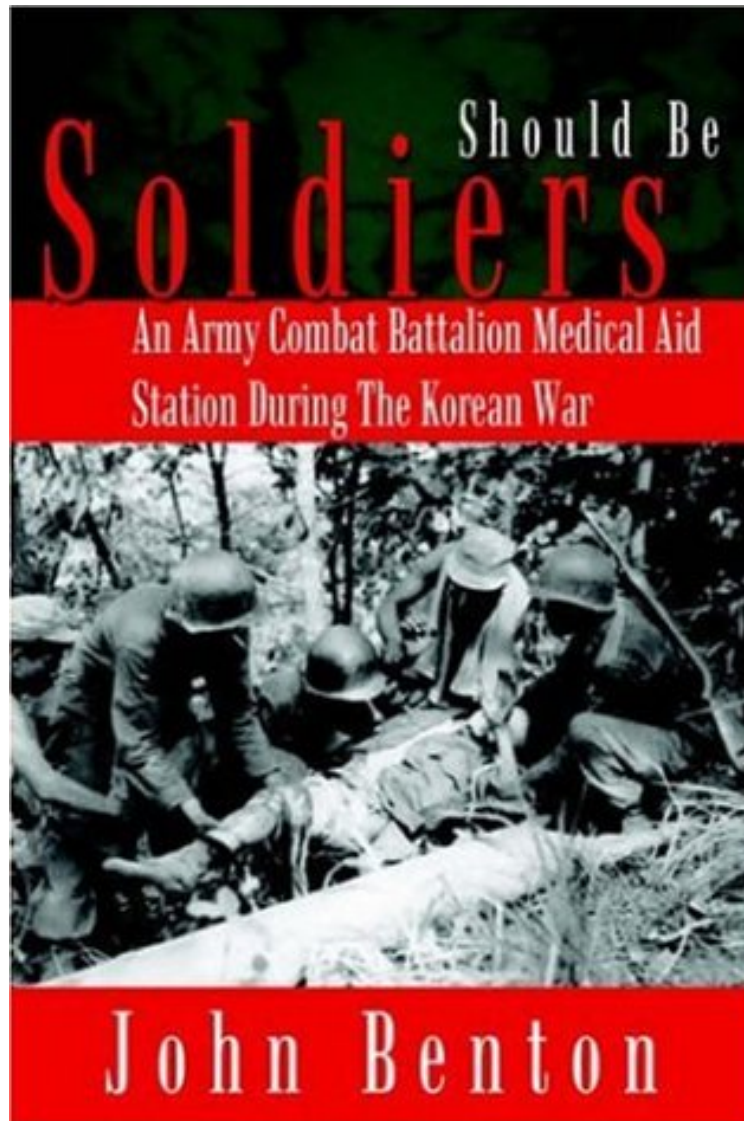


(Free) Should Be Soldiers: An Army Combat Battalion Medical Aid Station During the Korean War

Should Be Soldiers: An Army Combat Battalion Medical Aid Station During the Korean War

John Benton

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John Benton : Should Be Soldiers: An Army Combat Battalion Medical Aid Station During the Korean War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Should Be Soldiers: An Army Combat Battalion Medical Aid Station During the Korean War:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Made me have some memories.By Msg Herbert B. SpencerA very good story about a medical aid station at Battalion Level in the Korean war. Well written on the military terms. Very

interesting material. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. "Should Be Soldiers" A Great Read By Ruth Lansford As an infantry officer who served during the Korean War, I was delighted by John Benton's terrific book, "Should Be Soldiers." Benton, a captain with the Army's 2nd Infantry Division during some of the hottest fighting in that war, shows us a seldom explored side of combat -- what happens to the soldier when his luck runs out and he ends up WIA. Most frontline soldiers don't dwell on it, yet the possibility of wounds or death are part of the daily grind. In Dr. Benton's gutsy, knowledgeable account of his days as a combat medic we get a real, in-depth and unflinching picture of what happens when the enemy takes us apart and it falls to our medics to put us together again, often under fire, under stress and under conditions that few civilian doctors can even imagine. This is a book that looks at combat from a point of view few of us have ever considered: the story of soldiers who save lives rather than take them, but who must often put their own lives on the line to get the job done. That said, Benton's book also examines a unique factor: what happens when a doctor must set his healing tools aside and take command as a combat leader. The account of the Chinese suddenly entering the war and the retreat of the U.S. forces from North Korea makes some of the most exciting reading imaginable. And Benton's in the middle of it. I give "Should Be Soldiers" 5 well-deserved stars. Reviewed by William Douglas Lansford

Should be Soldiers is set during the chaotic and pivotal first five months of the Korean War of 1950-53, America's "Forgotten War." It is a unique non-fictional work based on the author's experiences and observations while serving as a medical officer in the medical aid station of an army combat infantry battalion. While primarily about combat medicine, the book is also about the American soldiers who fought and died. Many of them little more than teenagers, they resented having to fight a war for a cause they could not appreciate in what they perceived as a far-off backward and alien Asian land. Motivation and morale suffered, but brutal combat against savagely attacking communist North Koreans hardened them. Shortly after finally reclaiming South Korea, the American forces, now supported by allies under the United Nations, were sent north by ill-advised commanders to invade North Korea, despite on coming near-arctic winter and threats of reactive Chinese intervention. When they did intervene with massive force, the author's battalion was soon fighting desperately in sub-zero weather as they tried to retreat to escape encirclement and annihilation. The battle became one of the worst defeats ever suffered by American arms.

About the Author The author was sent to South Korea at the beginning of the Korean War to serve as the medical officer in a combat infantry battalion medical aid station. It was involved in heavy combat all the way from the Pusan Perimeter to deep in North Korea. He later served in a regimental medical collecting station. After discharge from the army he completed his residency in Internal Medicine. He practiced for 44 years in the Los Angeles area and was associated with a large medical school. In addition to scientific papers, he has written in the managed health care field, as well as in publications devoted to flying, vintage motorsport, and Anglo-American history.