

Soldiers' Tales:

A collection of true stories from

Aussie Soldiers

Edited by Denny Neave

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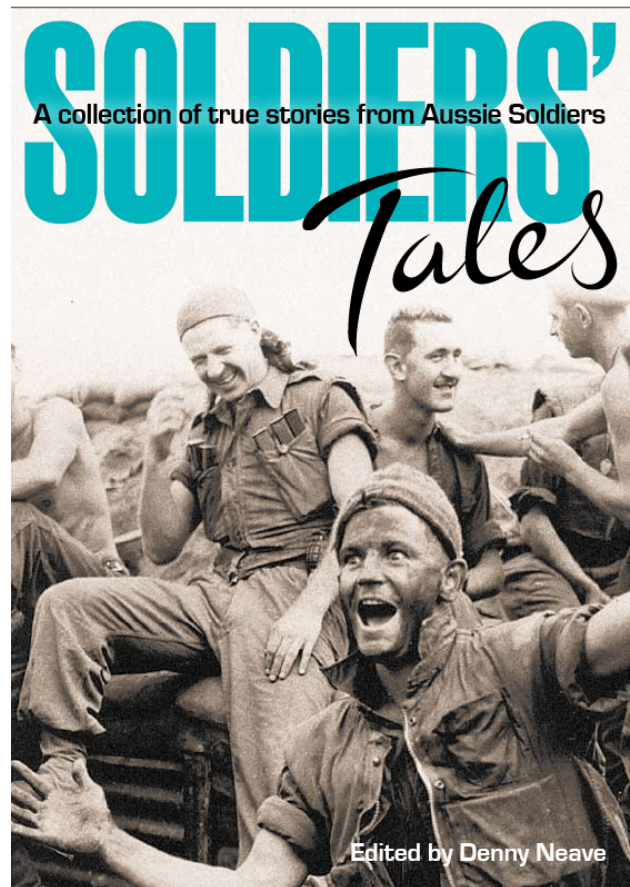
Reviewed by William Brown

When I was first presented with this book to review, I was not sure what to expect. Would I find this interesting or would I find it a bore? Well I'm pleased to let you know I did find it interesting, humorous and in places a tad sad.

One of the interesting aspects of this book is the span of Australian military history it covers, with stories from World War One and Two, Korea, Vietnam and East Timor (Timor Leste) giving the reader an inkling of the differences from each theatre.

One of the more humorous stories is 'Put Me Through To The President' where we learn about a Warrant Officer Class 2, who decided to put a call through to President Johnson and bluffed his way all the way through the Pentagon!

The sad stories in this book come in many forms including those relating to fallen friends and friends left behind such as the soldiers horses' in World War One, 'Maggot' [the platoon dog] in East Timor and 'Marcian', a tracker dog in Vietnam.



On the whole this book is well presented, with great photos that sit well alongside the stories. What would have been nice to see in this book would have been a thumb-nail map indicating the country or area being portrayed in the story. Another criticism about this collection of stories is the lack of representation of our serving women in the Army.

Editor's Note: We have a copy to give away to a reader. Email dfm with 'Tales' as the subject by mid May 2009 to go into the draw.