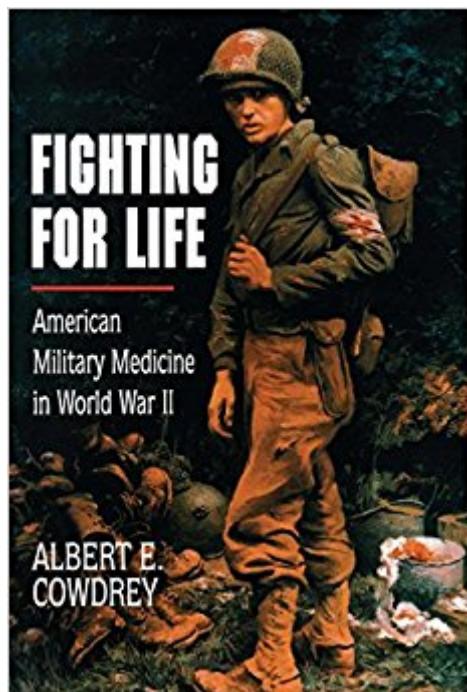


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# Fighting For Life



## **Synopsis**

Fought on almost every continent, World War II confronted American GIs with the unprecedented threats to life and health posed by combat on Arctic ice floes and African deserts, in steamy jungles and remote mountain villages, in the stratosphere and the depths of the sea. This book is a history of military medicine in that war. Penicillin brought the anti-biotic revolution to the battlefield, air evacuation plucked the wounded from jungles and deserts, and a unique system brought blood, still fresh, from America to soldiers all over the world. It chronicles the skill, courage, and dedication of a formidable force of surgeons, physicians, enlisted medics, psychiatrists, and nurses, who achieved a spectacular victory. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

A well researched and written report of the men and women of the medical corps who served with such great courage in WW 2 to save the battle wounded in both the European and Pacific theaters of war. I was surprised to learn that they not only attended the wounded on and off the battlefield but also more times than not had to actually build the field hospitals they then had to work in, otherwise, they often had to perform surgery under umbrellas and tarps by flashlight while under fire. That so many injured survived these conditions can only be attributed to the deft hand, mind and extreme courage and their devotion to their professions of the medical corp people from the up in the front line medic or corpsman who more often than not risked his own life to save that of another, to deliver them to the overworked surgeons and staff that continued to save lives. Albert Cowdrey did an excellent job of bringing these brave people into the light from the otherwise shadows of history.

Thank you all both inside the covers of this book and outside who gave so much to save others.Ingrid Wolsk

This is an excellent history of the medical services provided during WWII. Cowdrey not only provides a well-researched account of medics and doctors on the front lines but also offers insight into the decisions made in Washington that determined the parameters of the war time medical service. The author not only covers the horrific physical injuries soldiers suffered, he also devotes ample time to addressing Battle Fatigue; what we now know to be PTSD. Cowdrey equally covers the disease infested horrors of the Pacific war and the ETO's Normandy landings and frost-bitten fighting in Bastogne. He provides primary source accounts from medics and physicians and follows the wounded home after the fighting. Interesting and not traditionally covered accounts of U.S.A. medics and physicians treating civilians in both theaters provides the reader with a gateway into deeper scholarship and new knowledge. After finishing this text, I immediately highlighted the meticulous notes and bibliography for further reading in this area. This is an excellent account of WWII medicine and I highly recommend this book.

If you like this niche subject at all, you would want to own, read, and keep this book. It's very readable and full of good stories, 'Nuff said.

Good read well written. I thought it gave excellent examples of front line fighting.

much facts

For World War II buffs this is one of those books that concentrates on behind-the-battlefield activity. The author does a superb and comprehensive job in informing the reader of the status of medicine and Allied medical organization during World War II. - I give the author five stars because he: (1) described the contemporary diseases and medicines as well as types of battle casualties; (2) narrates how the medics and field hospitals followed the troops into battle; and (3) gives us a good understanding of the development of military medical organization and the problems it had. On top of that, Cowdry keeps interesting a subject that otherwise could be boring, and, better yet, he starts at the beginning (Pearl Harbor) and takes us right through the war to the final atomic bomb and how the medics adapted and continued to do their stuff, including work on POW's. Good imagery to keep the reader's attention. Covers all theaters. An excellent background history, essential for students of

WWII history.

I was in the US Army Medical Corps for over 12 years and even served in one of the units mentioned in the book (The 93rd Evacuation Hospital) during the Gulf War. It was amazing to see the lesson learned in WWII were still in use to this then. This book is a fascinating series of case studies of how we stumbled forward into developing from a small group of "lifers" who were dedicated to barracks and peacetime Navy life, to an efficient, mobile intercontinental medical force that did as much to win the war as any other branch of the military. Of special note, is the acknowledgment of the vital role that preventative services such as mosquito control and administrative service such as the medical service corps play in the overall delivery of medical care. The best part of course, is reading about the dedication and hard work of the men and women who made all of this possible. As an anecdote, we had a sign carved over the entrance of the command tent of the 93rd EVAC Hospital that read: "Patton Slapped Here"

Full agreement with prior five star reviews. I would like to add that the reader gets a balanced but frank assessment of where the medical system and commanders succeeded, and where in some cases they failed sadly. Of particular interest are (a) the story of the lack of malaria preventive measures in certain South Pacific commands until they learned the hard way, (b) fascinating description of the development of practical treatment for psychiatric problems (combat fatigue), and (c) scathing criticism of the painful disability suffered by some 30,000 infantrymen in Northern Europe because of trench foot, much of which might have been avoided by better command decisions. Also excellent discussion of how the mushrooming military medical establishment tied in with the civilian professional services.

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