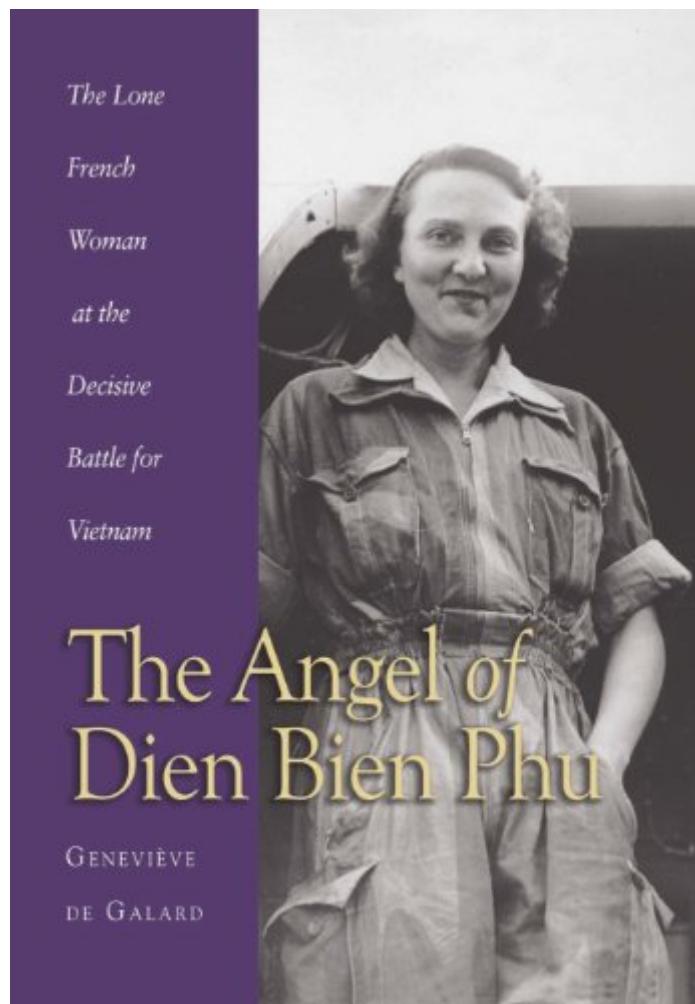


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Angel Of Dien Bien Phu: The Lone French Woman At The Decisive Battle For Vietnam



Synopsis

As the only French woman among some 11,000 defenders at Dien Bien Phu, GeneviÈve de Galard had a unique perspective of the siege and fall of the French fortress. This memoir about her years as a flight nurse for the French air force offers previously unknown details about their defeat. De Galard was on the flights that evacuated casualties from the battle, often landing in the midst of Vietminh artillery barrages. After a French air force C-47 with de Galard on board was seriously damaged, she tended to the wounded and dying in a field hospital. Her efforts won her the Knight's Cross and the Croix de Guerre, and from the American press the name Angel of Dien Bien Phu. Following a tickertape parade in New York, President Eisenhower awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1954. Now, Americans can learn the full story.

Book Information

File Size: 1699 KB

Print Length: 235 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1591142067

Publisher: Naval Institute Press; 1 edition (May 31, 2013)

Publication Date: May 31, 2013

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00CW0T4KS

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #783,558 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #311 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Military & Wars > Vietnam War #735 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders & Notable People > Military > Vietnam War #1775 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Modern (16th-21st Centuries) > 20th Century

Customer Reviews

I'm a veteran of Vietnam and an amateur historian of the entire Vietnam era from the French colonization forward. I also just finished reading the "Bible" of Dien Bien Phu titled: The Last Valley.

What these people endured at DBP is quite unbelievable. What this fine lady endured in the "hospital" at DBP is beyond human description. Highly recommended. A fantastic read with copius photos.

This book is the autobiography of Genevieve de Galard, the only French woman on the ground during the battle of Dien Bien Phu. Ms. de Galard was a flight nurse whose job it was to fly on the aircraft used to evacuate wounded from the battlefield. She ended up in Dien Bien Phu when the aircraft she was on was hit on the ground and was unable to leave the battle. It is a compelling book on a number of levels; it is very well-written with her observations presented in a matter-of-fact manner without exaggeration. The author describes in great detail the heroism and dedication of the French soldiers (and of the other nationalities, including Moroccans, Germans, and Vietnamese who were serving in units of the French Union Forces) who continued to fight and die in what they knew to be a lost battle. The elan of these troops was amazing - near the end of the battle, 680 non-parachute qualified volunteers jumped into Dien Bien Phu, in addition to the qualified paratroopers who continued to reinforce the garrison up to the last. Ms de Galard describes her activities during the battle and her captivity after the surrender (she was a prisoner of the Viet Minh for 17 days). She describes living conditions during the battle and those of the prison camps after the battle. The author also speaks of her personal dedication to her patients, both during the battle and in the years following the battle. This is an excellent book; it gives insight into a part of the Indochina war that not many people know.

A REAL ANGEL "The Angel of Dien Bien Phu" by Genevieve De Galard is an unforgettable autobiography about and unforgettable woman in an unforgettable historical event. Ms. Galard was the only female nurse who experienced the downfall of the French fortifications when overrun by the Vietminh forces in Vietnam on May 7, 1954. Here is a unique inside account of the horrendous trials and tribulations experienced by the French forces during and... after the battle. Ms. Galard not only survived the battle, but the capture and torture of her countrymen. Despite her capture she continued to care for the sick and dying until her eventual release by the North Vietnamese. Here then, is a story of a magnificent woman, a true warrior who, although "not an active combatant" still rivals such great historical figures as Queen Boudica or St. Joan of Arc. Don't overlook this extremely important contribution to history, and to mankind. Thank you... Mademoiselle Genevieve De Galard!

I have read almost every english written book on DBP in the past 35+ years and this book is perfect. It give you a side of the great battle few could undersatnd. And yet here it is in print. Take the time to buy and read this book and you will learn that there are "Angles" who live and walk among us.....not just the ones in the clouds BRAVO!!!!!!

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