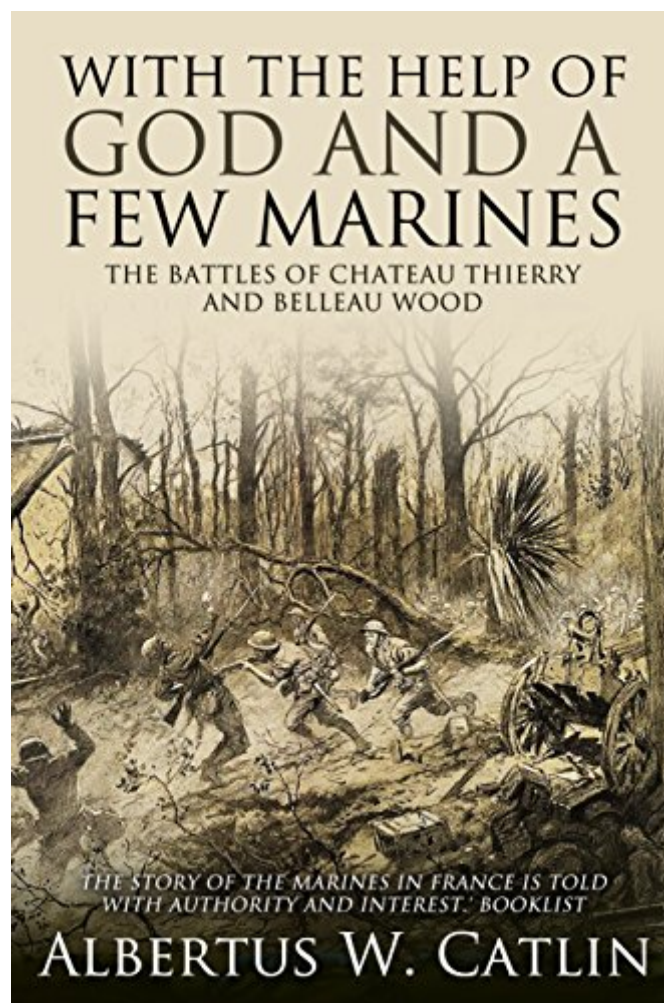


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"With The Help Of God And A Few Marines": The Battles Of Chateau Thierry And Belleau Wood



Synopsis

When the United States declared war on Germany, a thrill went through the Marine Corps, for we were fighting men all and we learned that Marines were to be rushed over to France to take their stand on the Frontier of Liberty beside the battle-scarred veterans of France and Great Britain. Brigadier General Albertus W. Catlin and his fellow marines were among the first American soldiers sent across to France in World War One and within months they were thrown into the thick of the action. As the Germans made a last ditch attempt to break through allied lines and capture Paris it was the marines who stood in their way. In the bloody days of June 1918 Catlin and his small band of marines fought ferociously against the Germans, utilising all the training that they had been through and showing the true metal of the marines. It is a period that has gone down as one of the greatest achievements of the United States Marines Corps. This fascinating history of the marines and their involvement in World War One was written during Catlin's recovery period after he had been shot by a sniper during the sixth day of the Battle of Belleau Wood. The story of the marines in France is told with authority and interest. "Booklist" It is one of the books about the American war effort which is well worth keeping as well as reading. "Outlook" A well-written and complete account. "Library Bulletin" Albertus W. Catlin (1868-1933) was a career soldier who had received the Medal of Honor for leading the 3rd Marine Regiment at Vera Cruz, Mexico and for displaying distinguished conduct in battle. He published "With the Help of God and a Few Marines" in 1919.

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Customer Reviews

An excellent history of the Marine Brigade at Belleau Wood in WW 1, written by a Regimental Commander that was wounded in the battle. General Albertus W. Catlin wrote this history while he was convalescing from his wound. As a Marine, I am ever humbled by the courage and Esprit Decore of the Marines who have gone before us. General Catlin is the holder of the Medal of Honor for heroism during the 1914 incursion into Vera Cruz, Mexico.

Excellent book written by one of the Marine commanders on the ground at Belleau Wood. Written in 1919, it is a fresh from the trenches view of the battle, and the author is able to convey the pulse of the men he was fighting with very effectively as it was still fresh in his mind and heart as he started writing it. Add it to your WW1 library.

This book was written by an officer leading the troops at the Battle of Belleau Wood, so it is a contemporary, eye-witness account of the early legends of the marine corps. Well-written, in the style of the time, the book conveys the horror of the challenge facing US troops as they were put in the front line to save Paris from the Germans late in the first world war. In spite of lack of battle experience and combat unit coherence, our young (mainly) marines led an offensive to overcome superbly positioned German defenses with superior numbers, in a short while. With this history, marines have an uphill battle to provide excellence in combat.

The book didn't have some of the in depth experiences I was looking for. This was undoubtedly caused by the fact he was wounded so early in the battle. The details in the lead up to the battle were very complete and I was enthralled with the details. One never considers the transport of ammunition and food to the front line forces but he had to do so. It's a good read but the details of the battle are someone else's story as he heard it, not as he lived it.

Thanks to the author for not making this book so detailed, as to be avoided by anyone who desires

to read and expand their knowledge of great historical truths. Great read, informative, and encouraging as well as the last chapter calls us to a stirring of the spirit of patriotism and personal renewal to this wonderful land.

The truth is told. I am always hesitant with books about ww1. When authors from this period are doing the writing they tend to lose their focus on what the subject was about. Like the guy who wrote "a rifleman went to war". He talked about everything but rifleman. A terrible book. This author stayed on topic. I loved it. And the US Marines did save Paris and did help win the war.

Very interesting look into The Great War through the eyes of someone who was there. The AEF perspective is not a subject that is covered all that much so it was nice to see this point of view. Also, I enjoyed the period representation of how they felt and what they were there to accomplish. The book also covers some of the Marines actions from 1870 till the start of The Great War. A very good read for someone that wants to understand the mindset of a Marine and soldier of The Great War.

While dry reading, the book provides a detailed account of allied activity preceding, during and after the battle of Belleau Wood, a significant contributing factor in driving the Germans from French soil.

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