser rivers to finish at the Elbe near Berlin without becoming a casualty. 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local cable television channel.