

Oliver Weilein  
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Dear Ellen Emerson White,

Ok, you may not think that a twelve-year-old kid would be as interested in the Vietnam War and World War II as I am. Well, I am. All my life I've been looking for a book that shows the true pride of the Marines.

I've wanted to be a Marine for life, and I was ignorant about what it would take. I thought it would be like, Snap! I'm a Marine! I also thought that war would be a fun, great experience. This book proved me wrong. The things Patrick went through made me gag or go hide in a corner.

The book also reminded me of my grandpa who was in the Navy. He was in World War II, and he was in Pearl Harbor during the attack and is one of the few that are still alive today. He was on the Tennessee, a battle ship in Pearl Harbor. When the attack began, he was reading the comics in the paper, and then he saw a bunch of planes. He knew right then they were being attacked, and contrary to the movie, the men were in position without a hassle. He suffered from a shrapnel wound to his pit, and with that he had swim to shore...amazing. As he was swimming to shore, he watched in horror as the Arizona plunged to the bottom of the harbor.

He also fought in Guam alongside the Marines, and he said they were the finest men alive. The book made me think: Who were the Marines? What do they do? What does it take to wear that uniform? After reading this book, I knew. One day, someday I'll be a Marine. I'll be one of the few, the proud, the Marines.

With great thanks,

Oliver Welein

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