

The Lost Battalion

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Rhymes of a lost Battalion Doughboy
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Ordeal of the "Lost Battalion.".
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this volume with exhaustive on site research details america s last major offensive of world war i the battle of the meuse argonne which took place from september 26 through november 11 1918 it examines the movements and countermovements that

comprised the still unequaled conflict of the argonne forest the main focus of the work is the five day isolation and besiegement of the so called lost battalion from october 2 to 5 major charles whittlesey and 554 men were cut off from all other u s units and attacked by german forces in an area known as the pocket written with a view toward bringing this legendary tale to a more personal level the work creates a vivid picture of the men who lived fought and died in the final all consuming battle of world war i

in this unique history of the lost battalion of world war i alan d gaff tells for the first time the story of the 77th division from the perspective of the soldiers in the ranks on october 2 1918 maj charles w whittlesey led the 77th division in a successful attack on german defenses in the argonne forest of northeastern france his unit comprised of men of a wide mix of ethnic backgrounds from new york city and the western states was not a battalion nor was it ever lost but once a newspaper editor applied the term lost battalion to the episode it stuck gaff draws from new unimpeachable sources such as sworn testimony by soldiers who survived the ordeal to correct the myths and legends and to reveal what really happened in the argonne forest during early october 1918

during american participation in world war i many events caught the public s attention but none so much as the plight of the lost battalion comprising some five hundred men of the seventy seventh division the so called battalion was entrapped on the side of a ravine in the argonne forest by german forces from october 2 to 7 1918 the men s courage under siege in the midst of rifle machine gun mortar and artillery fire coming both day and night with nothing to eat after the morning of the first day save grass and roots and with water dangerous to obtain has gone down in american history as comparable in heroism to the defense of the alamo and the stand at the little big horn of the troops of general george a custer now in five days in october historian robert h ferrell presents new material previously unavailable about what really happened during those days in the forest despite the description of them as a lost battalion the men were neither lost nor a battalion the name was coined by a new york newspaper editor who upon learning that a sizable body of troops had been surrounded thought up the notion of a lost battalion it possessed a ring sure to catch the attention of readers the trapped men actually belonged to companies from two battalions of the seventy seventh and their exact placement was well known reported by runners at the outset of the action and by six carrier pigeons released by their commander major charles w whittlesey during the five days his men were there the causes of the entrapment were several including command failures and tactical errors the men had been sent ahead of the main division line without attention to flanks and because of that failure they were

surrounded thus began a siege that took the lives of many men leading to the collapse of the colonel of the 308th infantry regiment and many believe to the suicide of major whittlesey three years later this book grew out of ferrell s discovery of new material in the u s army military history institute at the army war college from the papers of general hugh a drum and in the national archives in college park maryland the drum papers contain the court martial record of the lieutenant of a machine gun unit attached to the battalions who advised major whittlesey to surrender while the seventy seventh division files contain full accounts of the taut relations between the lost battalion s brigade commander and the seventy seventh s division commander by including this material ferrell gives a new accounting of this intriguing affair five days in october will be welcomed by all those interested in a fuller understanding of the story of the lost battalion

in finding the lost battalion author robert j laplander meticulously chronicles what would become one of the most famous events of american participation in world war one discovering the truths behind the legend drawing on hundreds of sources many never before seen and spanning eight years of research including four trips to the sight of the action in france mr laplander leads the reader through the events in the charlevaux ravine during early october 1918 and the circumstances leading up to it virtually hour by hour in this way the book does not merely tell the story itself but explains why it all came about in the first place the end result is the single most factual accounting of the lost battalion and their leader charles w whittlesey to date told in an entertaining fast moving style never dry or boring as some military tomes can be this one is sure to quickly become a favorite on your shelf and the benchmark against which all further work on the lost battalion will be measured

originally published 1st edition indianapolis bobbs merrill co c1938

uncover the larger than life story of world war i s lost battalion and the men who survived the ordeal triumphed in battle and fought the demons that lingered in the first week of october 1918 six hundred men attacked into europe s forbidding argonne forest against all odds they surged through enemy lines alone they were soon surrounded and besieged as they ran out of ammunition water and food the doughboys withstood constant bombardment and relentless enemy assaults seven days later only 194 soldiers from the original unit walked out of the forest the stand of the us army s lost battalion remains an unprecedented display of heroism under fire never in finer company tells the stories of four men whose lives were forever changed by the ordeal major charles whittlesey a lawyer dedicated to serving his men at any cost captain

george mcmurtry a new york stockbroker who becomes a tower of strength under fire
corporal alvin york a country farmer whose famous exploits help rescue his
beleaguered comrades and damon runyon an intrepid newspaper man who interviews
the survivors and weaves their experiences into the american epic emerging from the
patriotic frenzy that sent young men over there each of these four men trod a unique
path to the october days that engulfed them and continued to haunt them as they
struggled to find peace uplifting and compelling never in finer company is a deeply
moving and dramatic story on an epic scale

much has been written about the famous lost battalion of ww1 but few personal stories
by the men who were there have ever been widely distributed now lost battalion and
77th division historian and author robert j laplander changes all that in the lost battalion
as they saw it drawing on his 25 years worth of research into the event the world s
leading authority on the subject presents 31 stories by those who were there told in
their own words from high ranking officers on down to the lowliest private it s all here
described in their own way what they saw what they heard how they felt and what it did
to some of them afterwards often moving and occasionally terrifying these stories
paint a broad mosaic of their experiences colored by their own backgrounds and
personalities for those seeking to understand the lost battalion event in a more direct
way as the men themselves understood it this volume will be a welcome addition to
their library however for all it is a wonderful and interesting peek into one of the most
famous events of world war one

the author of before the flames and the son of a member of the ill fated infantry
battalion discusses america s 551st battalion and their heroic little known role during
world war ii s battle of the bulge

this is a new release of the original 1922 edition

the autobiography of john w nell a private in world war i s lost battalion

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trapped in the pocket by a ring of german defense troops whittlesey s doughboys faced slow but sure annihilation

amerikaner nest provides new insights into the most celebrated american unit of the great war the 77th division s so called lost battalion it also explores instruments of national power and how imperial germany and the us prepared for war at the turn of the 20th century a german tungsten mine close to spokane washington shipped high grade ore to krupp foundry in essen germany the german military industrial complex understood the strategic value of tungsten and used it to quintuple artillery and capital ship production for the imperial german army and navy the spokane tungsten became a critical part of the kaiser s preparation for a european war the mining operation resulted in one of the war s extraordinary coincidences two men a german sent by the kaiser to run the mine and an american became inextricably linked they would live and work within blocks of each other and would later fight on opposing sides during the war in 1918 they would come face to face on a tiny forested battlefield the americans called the pocket and the germans called amerikaner nest american nest the epic five day battle and the lost battalion s refusal to surrender would become part of us army legend five americans would be recipients of the congressional medal of honor many more would receive the distinguished service cross all were justifiably celebrated as heroes the german army weakened by years of fighting and attrition were near their breaking point but were clearly not done with the fight in the argonne or their resolve to wipe out the amerikaner nest this book traces both men s incredible journeys to their fateful meeting in the argonne their journeys are framed against the backdrop of 20th century great power competition german tungsten mining designed to dramatically ramp up weaponry production and a us army that was desperately unprepared to go to war

the author describes in detail his experiences as an american soldier in france during world war i

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