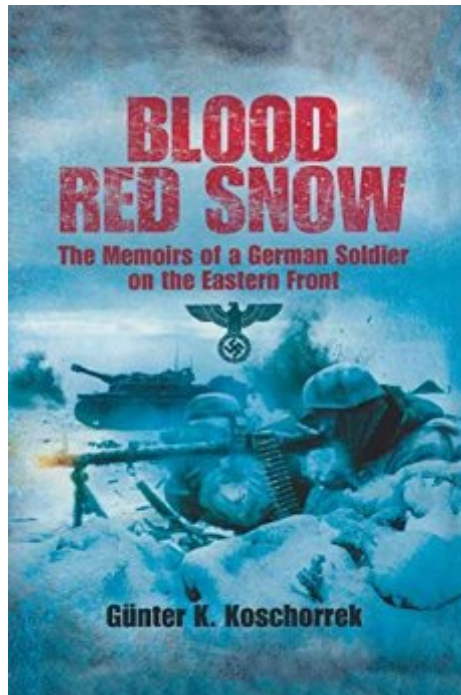


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Blood Red Snow: The Memoirs Of A German Soldier On The Eastern Front



Synopsis

Günter Koschorrek wrote his illicit diary on any scraps of paper he could lay his hands on, storing them with his mother on infrequent trips home on leave. The diary went missing, and it was not until he was reunited with his daughter in America some forty years later that it came to light and became *Blood Red Snow*. The author's excitement at the first encounter with the enemy in the Russian Steppe is obvious. Later, the horror and confusion of fighting in the streets of Stalingrad are brought to life by his descriptions of the others in his unit – their differing manners and techniques for dealing with the squalor and death. He is also posted to Romania and Italy, assignments he remembers fondly compared to his time on the Eastern Front. This book stands as a memorial to the huge numbers on both sides who did not survive and is, some six decades later, the fulfilment of a responsibility the author feels to honour the memory of those who perished.

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Customer Reviews

Koschorrek's work serves as an interesting memoir of an aspect of World War II not often discussed in the West. Yes, we often hear tales of the horrors of a winter invasion in Russia, and of Hitler's

faults in directing the campaign, but we seldom hear a first person account of the conflict on the Russian steppes. I knew the battle for Stalingrad was full of blood and violence, but Koschorrek's work brought the actual sights of frontline combat to the fore. His descriptions of waves of Russian soldiers assaulting his machine gun position, and the incessant barrage of artillery shells draws a chilling reminder of the utter horror and destruction faced on all sides during WW II. I also found the records of Koschorrek's growing disillusionment with Hitler and his Nazi party very enlightening. As a frontline soldier, Koschorrek doesn't claim to have been an expert on the political situation in Germany. Many times he announces that he was fighting for the German people, rather than the Third Reich. And towards the end of his extremely long time on the Eastern Front, Koschorrek claims only to be fighting for his fellow soldiers. It must have been a terrible struggle to continue on in a failing attempt to capture Stalingrad, and then endure a savage retreat all the way to the gates of Berlin. To see one's homeland utterly destroyed would be terrible in itself, but then to realize this destruction was caused by the ideas of a madman would almost be too terrible to bear.

Koschorrek's book serves as yet another good reminder of the lunacy and horror that is war. The one disappointment I found in Koschorrek's book was the writing. Although I understand that he was probably attempting to vanquish some long standing demons, the use of a co-author would have made the book more readable.

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