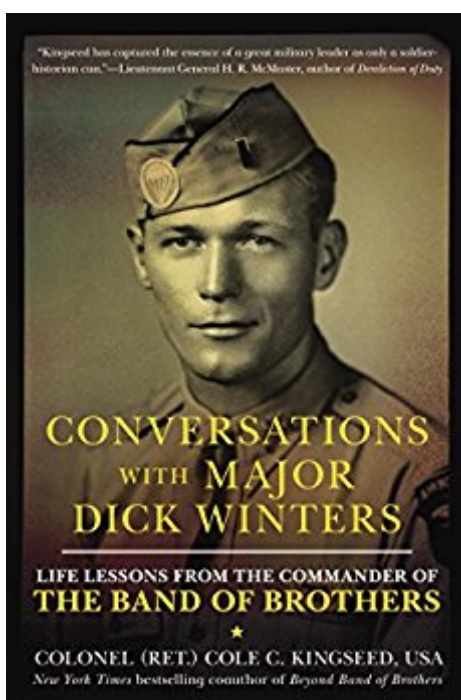


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Conversations With Major Dick Winters: Life Lessons From The Commander Of The Band Of Brothers



Synopsis

On the hellish battlefields of World War II Europe, Major Dick Winters led his Easy Company—the now-legendary Band of Brothers—from the confusion and chaos of the D-Day invasion to the final capture of Hitler's Eagle's Nest. But Winters's story didn't end there. It was only the beginning. He was a quiet, reluctant hero whose modesty and strength drew the admiration of not only his men, but millions worldwide. Now comes the story of Dick Winters in his last years as witnessed and experienced by his good friend, Cole C. Kingseed. Kingseed shares the formative experiences that made Winters such an effective leader. He addresses Winters's experiences and leadership during the war, his intense, unbreakable devotion to his men, his search for peace both without and within after the war, and how fame forced him to make adjustments to an international audience of well-wishers and admirers, even as he attempted to leave a lasting legacy before joining his fallen comrades. Following Winters's death on January 2, 2011, the outpouring of grief and adulation for one of this nation's preeminent leaders of character, courage, and competence shows just how much of an impact Dick Winters left on the world. This is a story of leadership, fame, and friendship, and the journey of one man's struggle to find the peace that he promised himself if he survived World War II.

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Customer Reviews

Conversations with Major Dick Winters:..... Life Lessons from the Commander of the Band of Brothers by Col Cole Kingseed I am a fan of Major Dick Winters. I am a fan of E company of the 101st. I am a fan of Stephen Ambrose and most everything written by him, and I am a fan of the HBO mini-series Band of Brothers. I am a WWII history buff and I know that history can be subjective. That being said, I am not so sure I am a fan of this book. Col Kingseed, I get it, you and Dick became fast, close friends and your families shared a closeness that others did not nor will ever experience in peacetime. I was already convinced before reading this book that Winters was one of our great heroes and leaders to emerge from WWII. Your book made it clear how humble he was and how he continued to serve his country, even as an emblem of everything that was right about the greatest generation. Your book made it clear how his wife ran interference for him from an adoring public and how you were allowed in the inner sanctum. I bought this book because its title "Conversations with Major Dick Winters" drew my money from my pocket. I wanted to have a more comprehensive look at HIS life, not Col Kingseed's life as best friend to Winters. You should of titled it "Conversations Cole Kingseed had with and about Major Dick Winters". Not a total waste of money. Kingseed's writing is good, but I think this is more a multi-part article piece instead of a book. It was more about Kingseed. I couldn't help but notice how he repeating the same ideas, over and over. Dick was humble, his wife was protective of him, people admire him, 'I' had a unique friendship with him, over and over. Should I assume repeated establish facts were needed to fill the book out? I also strongly disagreed to one point another reviewer made, that "Based on a personal relationship fostered and nurtured through years of conversations and directed reflection, Conversations with Major Dick Winters should be mandatory reading not just for military leaders but by anyone who wants to improve their leadership style by learning from a 'master' . . . for hero worship? yes... mandatory reading to expand on what leadership is?... no. I am glad Kingseed had a close relationship with Winters. I am glad he was able to help Dick put his memoirs together. If anything, the Memoirs would be mandatory reading... not this book about Cole Kingseed... I mean Major Dick Winters.

A very good book to get a small taste of the personal side of an American who was at the right place at the right time and unlike many had the moral courage to stick with his own belief system. Being

very close to Major Winters, the author Col. Kingseed, abashedly is a hero worshiper to the first degree with the Major. Could you blame him? The man was a hero who led a group of heroes through a hell that most of us will fortunately never experience. Does this mean the Major was perfect? Of course not and this book was not concerned about the mistakes he may have made after the war running his business, raising his children and just everyday living. Col. Kingseed did a very good job in bringing to us an elderly warrior who when brought into the spotlight wanted to make sure that his men were there too. America hit the high water mark with WWII and it isn't a small wonder that it was led by Americans who were coming out of one of the lowest points in our history. Thank God we had men of the caliber of Major Winters to lead and thank God also for the authors like Col. Kingseed who bring their story to us to learn.

I really enjoyed this book as I have all the others on Major Winters and the other members of Easy Company. Col. Kingseed did a great job in putting to paper his conversations with Major Winters. Col. Kingseed had a close friendship with him and takes you through a lot of details of the last decade of his life all the way to his memorial service. You do get a few tidbits here and there that are never talked about in the other books. If you are a fan of the Band of Brothers you need to top off your reading with this book.

As an avid WW2 reader, I enjoyed "Conversation with Major Dick Winters", however there seemed to be a lot of repetitive material. There were several places in the book I found quite slow. Winters' own "Beyond the Band of Brothers" written with Cole Kingseed I found to be a much better read.

I felt this book was valuable not as a memoir or recounting of events in the war, but as a treatise on a friendship of a couple of special men. Since it's about Dick Winters, it did have the relationship to what I normally read concerning WWII memoirs, but definitely takes on a flavor of learning about what honest good men are all about, which I think is lacking in this current time period where men put self above others. I mention that because I think that is what attracts me to WWII writings, they are all about putting self below the masses, the sacrifice we call heroism. This book helps bring out that important character so lacking in past middle aged men worldwide in the 21st century and makes you think a lot. Great book about great men just interacting and respecting one another and the world around them. It also provides something most memoirs leave out, it gives the real picture of life back in "reality" after the war. Since people my age often have observed this reality of a vet (my father was) living his life after war, there are many who will appreciate seeing how different men

handled the return to the rest of their life. I appreciated the detail put into this book rather than think it created a slowness. It's the level of detail I want to know.

If you are a Maj. Dick Winters fan, this is a great book by Col. Cole Kingseed. The close friendship of the two men produced this great book. Their conversations over the years produced *Beyond Band of Brothers* which was brought to print during Maj. Winters' lifetime which I also read and enjoyed. Kingseed's attention to detail in both books and Maj. Winters' notes, letters and memories served both projects very well. This is a must-have book to keep in your collection of the stories of the men of Easy Company, 506th Regiment.

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