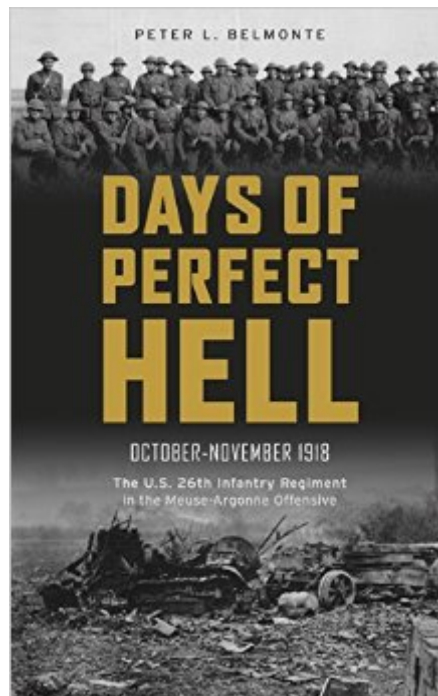


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Days Of Perfect Hell: The U.S. 26th Infantry Regiment In The Meuse-Argonne Offensive, October-November 1918



Synopsis

Nearly 100 years ago, on October 4, 1918, on a muddy, poison gas-soaked hillside in France, the U.S. 26th Infantry Regiment jumped-off amidst a hail of shell fire and machine-gun fire to begin the final push to end World War I. For the next 39 days, with little respite, the regiment fought desperately against a determined, well-armed foe. This is the story of a single regiment in a successful, highly acclaimed "Regular Army" division, during the greatest American battle to date. This is not a dry recitation of facts, but an in-depth examination of a single regiment that allows the reader to appreciate the intricacies of small-unit action and the problems associated with leading platoons, companies, and battalions in battle during the Great War, while at the same time depicting the human drama associated with the terrible carnage

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PETER L. BELMONTESCHIFFER
PUBLISHING, 2015HARDCOVER, \$29.99, 240 PAGES, PHOTOGRAPHS, MAPS, BIBLIOGRAPHY, NOTES, INDEX

On 26 September 1918, the First American Army took the place of the Second French Army and began a series of attacks upon the Germans stationed in the broad valley of the Meuse River, destined to be beyond comparison the greatest battle ever fought by the American troops until that date, and perhaps the greatest battle in the history of the world up to then. General Pershing later wrote in his report of 20 November 1918 that the object of this, the Meuse-Argonne Offensive was "to draw the best German divisions to our front and to consume

them."This area was divided by three dominating features: the heights of the Meuse along the east bank of the unfordable Meuse River, the hills of Montfaucon in the center, with approaches from east and west, and the rising terrain of the heavily wooded Argonne Forest, a plateau in the west of the area. The Germans had constructed a strong interlocking network of defenses in this area for three years. They had built a defensive zone from the line of contact. Three east-west belts of manned fortifications, to the north of the French entrenchments, lay near the zone given the American Expeditionary Force (AEF).The main objective of the American attack was the Sedan-Mezieres Railroad, the principal line of transportation of supplies for the German forces along an important section of the Western Front. Should this way of communication be broken, the entire situation of the enemy would be changed.

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