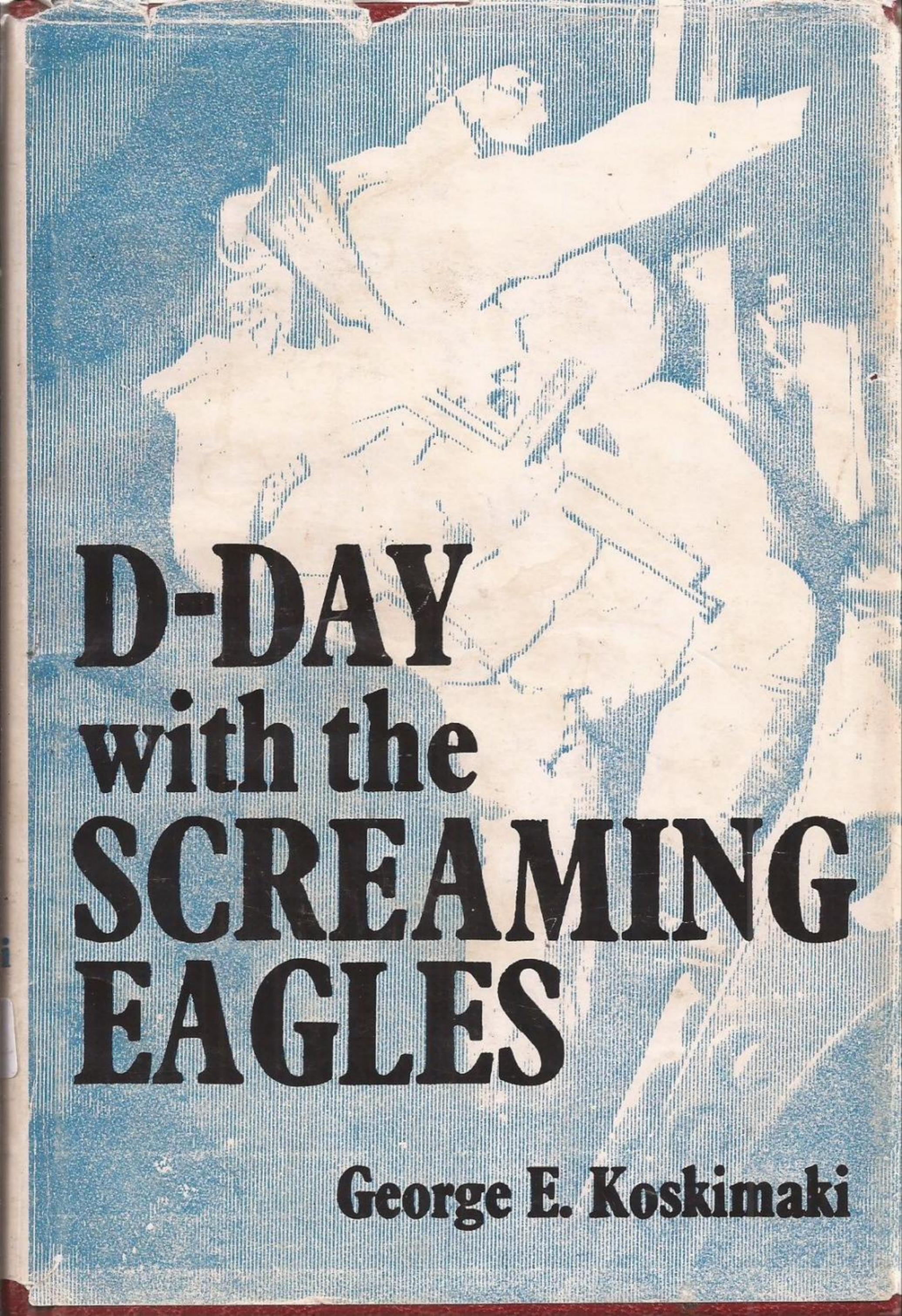


along with their ammunition. He located his first man about three-quarters of an hour later. Haag remembered, "I had six men at daylight. We headed toward an area where a good skirmish was going on. Upon approaching a chapel on a rise nearby, I saw what looked like half of the German army. I decided we would go a different way. A Kraut patrol got on our trail and pushed us in the opposite direction. We went round and round but couldn't break through so finally I tried the easy way which was back in the direction from which we had come. Later I ran into Captain William Paty of A Company who had about six or seven men with him. We were run into a dead-end hedgerow and trapped. Captain Paty gave us orders to dig in and try to hold out until dark. After the group under Captain Simmons (CO of 1st Battalion Headquarters Company) was put out of action, the Krauts moved in on us. By this time we were no match as our ammo was low and quite a few of us were wounded and I think there were three dead.

"Sergeant Beall was the other man killed.⁵ I knew him personally. I can still see one lad just as if it had happened yesterday. I had sent him to the edge of the hedgerow to protect that end of our front."

Haag was from a German-speaking family in Wisconsin and his knowledge of the language gave him an inkling of what the enemy was planning. "My knowledge of German came back in a hurry when I heard the Krauts issuing orders. We were surrounded by men of the German 6th Parachute Regiment and they used all oral means of communication. I had a pretty good idea of what was going on although when their company commander gave the order to close in and finish us off, I wished I had never heard or understood a word of German. They closed in on us and set up two machine guns, one on each end of the hedgerow. After a few minutes of tremendous small-arms and machine-gun fire, a lieutenant hollered, 'Give up!'

"We just fired back. So they gave us another 'chorus.' Then this Kraut lieutenant ran out in front of our position with his burp gun blazing away and once again hollered, 'Give up!' Captain Paty, badly wounded by now, somehow



D-DAY
with the
SCREAMING
EAGLES

George E. Koskimaki