



Blazing Combat

By Archie Goodwin

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Written by Archie Goodwin and drawn by such luminaries as Frank Frazetta, Wally Wood, John Severin, Alex Toth, Al Williamson, Russ Heath, Reed Crandall, and Gene Colan, Blazing Combat was originally published by independent comics publisher James Warren in 1965 and '66. Following in the tradition of Harvey Kurtzman's Two-Fisted Tales and Frontline Combat, Goodwin's stories reflected the human realities and personal costs of war rather than exploiting the clichés of the traditional men's adventure genre. They were among the best comics stories about war ever published.

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Blazing Combat By Archie Goodwin Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

After its success replicating the classic EC horror comics a decade after their demise, the publisher of the black-and-white horror magazine Creepy followed the same formula in 1965 with a publication that emulated EC's ahead-of-their-time war comics. Like Creepy, *Blazing Combat* was drawn by many EC veterans, including Wally Wood, John Severin, and Joe Orlando, as well as such talented artists as Alex Toth and Gene Colan. Scriptor Archie Goodwin followed the EC model by eschewing the typical gung-ho, Sgt. Rock approach in favor of a generally antiwar tone and penning stories embracing historic conflicts from the American Revolution and Civil War to the then-current Vietnam War. It was that contemporary touch that led to the title's undoing. A story in the second issue, told from the viewpoint of a peasant rice farmer whose village was occupied by the Vietcong and then destroyed in an American counterattack, induced wholesalers to reject the magazine and the military to banish it from PXs. Nevertheless, *Blazing Combat's* four issues constitute a high-water mark of the war-comics genre. --Gordon Flagg

Review

"For lovers of great art, lovingly rendered in black and white and gray ink wash..., this is as good as it gets... This is one collection of war comics that even those not inclined to care about the genre can appreciate, and now it's more affordable than ever." (Johnny Bacardi - Popdose)

"With people like Wood, Toth, and Heath involved, I knew the art would be fantastic in *Blazing Combat*, but I've been surprised at the quality of Archie Goodwin's writing...it's much more satisfying than expected." (Timothy Hodler - Robot 6)

"[T]he artistry on display is... mind-boggling, particularly in the case of Crandall, Heath and Severin... The creators clearly had a real love for this kind of material, so much so that I wish things had tipped slightly in their favor a bit more." (Chris Mautner - Robot 6)

"[O]nce again, I'm engaged in *Blazing Combat*. What a thrill! And the art!... Highly recommended. Don't argue! Just buy it!" (David McDonnell - Starlog)

"Although the subject matter is bleak, the presentation it's been given is beautiful. This is as good as war comics get." (Rob Lott - Bookgasm)

"*Blazing Combat's*...issues constitute a high-water mark of the war-comics genre." (Gordon Flagg - Booklist)

"[F]eatures a collection of some of the most beautiful black and white comic art you have ever seen... It also features interviews and some of the most beautiful printing I have seen. Honestly, put down those monthly comics for a week and buy something you will enjoy a lifetime. From cover to cover, this book is what keeps me in comics." (Jimmy Palmiotti - Newsarama)

"Anybody who wants to read great great comics, war stories, or a superb tutorial in short form comics writing and unsurpassed comics illustration needs to read this one." (Michael C. Lorah - Newsarama)

"Packed with gloriously miserable... war stories covering everything from the battle of Thermopylae to Vietnam... all beautifully captured by comics legends like Archie Goodwin, Alex Toth, Joe Orlando, and

Gene Colan in appropriately murky grays... Fantagraphics has slapped together a nice, hefty... hardbound collection that's worth a read, whether you're a comic nerd, war buff, one-legged veteran, or one of those snooty I-only-read-graphic-novels types.” (Jonah Spangenthal-Lee - The Stranger)

“I think it's healthy for adolescent boys to have access to well-written, well-drawn comics about war, as long as the comics in question constantly pound home the message that war is futile, stupid and contemptible.” (Douglas Wolk - TIME/Techland)

