

## 'The Forgotten Men'

By **AARON SCHWADERER** Daily Light staff writer | **Posted: Thursday, January 17, 2013 2:48 pm**

A Dallas author's first published work is set in Midlothian and tells the sad, true story of U.S. prisoners of war, "The Forgotten Men," after World War II.

Dan Jackson was always told, "write what you know," and he felt the need to tell what he knew about the U.S. soldiers liberated from German POW camps only to be enslaved by the Soviet Union as laborers to rebuild the USSR.

"The Forgotten Men" takes place in the late 1980s with most of the story set in Midlothian. Retired American O.S.S. officer Leonard Galloway owns Midlothian Concrete, MidCon, and still thinks about the thousands of POWs who were shipped to the USSR as slave laborers 40 years ago. Only about 100 Americans remain, but Galloway has a plan to free those last survivors who never got to come back home.

"I hope in writing 'The Forgotten Men' is to shed light on this very sad incident and to honor these men who were never allowed to come home. If more people understand what happened to these men through my book, I would consider it a great accomplishment," Jackson said. "I'll never forget that day in 1987 when I read a Wall Street article about the POWs. It was almost a short, almost nondescript article off to the side of the page, but it really struck me. I thought those men and couldn't sleep that night."

Jackson had been tossing around ideas wanting to write a novel, and while out running one morning the story of the U.S. POWs popped into his head and the entire story laid itself out for him.

"As the German soldiers fled the Soviets arrested them and liberated the POW camps, but they felt like these soldiers were the spoils of war and they need labor to rebuild the USSR," he said. "The U.S. government couldn't do a whole lot about it except start another war, and they just weren't prepared to do that."

Jackson has meticulously researched the true events and enslavement of U.S. POWs to lead as much realism to his first published novel. His research and declassified documents are included in an epilogue to report the real events that inspired the story.

Jackson's love of Midlothian goes back to before he was working with the city as a client of his financial and economic consultant firm.

"I always felt like Midlothian was the ideal location for him (Galloway)," he said. "It's out of the

way and the story is set in the late 1980s when Midlothian experienced a building boom and there were a lot of concrete businesses. It was just a very natural setting for the story, and I'm glad it worked out as well as it did."

Jackson feels like Midlothian has been good to him throughout his years working for TXI and then consulting with the city as a client.

"It's the least I could do to provide some publicity for the city while getting to tell this story," he said.

Jackson's story of getting his book published is similar to most first-time authors. He struggled for years, sending his novel off to 40-50 publishers with nothing more than a few comments in return.

"I put it aside for a number of years until my brother, Phillip Ellis Jackson, became a published author. He told me to dust it off and try again, 'What could it hurt,' he asked me," he said. "I reworked it as a historical fiction since there was no Soviet Union or KGB anymore. I was flabbergasted when the first publisher I sent it to agreed to publish it."

Media Guruz based in Las Vegas, Nev. agreed to publish the novel in hardcopy and ebook editions through online retailers. "The Forgotten Men" can be found on Amazon.com and by searching for the title and Dan V. Jackson.

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