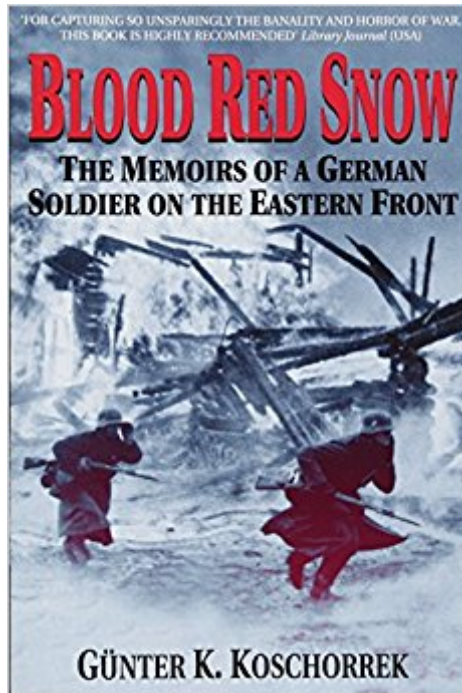




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Blood Red Snow: The Memoirs Of A German Soldier On The Eastern Front



Synopsis

For the German soldier fighting under Hitler, keeping a diary was strictly forbidden. So Gunter Koschorrek, a fresh young recruit, wrote his notes on whatever scraps of paper he could find and sewed the pages into the lining of his winter coat. Left with his mother on his rare trips home, this illicit diary eventually was lost—and did not come to light until some 40 years later when Koschorrek was reunited with his daughter in America. It is this remarkable document, a unique day-to-day account of the common German soldier's experience, that makes up the memoir that is Blood Red Snow.

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Customer Reviews

This memoir is the first-person account of a German soldier who served on the eastern front during World War II. The author is not concerned with examining the reasons for the war or the tactics used to fight it. Rather, he sets out to present the day-to-day realities of the German soldiers by naming them and then relating their fates, which too often was violent death. Many of Koschorrek's compatriots were run over by Soviet tanks or blown to pieces by Soviet shells. This memoir by a former German soldier is reminiscent of accounts by American GIs, such as Charles Reis Felix's recent *Crossing the Sauer*. For capturing so unsparingly the banality and horror of war, this book is highly recommended for large public and academic libraries. Robert J. Andrews, Duluth P.L., MN
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Gunther K. Koschorrek was a machine gunner on the Russian front in WWII. He lives in Germany, having retired from his job as managing director of a sales company.

One of my favorite books of all time is the *Forgotten Soldier*, it's the standard I measure other personal accounts to and there's been few that have matched it. Have to say this one did it. *Blood Red Snow* is fabulous! The opening was nice but honestly headed for a weak 4 star rating; I think this was partially because Gunter was either finding himself in writing or had written that section well after the war. What happened during the retreat from Stalingrad though just totally opened Gunter up to us and gave us so much more than so many personal account give; emotion and feeling, fear and joy. As we Gunter both breakdown somewhat and become a stalwart of his unit we see him become so much more. This isn't just a former soldier telling his contributions to a greater fight; instead it becomes more personal, as in you almost feel Gunter is telling you his experiences in person. This is a very good account of a warrior's experience, an absolute must for anyone interested in personal accounts from WWII.

I've read many accounts of the savage behavior of the SS and the common German soldier, and I am frightened by their example that we humans are capable of anything. Goering said it's very simple: identify an enemy, illustrate the danger, and call anyone who dissents a traitor. The people will always follow. Sadly, I have to agree. I detest racism, facism, and propaganda, the pictures of naked men and women running into a ditch to be shot, the arrogance of being superior based on hair and eye color, but even given these, I found moments when I could relate to this German soldier. Perhaps underneath the uniforms and indoctrination, we are the same.

A remarkable first hand account of wartime experience of a "grunt" German soldier in WWII. The author served as a heavy machine gunner (HMG) beginning on the Eastern front, barely escaping the Stalingrad Pocket", and with elite Panzer units in France, Italy, Poland and Prussia. The book recreates his experiences based on his notes taken faithfully over the period. One is struck by the contrast in humanity in telling the story and the inhumanity of the war itself. Herr Koschorrek's experience is a reminder of the randomness of war, surviving several wounds while those around him are dying. I highly recommend this book. It is an excellent account and a common and consistent reminder of human reactions to the terrible experience of combat. The only thing is, as we know, no text will deliver the smell, nor that gripping fear in your gut.

Terrific book about my favorite subject. ...I have read probably every German memoir that can be found. And I would rate "Blood Red Snow" as definitely in the top 3 of those that I have read. It is very well written and the translating is top-notch. I can only grade these books by the amount of time I take to read them and I read this book almost nonstop for 3 days. I highly recommend it to anyone who is interested in what it was like to be a common landser on the eastern front in ww2. It is not flavored with any propaganda. It is simply a diary kept by a soldier who served beginning at the Stalingrad front through the defensive battles and ultimate retreat across the Ukraine who ended up luckily taken prisoner by the U.S. army. I enjoyed it thoroughly.

An excellent testimony, well written and lovingly detailed. Not only we are offered a first-row glimpse into the war but also into the daily life of the German soldiers, their ways, words, humor and hopes. At times you feel you are walking the trenches and seeing it all. You hear them speak their everyday language. You learn to know and like individual soldiers only to see them snatched away one by one by an often terrible death. We see the human side of the Landser and understand what it was like there and how. An essential book for those who want to know what it was like to be a soldier of Germany in the meat grinder of the Second World War.

It is fascinating to read a book written from the memories of a German soldier fighting on the front line in the Eastern Campaign and surviving. It is similar to "All Quiet on the Western Front" in that so many of his fellow soldiers and school friends don't make it and both show the futility of war. Koschorrek confirms the view that soldiers fighting on a front line are not fighting for King, Fatherland, Tsar or whatever, but to keep themselves and their fellow men alive. All the grandeur and heroics of war come down to a simple fight for survival. This is now well documented but it is interesting to see the German soldier on the outskirts of Stalingrad and the difficulties he faces in both understanding where the front line is, what part he is playing in the war, and why supplies do not reach him in any rational quantity. All armies seem to be the same in the hierarchical structure of their supply lines. It was obvious all through, that he was going to survive, because he wrote the book, but it was still a very good insight into the German lines and the mindset of the German soldier. Unfortunately in the Kindle version, the maps, which should be so helpful, are difficult to read.

A non-fiction book about the life of a German soldier from 1941 to the end of WW2. The story utilises the dairy entries of a real soldier during WW2, but rather than just diary entries, the author

uses the diary material entry to weave a gripping story of life from Stalingrad as if it were actually happening in real time. A brief stint in Europe fighting partisans, then back to the Russian front until the end of the war. The story is raw and gritty and describes real-life combat and its consequences to human life. One by one the author's friends are claimed by the war until by the end, just about only the author survives from the original group of soldiers. A very intriguing read which has no storyline or plot as such, but describes in detail the day to day existence of a life in hell. Highly recommended.

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