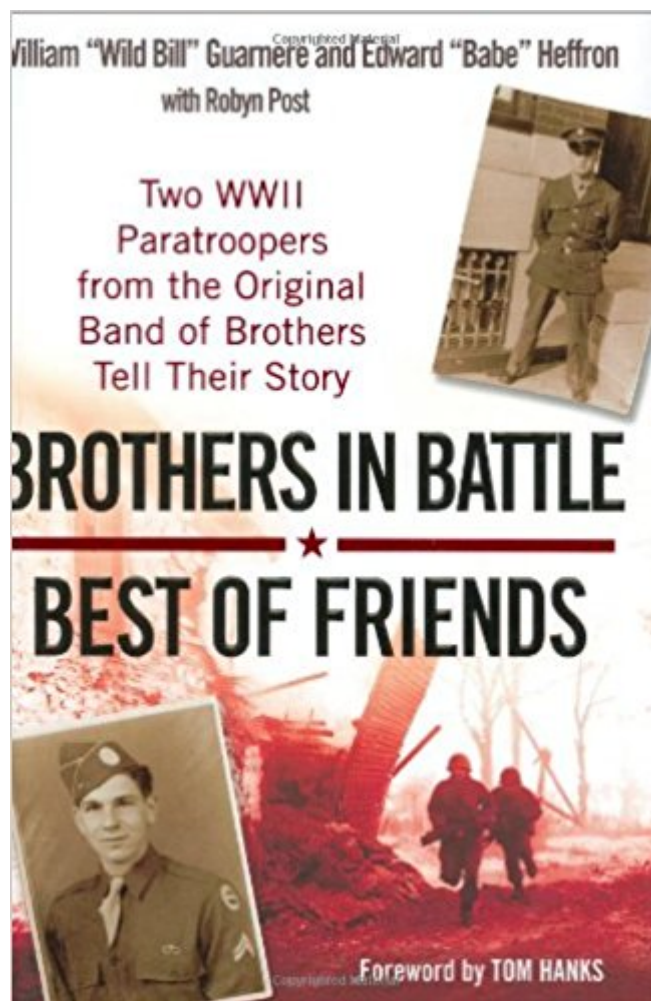


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# Brothers In Battle, Best Of Friends



## Synopsis

Tom Hanks introduces the rousing story of two inseparable friends and soldiers portrayed in the HBO miniseries *Band of Brothers*. William "Wild Bill" Guarnere and Edward "Babe" Heffron were among the first paratroopers of the U.S. Army-members of an elite unit of the 101st Airborne Division called Easy Company. Arguably the bravest, most efficient, physically fit, and tight-knit group of soldiers the Army has ever produced, the unit was called upon for every high-risk operation of the war, including D-Day, Operation Market Garden in Holland, the Battle of the Bulge, and the capture of Hitler's Eagle's Nest in Berchtesgaden. Both fought side-by-side-until Guarnere lost his leg in the Battle of the Bulge and was sent home. Heffron went on to liberate concentration camps and raze Hitler's Eagle's Nest hideout. United by their experience, the two reconnected at the war's end and have been the best of friends ever since. Their story is a tribute to the lasting bond forged between comrades in arms-and to all those who fought for freedom.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Journalist Post, on assignment for Philadelphia magazine, met in 2001 with WWII vets Guarnere and Heffron to discuss their service and their portrayal in the soon-to-be-aired HBO miniseries *Band of Brothers* (based on the book by Stephen E. Ambrose). In this new book, Post has compiled the transcripts of her interviews to provide a personal history of the 101st Airborne Division's Easy Company, as well as the soldiers' own stories of growing up and growing old. Switching off between the two within chapters, Post allows Guarnere and Heffron to share narration duties as they recount their South Philly childhoods, their induction into Easy Company (Guarnere was there for the

company's formation; Heffron joined after D-Day) and their work in it, from the disastrous Operation Market Garden to the frozen hell of Bastogne. The men also discuss their post-war lives, and those of their comrades; 60 years after meeting, these two men still call each other nearly every day, and their bond provides the volume its large heart. Both men are quick to point out that they're no heroes, just men with a job to do (despite the fact that they each received, and tore up, exemptions from service); they and their story are both remarkable, and a must-read for anyone who enjoyed Band of Brothers in print or on screen. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"Each of them delivers a relentlessly gripping account highlighting heroism, sacrifice and terrible suffering." ---Kirkus --This text refers to the MP3 CD edition.

