

## About the author: Daniel Ford

Daniel Ford has spent a lifetime studying the wars of the past century, from the Irish rebellion of 1916 to America's misadventures in Iraq and Afghanistan. Born in November 1931 in Arlington, Massachusetts, the son of Irish immigrants, he attended public and parochial schools in New Hampshire and Massachusetts, meanwhile working jobs from farm laborer to school janitor. He graduated in 1950 as the top student in his class at Brewster Academy in Wolfeboro, N.H., and was again at the top of his class at the University of New Hampshire (A.B. Political Science 1954).

He won a Fulbright fellowship to study at the Victoria University of Manchester, taking the opportunity to hitchhike through the Continent, an adventure that long afterward he wrote about in *Poland's Daughter: How I Met Basia, Hitchhiked to Italy, and Learned About Love, War, and Exile* (2013). Drafted into the U.S. Army upon his return to the United States, Ford trained at Fort Dix and the Special Warfare Center, Fort Bragg, and then was stationed at Coligny Caserne in Orle'ans, France. He took his discharge in Europe to work as a reporter for the Overseas Weekly in Frankfurt, Germany.

Home again in 1959, Dan settled in Durham, N.H., to become a free-lance journalist and novelist. An assignment for *The Nation* took him to South Vietnam in 1964, traveling with American advisors and Special Forces troops, which provided grist for *Incident at Muc Wa*, published by Doubleday in the U.S., Heinemann in Britain, and Ardent in Dutch translation. It was later filmed as *Go Tell the Spartans* with Burt Lancaster in the starring role.

In 1986 he began to research the American Volunteer Group, mercenary pilots who won fame as the "Flying Tigers" of Burma and China, work that took him to Taipei, Rangoon, Kunming, London, and Washington. He won a Verville Fellowship (1989-90) at the National Air and Space Museum to work with Japanese accounts of the air war in Southeast Asia. *When Flying Tigers: Claire Chennault and His American Volunteers, 1941-1942* was published in 1991, it won the annual Aviation-Space Writers' Award of Excellence. The book is now in its third edition.

Dan reviews books for the *Wall Street Journal* and maintains the Warbird's Forum, Piper Cub Forum, and Reading Proust websites. He soloed in a J-3 Piper Cub at the age of 68 and flew as a sport pilot until he grounded himself when he turned 80. Meanwhile he earned a degree "with distinction" from King's College London (M.A. War Studies 2010) in an online class comprised of mid-career British Army officers and other military men and civilians from around the world. Most recently, he wrote a memoir, *Looking Back From Ninety: The Depression, the War, and the Good Life That Followed*, for publication on his birthday in November 2021.

In 1967 he married Sarah Lansing Paine. They have a daughter, Katharine, who with her husband Hamish Laird sailed around the world while taking charter parties to high latitudes. Two granddaughters are now in college. Dan's lesser passions include opera, alpine skiing, and reading all possible translations of Marcel Proust's *In Search of Lost Time*. Home and office: 433 Bay Road, Durham NH 03824 USA.

## Further information

Wikipedia article: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel\\_Ford](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_Ford)

UNH Magazine profile: <https://www.unh.edu/unhtoday/2014/06/write-stuff>

Author website: <https://www.danfordbooks.com>

## Books by Daniel Ford

*Looking Back From Ninety: The Depression, the War, and the Good Life That Followed* (2021)

*Cowboy: The Interpreter Who Became a Soldier, a Warlord, and One More Casualty of Our War in Vietnam* (2018)

*Tales of the Flying Tigers* (2016)

*Poland's Daughter: How I Met Basia, Hitchhiked to Italy, and Learned About Love, War, and Exile* (2013)

Editor: *When I Am Going*, by Anne Crowley Ford (2012)

*A Vision So Noble: John Boyd, the OODA Loop, and America's War on Terror* (2010)

*Michael's War: A Story of the Irish Republican Army* (2003)

Editor: *The Lady and the Tigers*, by Olga Greenlaw (2002)

*The Only War We've Got: Early Days in South Vietnam* (2001)

*Remains: A Story of the Flying Tigers* (2000)

*Glen Edwards: The Diary of a Bomber Pilot* (1998)

*Flying Tigers: Claire Chennault and His American Volunteers, 1941-1942* (1991, 2007, 2016, translated into Chinese)

*The Country Northward: A Hiker's Journal* (1976)

*The High Country Illuminator: A Tale of Light and Darkness and the Ski Bums of Avalon* (1971)

*Incident at Muc Wa: A Story of the Vietnam War* (1967; translated into Dutch; filmed as *Go Tell the Spartans*)

*Now Comes Theodora: A Story of the 1960s* (1965)