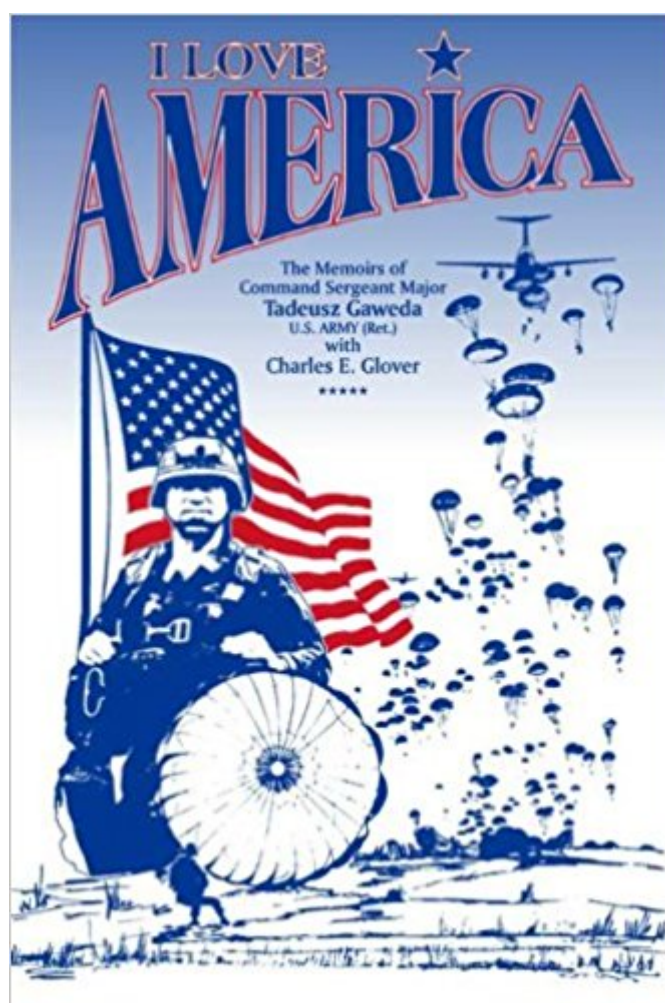


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# I Love America: The Memoirs Of Command Sergeant Major Tadeusz Gaweda As Written By Charles E. Glover



## Synopsis

In full flight from the advancing Russian army, Nazi legions pour into Kamien-Koszyrski, Poland, in November 1943. The Nazi troops invade the town in a frenzy, routing townspeople from their homes and loading them onto horse-drawn wagons – the first step in what will become a nightmare journey to a German labor camp. Ten-year-old Tadeusz Gaweda, his parents, and seven brothers and sisters pile into a wagon with blankets, the clothes on their backs, and a few personal items. Fierce Ukrainian partisans twice ambush the convoy, killing indiscriminately. The Gaweda family and other survivors are jammed into unheated railroad boxcars for the final leg of their hellish trip. At the work camp, Tadeusz and his little sister survive yet another attempt on their lives. They only pretend to swallow the “medicine” handed out by guards – a little red pills that are actually poison. Tadeusz and his family are rescued by advancing American GIs who liberated the camp. The soldier saviors become Tadeusz’s heroes, and by the time he emigrates to the United States in 1949, his dream is to join the United States Army. He tries to enlist but is turned away because of his age. After working in Polish bakeries in Brooklyn and Chicago, he realizes his dream in 1953 and embarks on a thirty-five-year career in the United States Army – four tours in Korea, two in Vietnam, and combat in the Dominican Republic and Grenada. As he rises rapidly in rank, medals, citations, badges, and other decorations cover the front of his uniform. In 1984 Gaweda reaches the pinnacle of his career when he becomes command sergeant major of the XVIII Airborne Corps, the top enlisted man among 84,000 soldiers. This also is a continuing love story. Gaweda’s wife, Edith, whose family was forced to leave Czechoslovakia’s Sudetenland after the end of World War II, met her future husband after fleeing from communist East Germany through the Berlin subway system.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 268 pages

Publisher: Dorrance Publishing Co. Inc. (July 31, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0805945970

ISBN-13: 978-0805945973

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 6.2 x 9.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #697,772 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #15 in [Books > History >](#)

Military > Korean War > Personal Narratives #5781 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders & Notable People > Military](#)

## Customer Reviews

"Ted Gaweda has put in print a clear picture of himself as a kid who had a dream..." -- Command Sergeant Major Kenneth Merritt, U.S. Army (Ret.) "This patriotic message about the life of 'The Greatest Soldier I Ever Knew' should be required reading... -- Major General Claude T. Ivey, U.S. Army (Ret.) Your story is an inspiration to everyone who must accomplish the mission and take care of soldiers. -- Colonel Timothy A. Scully, U.S. Army

Charles E. Glover retired as editor in chief of the Atlanta-based Cox Newspapers in June 1989. A prize-winning reporter, he worked for the Cox organization for forty years in Dayton, Ohio, and Atlanta. He is a World War II navy combat veteran who took part in five amphibious invasions in the Southwest Pacific. In August of 1995, he completed a week-by-week chronicle on the fiftieth anniversary of the Second World War, which ran for three years and eight months. The article moved every Sunday to more than six hundred locations worldwide on the New York Times syndicated wires service. A native of Stone Bluff, Indiana, Glover graduated from Ohio University in 1949 with a bachelor's degree in journalism. He received an honorary doctorate from the school in 1985.