“[A]n amazing collection of... stories... written by the outstanding Archie Goodwin... throw in some of the most amazing art, all of it sharply and expertly reproduced, and you've got some real dynamite here. ... And there's fantastic bonus features.” (Tom McLean - Bags and Boards)

“*Blazing Combat*, a new hardcover collection from Fantagraphics, showcases some truly fantastic work from a multitude of comics greats... The collection itself is sharp as a tack... Fantagraphics really packages it nicely.” (Litany of Schist)

“Adam Grano's bold design cover design is the perfect complement to Fantagraphics' comprehensive collection... with a stellar team of artists that included Frank Frazetta, Wally Wood, John Severin, Alex Toth, Al Williamson, Russ Heath, Reed Crandall, and Gene Colan. It's remarkable how little these stories have aged, as many cover thematic ground that resonates to this day.... Even the more straightforward “war comics” that are presented in this volume have an unusual gravitas that fits naturally over the proceedings, making the stories collected stand out, and the interviews with Archie Goodwin and Jim Warren provide an in-depth and fascinating look at the pressures that the controversial comic magazine faced.” (Kevin Church - BeaucoupKevin.com)

“This collection of the 1965-66 *Blazing Combat* war comic magazine is a stellar publication... It's a master class on how to tell a short story, and I highly recommend checking it out.” (Sandy Bilus - I Love Rob Liefeld)

“*Blazing Combat* reprints all 4 issues of the ground-breaking war series... These are fascinating stories... drawn by some of the top talent in comics... [who] did some of their finest works for this short-lived publication. This new package from Fantagraphics Books is a handsome hardcover... the design work is A+, this time by Adam Grano.” (Gary Sassaman - Innocent Bystander)

“[A]mong the high points of 1960s comics, and this handsome collection is one of the most welcome reprint volumes of the last few years.” (Robert Martin - The Comics Journal)

“Poignant and tragic, inspiring and depressing, *Blazing Combat* give an insightful glimpse into the bloody battles that have plagued this world.” (Marc Mason - Comics Waiting Room)

“Each panel is a stunning work of art, beautifully preserved on heavy paper. Just as relevant as when they were first published, the stories should still draw an emotional reaction.” (Rachelle Goguen - The Coast (Halifax))

“This is a wonderful and necessary collection of Archie Goodwin's 1960s attempt at Warren to replicate the best of the war-focused EC comics of the previous decade. Beautifully designed and all-in-one, too.” (Tom Spurgeon - The Comics Reporter)

“*Blazing Combat* collects the entire run in a beautiful, incredibly well-bound hardcover book... The stories'

tone is very 1960s, ironic with a cynicism stemming from brokenhearted humanism.” (Carol Borden - The Cultural Gutter)

“[One of] the... best collections of 2009..., bringing all the issues of Warren magazine's short-lived war comic under one cover, written (mostly) by Archie Goodwin and drawn by some of the finest artists of the '60s...” (Steven Grant - Comic Book Resources)

“Astounding...The art is reproduced from 'the original printer's films,' so the work is clear and detailed, with the washes and shading providing depth and a feeling of realism...The stories are still timely.” (Johanna Draper Carlson - Comics Worth Reading)

“These are awesome comics, collected in one hardcover edition... Fantagraphics have done us a big favor by reprinting them all.” (The Comic Book Haters)

“Just finished reading and cannot recommend enough the new Fantagraphics release *Blazing Combat*.” (This Is Why I Hate You)

“There was a time when War Comics told War Fact. They showed us the blood, death, camaraderie and horror. [*Blazing Combat*] did just that and didn't hold back.” (Chris Marshall - Forbidden Planet International)

About the Author

Archie Goodwin was an important comic book writer and editor for Warren, DC, and Marvel. He was born in 1937 and died in 1998.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Johanna Garrett:

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