



## Easy Company Soldier: The Legendary Battles of a Sergeant from World War II's "Band of Brothers"

By Don Malarkey, Bob Welch

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**Elite paratrooper Sgt. Don Malarkey takes us not only into the World War II battles fought from Normandy to Germany, but into the heart and mind of a soldier who lost his best friend during the nightmarish engagement at Bastogne.**

Drafted in 1942, Malarkey arrived at Camp Toccoa in Georgia and was one of the one in six soldiers who earned their Eagle wings. He went to England in 1943 to provide cover on the ground for the largest amphibious military attack in history: Operation Overlord. In the darkness of D-day morning, Malarkey parachuted into France and within days was awarded a Bronze Star for his heroism in battle. He fought for twenty-three days in Normandy, nearly eighty in Holland, thirty-nine in Bastogne, and nearly thirty more in and near Haugenau, France, and the Ruhr pocket in Germany.

*Easy Company Soldier* is his dramatic tale of those bloody days fighting his way from the shores of France to the heartland of Germany, and the epic story of how an adventurous kid from Oregon became a leader of men.

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**Easy Company Soldier: The Legendary Battles of a Sergeant from World War II's "Band of Brothers" By Don Malarkey, Bob Welch Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #195677 in Books
- Brand: Malarkey, Don/ Welch, Bob
- Published on: 2009-05-12
- Released on: 2009-05-12
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: .32" h x .83" w x 5.55" l, .60 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 304 pages

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### Editorial Review

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This better-than-average military memoir is the story of an NCO of the famous Easy Company that historian Stephen Ambrose dubbed Band of Brothers. Raised in the Pacific Northwest, Malarkey first vividly recounts growing up during the Depression, following up with paratrooper training and the exhausting physical regimen that went with it, not to mention the departure of Easy Company's first commander. A sea voyage and life in England preceded the jump into Normandy, at which point the narrative almost attains the level of Donald Burgett's *Currahee!* (1967). Malarkey jumped into the Netherlands thereafter and, like so many other paratroopers, fought for months in static warfare such as he hadn't expected to face. Malarkey ended the war at Bastogne, where even his hardened veteran's morale sagged to the point of considering a self-inflicted wound just to get out of the frozen hell of the place. Shelve this with the classic accounts of the infantryman's war. --Roland Green

### Review

"Author [Don Malarkey] shares his story of those bloody days fighting his way from the shores of France to the heartland of Germany, and the epic story of how an adventurous kid from Oregon became a leader of men." ?Powell Valley News

"First of all, you're going to love this book . . . together, we were the best (not bragging). In training and in combat, we never had any problems. We've been friends for life, over sixty-five years. He's my hero." ?William "Wild Bill" Guarnere, member of Easy Company and coauthor of the New York Times bestseller *Brothers in Battle, Best of Friends*

"Don Malarkey is a staunch patriot who truly understands the principles for which we fought. He contributed his all in building the reputation of the 101st Airborne as a great fighting unit. His life today epitomizes the standards to which all good Americans should strive to emulate." ?Lt. Lynn "Buck" Compton, member of Easy Company and author of *Call of Duty*

"Don Malarkey: an outstanding soldier in combat, a gentleman with the memory of an elephant who I always will consider to be an esteemed friend." ?Dick Winters, Commander of Easy Company and author of the New York Times bestseller *Beyond Band of Brothers*

"Very conscientious, very compassionate. We had great men in Easy Company and Don was one of the best. When I joined the men [in England], he took care of me like I was a Currahee man. He was a dead shot with the mortar." ?Ed "Babe" Heffron, member of Easy Company and co-author of the New York Times bestseller *Brothers in Battle, Best of Friends*

### About the Author

Don Malarkey was born in 1921 and grew up in Astoria, Oregon. He was drafted in 1942 and spent more consecutive days in combat than any other member of E Company, 506th Regiment, 101st Airborne Division?the most recognized fighting unit in American history. Today he lives in Oregon.

Bob Welch is a nationally recognized author and journalist whose book *American Nightingale, about the*

*first nurse to die in World War II after the landings at Normandy, was featured on ABC's Good Morning America and was an Oregon Book Award finalist. He lives in Oregon.*

## **Users Review**

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"Band of Brothers" when you needed it?

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