I had the distinct privilege of serving under Command Sergeant Major Gaweda and can say without hesitation that in my 20 year career, I never met a finer soldier, leader, example-setter and downright great human being. His book brought back memories of serving under this great man, and his story is one that should be read by anyone who wonders "why should I love America." Well done... Airborne!

This was an Army promotion gift sent directly to my Grandson. He was very happy with the book and how fast it arrived at his home.

Tadeusz Gaweda was born in Poland. At age ten, he and his family are transported to a German work camp. On Easter Sunday, 1945, the camp was liberated by the United States Army. From that day on his ambition was to be an American soldier. I Love America The Memoirs of Command Sergeant Major Tadeusz Gaweda with Charles E. Glover is an American success story. After

surviving an unimaginable childhood and internment in the Nazi camp, Tadeusz (Ted) and his family came to America in 1949. While still a Polish national, four years later he joined the Army and his military career lasted for thirty-five years. He became an American citizen while serving in Korea. His military career included four tours in Korea and two tours in Viet Nam. He served with honor, dignity and devotion. The book is filled with high accolades from those who served with him. He achieved the rank of Command Sergeant Major and the events that led to this are eloquently described in this book. Just as fascinating as his story is the story of his wife, Edith. From Czechoslovakia to East Germany to Berlin and finally to America comes the story of a strong and courageous woman. She vividly describes her return visits to East Berlin and provides insight as to what she found life to be like there. This is a story of accomplishment, patriotism and motivation. I found it to be inspiring and informative, I recommend reading this book. I received this book free of charge through the Dorrance Book Review Team and I give this review of my own free will.

Book a must-read for young soldier This letter is to provide information on a book that I recently read about the life of one of America's and the Army's true patriot's, Tadeusz (Ted) Gaweda. I had the honor to have serve with Gaweda and saw first-hand this magnificent leader's caring approach to the soldiers in his charge. "I Love America" is one of the best books I have read in many years. It grabs you from the first page and you will find it hard to put it down. "I love America" takes a rare look at one of America's finest professional soldiers from his boyhood in Poland until his retirement as the top noncommissioned officer of the XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg. Gaweda's 35-year career comes alive in this fine work. It is an excellent blend of humor, anecdotes and lesson learned that every leader, both in and out of our armed forces, will benefit from. "I Love America" gives the young soldier a blueprint for success in the military. Throughout his numerous tours of duty in Korea, Germany, Vietnam and Fort Bragg, his professionalism is readily apparent. He was always there to "square away" a soldier whether the soldier was private or a general. This book is a "must read" for leaders truly committed to taking care of their soldiers. David R. Henderson Command Sgt. Maj. (Retired) Parkton, NC

This is the story of a young Polish boy who escapes death at the hands of the Nazis, is rescued by the US Army and decides then and there that he will become an American soldier. And what a soldier he becomes. After finding his way to America with his family, Tadeusz Gaweda joins the Army, becomes a paratrooper and works his way up the ranks to the top enlisted grade as Command Sergeant Major of the elite XVIII Airborne Corps. It is a story of personal sacrifice,

unrelenting high standards, perseverance, a determination to excel and a high order of devotion to duty and to his adopted country. By his side through it all is his lovely wife, Edith, who had endured the Nazi occupation of her Czechoslovakian homeland and who exhibited personal bravery as well in escaping from behind the Iron Curtain. In the end, Command Sergeant Major Gaweda's story is a love story-the love of a man for his wife and family, his comrades in arms and his love of America. I found his story to be both moving and inspiring. Those of us who are native-born Americans may take our good fortune somewhat lightly at times. Edith and Tadeusz Gaweda -Americans by choice-make us native born Americans grateful for what we have had from birth.

This was basically and "I love me book." Almost every 4th page had something about how someone was saying that SGMJ Tadeusz was the best they had ever seen. His combat experience was basically "I went to Viet Nam, I came home from Viet Nam." Very little substance as to what happened, which leads me to believe that SGMJ Tadeusz was pretty much of a politician. I listened to him talk about his experiences at a meeting of the Military Officers of America, and he spoke about 5 minutes or less, and didn't describe anything about his combat experience. I believe that he accomplished a lot in his life, but his book was so much of a disappointment that I gave it away.

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