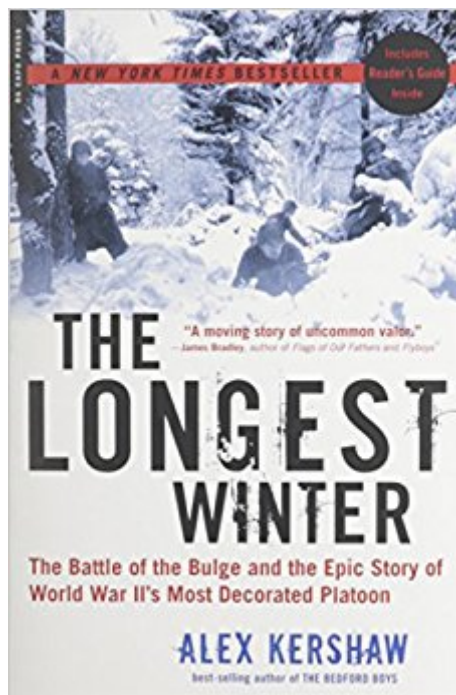




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The Longest Winter: The Battle Of The Bulge And The Epic Story Of WWII's Most Decorated Platoon



Synopsis

On the morning of December 16, 1944, eighteen men of the Intelligence and Reconnaissance platoon attached to the 99th Infantry Division found themselves directly in the path of the main thrust of Hitler's massive Ardennes offensive. Despite being vastly outnumbered, they were told to hold their position "at all costs." Throughout the day, the platoon repulsed three large German assaults in a fierce day-long battle, killing hundreds of German soldiers. Only when they had run out of ammunition did they surrender to the enemy. But their long winter was just beginning. As POWs, the platoon experienced an ordeal far worse than combat-surviving in wretched German POW camps. Yet miraculously the men of the platoon survived-all of them-and returned home after the war. More than thirty years later, when President Carter recognized the platoon's "extraordinary heroism" and the U.S. Army approved combat medals for all eighteen men, they became America's most decorated platoon of World War II. With the same vivid and dramatic prose that made *The Bedford Boys* a national bestseller, Alex Kershaw brings to life the story of these little-known heroes-an epic tale of courage, duty, and survival in World War II and one of the most inspiring episodes in American history. *The Longest Winter* is an intensely human story about young men who find themselves in frightening wartime situations, who fight back instinctively, survive stoically, and live heroically.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The author of *The Bedford Boys* [BKL My 1 03] limns another group portrait of a band of similar World War II soldiers, this time the intelligence and reconnaissance platoon of the 394th Infantry

Regiment, 99th Infantry Division. That green division came squarely in the path of the Wehrmacht during the Battle of the Bulge, and that platoon was one of many small units that fought tenaciously to the bitter end. The whole platoon was captured, but only after they had held a crucial road junction long enough to seriously delay Joachim Pieper's SS battle group. More miraculously, all those captured, even the grievously wounded, survived the war; indeed, most were alive to receive decorations in 1980. The narrative moves from the GIs' combat experience at the Bulge to their POW experience until the closing days of the war, and Kershaw handles both combat and internment skillfully and respectfully. A good read for observing the sixtieth anniversary of the Bulge.

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"A gripping saga about raw courage and superhuman endurance." -- Douglas Brinkley, Professor of History and Director of the Eisenhower Center for American Studies at the University of New Orleans
"A moving story of uncommon valor." -- James Bradley, author, *Flags of Our Fathers* and *Flyboys*
"A riveting read." -- USA Today
"America's enemies would do well not to underestimate this sense of courage and duty." -- Wall Street Journal
"Kershaw is a fantastic storyteller." -- Army magazine
"This book is a must-read for anyone who wants a renewed sense of patriotism." -- Roanoke Times

I've spent a lot of time researching WWII, especially the European theater. This book tells the story of the lynchpin heroes who held during the worst of the German onslaught. Compellingly written, as if it were an action thriller, not a documentary. Much like Steven Ambrose's work, much of the story comes from direct interviews with those on the front line, including Lieutenant Lyle Bouck. One of the best books I've read on the war.

I wasn't sure how much I would like this book when I started, but it was great. I have read many books about this battle, this one gave some insight I had never known before. Great book.

good read

Excellent!

thank you , Alex Kershaw is one of the best writers for non fiction details and information on what it

was like for a soldier to just stay alive and function during the war of WW2,, this book deserves all 5 stars of guts and courage no matter what country the soldier is from it was hell,,

I'm a history buff and completely familiar with the battle of the bulge from numerous books. I enjoyed this book immensely because it added the human touch of some of the largely unknown heroes who fought the battle and were so important to its outcome. Their personal stories after the battle were fascinating. A great book!

I would have given 6 stars had that been an option! This is an amazing (true) story of a group of true American heroes, their history changing battle, and their struggle to stay alive in the barbaric conditions of POW camps. I recommend this to anyone who appreciates the sacrifices some make to keep us all free.

This summer I walked the beaches of Normandy, so I wanted a book that really told of the last big battle of WW2. This book is a very good account of the men who fought a battle of a very hard winter and succeeded in their cause. I like the human thoughts of those men who gave their all. So I liked this book very much.

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