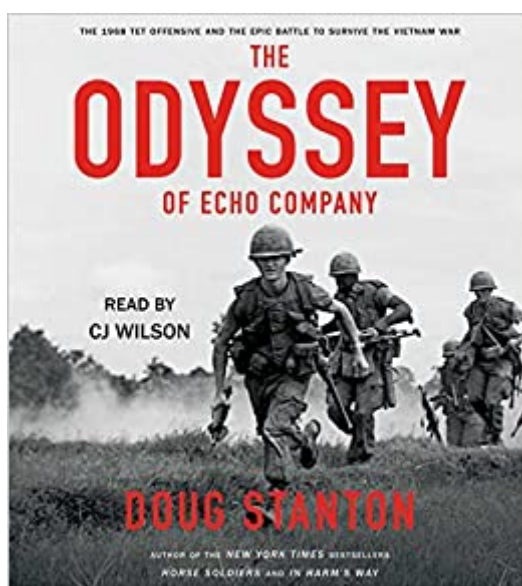


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# The Odyssey Of Echo Company: The 1968 Tet Offensive And The Epic Battle To Survive The Vietnam War



## Synopsis

A powerful work of literary military history from the New York Times bestselling author of *In Harm's Way* and *Horse Soldiers*—the harrowing and redemptive account of an American army platoon fighting for survival during the Vietnam War. On a single night, January 31, 1968, some 100,000 soldiers in the North Vietnamese Army attacked thirty-six cities throughout South Vietnam, hoping to topple that government and dislodge American forces. The twelve American boys of the recon platoon of the 101st Airborne Division, average age nineteen, are from small farms, California beach towns, and big cities like Chicago, and they are cast into a war they neither understand, nor, ultimately, feel they can win. The fighting was hand-to-hand, nonstop, and waged in endless small battles that forged this group into a lifelong brotherhood of survivors. *The Odyssey of Echo Company* is about the young men who survived sixty days on the run from the enemy during the Tet Offensive, at the height of the Vietnam War. Each young man lived one hundred years in these days and came home to a country that did not understand, and didn't try to understand, what they had survived. They came home winners because they were alive; but were losers for having fought there. When they arrived, they landed in San Francisco, took off their uniforms, and walked back into America, where they fell silent and realized that not many wanted to hear the remarkable story they had to tell—until now. Based on hundreds of hours of interviews, dozens of detailed letters written to and from Echo Company soldiers, a huge trove of Pentagon after-action reports, and travel to the scenes of battle with the American soldiers and some of their Vietnamese enemy soldiers, *The Odyssey of Echo Company* breaks through the wall of time to tell this important story of ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Doug Stanton, one of our most artful practitioners of literary nonfiction, has long had a knack for finding stories that put a human face on war. Here is raw combat captured in all its pathos, exhilaration, terror, and sense of brotherhood. Novelistic in detail and compulsively readable, Stanton’s searing tale of war and homecoming will soon find its place on a rarefied shelf alongside *Matterhorn*, *A Bright Shining Lie*, *The Things They Carried*, and *We Were Soldiers Once . . . and Young*—which is to say, among the classics of the Vietnam War.”—Hampton Sides, author of *The Kingdom of Ice*, *Blood and Thunder*, and *Ghost Soldiers*“From harrowing scenes of battle to those of heart-rending tenderness, I felt I’d joined the young paratroopers of Echo Company in their journey through the Tet Offensive of 1968. Doug Stanton writes about the personal for the millions. It’s an amazing story of a group of young men who lived history.”—Karl Marlantes, author of *Matterhorn*“The *Odyssey of Echo Company* is a majestic, masterful book. I couldn’t put it down, even in its most aching, tearful moments. War has such a dark heart, and Doug Stanton doesn’t shy away from that, but he also shows us the better hearts of human beings, and that’s what makes this book so profoundly moving and unforgettable.”—David Finkel, author of *Thank You for Your Service* and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist“Although the characters in Doug Stanton’s newest book are ordinary Americans from unexceptional backgrounds, *Odyssey* is the right word to describe their harrowing experiences in the Vietnam War. There was a Homeric quality in their battle to survive the Tet Offensive, as well as in their homecoming, when they found themselves strangers in their own land. In this tale of men at war, Stanton once again proves himself to be both a superb journalist and a master storyteller.”—Philip Caputo, author of *A Rumor of War* and *Some Rise by Sin*“Doug Stanton has done it again. In *The Odyssey of Echo Company* we go to war in Vietnam, up close and personal with patriotic young working-class Americans who take us through their daily lives of brutal face-to-face combat and how it changed them forever. This is a book for all Americans to read for the enduring lessons of what happens when we commit our precious young to the ravages of combat. It is a civic duty to read *The Odyssey of Echo Company*.”—Tom Brokaw“Doug Stanton is a superb nonfiction writer who grabs you and holds you from first page to last. Readers who follow him on this odyssey through Vietnam and the American psyche will never forget it.”—David Maraniss, author of *They Marched into Sunlight*“No one in the world does this kind of thing better than Doug Stanton. He’s a meticulous reporter, a fluent,

propulsive storyteller, and this account of tragedy and triumph is an instant go-to text for those who want to know what their fathers and brothers "and America" were doing fifty years ago. "Lee Child "Gathered in this fine book are the stories of a few soldiers in one reconnaissance platoon in one company who were in the worst of the fighting in 1967-68. Doug Stanton has captured the horror, the tragedy, the extreme courage, and the devoted brotherhood of these men in exceptional and sensitive detail. They are not stories for the fainthearted. But they are emotionally rewarding for a reader to experience. "John Laurence, author of *The Cat from Hue: A Vietnam War Story* "An admiring history of men who fought in the Vietnam War | Stanton does not concern himself with the debates over the war or its legacy; his emphasis is on this group of men and their experiences then and since. "Kirkus Reviews --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Doug Stanton is the author of the New York Times bestsellers *In Harm's Way: The Sinking of the USS Indianapolis and the Extraordinary Story of Its Survivors* and *Horse Soldiers: The Extraordinary Story of a Band of US Soldiers Who Rode to Victory in Afghanistan*, which is the basis for a Jerry Bruckheimer "produced movie by the same name, starring Chris Hemsworth and Michael Shannon, to be released by Warner Bros. in 2018. He attended Hampshire College and the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop. His writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *Time*, *The Washington Post*, *Men's Journal*, *The Daily Beast*, *Newsweek*, *Esquire*, and *Outside*, where he has been a contributing editor. Stanton is a founder of the National Writers Series, a year-round book festival, and lives in his hometown of Traverse City, Michigan, with his wife, Anne Stanton, and their three children, John, Katherine, and Will.

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