This is another band of brothers book told from the soldiers who were there. The reason I love this book is because it's told through the soldiers eyes. I teach a class on what happens to a person in a high stress situation, mentally and physically. If you have read Ambrose's book, Winter's book, or any of the others from Easy Company you will see the same stories told. But from the soldiers perception and memory you will see several different details in what happened. Who shot who, who was there, where it happened, etc. Babe and Wild Bill's stories in this book are different than other versions. This to me gives all the books, including this one, credibility. Under life threatening situations the human mind perceives things differently, sees it differently, from person to person. If each BOB book told every story exactly the same then we could buy one book and get all the information we needed. When you read this book you hear the stories from Bill and Babe's perception, and the details are different from the other books. This just shows you that under stress no one sees the exact same thing. It is a great addition to any Band of Brothers library.

Bill and Babe's story is fascinating. The bond that developed between the two of them once they met in England is remarkable. How they, along with all the other men who fought, could endure for the duration of the war is almost beyond comprehension. The character of these men set them apart as a special breed in a generation that answered their countries call. What I find revealing about Bill and Babe is that they do not look at themselves as special or brave or hero's but only doing their duty as was expected of them. No where do you get any sense of bragging about their combat experience. It was just a simple matter of doing what they were trained to do. Their lives after the war and their personal accomplishments are a tribute to their character. Bill's work in setting up the

reunions and keeping them going is a testament to his character. Their devotion to each other is a true picture of friendship and the definition of "Brotherhood". A must read!

For those interested in the story of Easy Company. This remarkable band of men, a group of ordinary American kids from that depression era, --just a little more full of athletic ability and of a drive to test and prove themselves than your average 18-yr-old-- the redoubtable combat unit they became in World War II, and the strikingly powerful bond that sharing the extreme experiences of fighting and enduring forged between them, has become a focus of interest and even fascination for several generations of American readers and viewers. We read Bill Guarnere's and Babe Heffron's stories and we learn a little more about the incredible human experience the war in Europe was for these 1st paratroopers. Anyone interested in the human heart and mind will find that the series Band of Brothers, Ambrose's original book from which it was adapted, and the subsequent autobiographical writings by Winters and, here, Guarnere and Heffron, have a way of working themselves into your thoughts and imagination the way few works do. We read and learn.

Well written book and a good read if you have an interest in delving into the individual lives of the members of the 101st airborne. My 25 year-old daughter read it and was impressed as well.

Two of the most famous paratroopers from Easy Company. It's a great Kindle read. Now explain why I'm stuck writing a damn revue, unable to leave the app and start a new book.

The story of Wild Bill Guarnere and Babe Heffron told in this book brought me with them to the frozen fields and forest of Belgium during that cold winter where for 78 days they lay in foxholes eating cold food, shivering their time away all the while battling the Nazi forces in a daily test that took its toll in maimed and frozen corpses. The trials and triumphs of the men who, despite the stupidity of their jeep lieutenant officers, made it through the war alive and in a most heroic way. The first hand accounts of these two men is the absolute best WW2 story I have read, ever.

I have read all the WWII books ever written about Easy Company, etc. This one was, by far, the best. It begins with Babe and Bill growing up in South Philly, carries through the battles, and tells about after the war, right up to the present. It tells about the making of "Band of Brothers" and the interaction between the original men and the actors who played them in the movie/book. The thoughts of Babe and Bill and their enduring relationship throughout the whole book is priceless!

Despite the recent passing of both of these heroes, it is fortunate that they were able to write this memoir and preserve their compelling story for all time. This is not a book written by a historian, but a first-person story of war, loss and suffering, accomplishment, comradeship, and a true loving friendship. Their story is riveting and inspiring, often somber but also humorous at times. I could not put it down and it is now one of my favorite books on World War Two. If you want to not only read a great war story, but also experience how and why undying, lifelong friendships are often forged during war, this is the perfect book for you.

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