

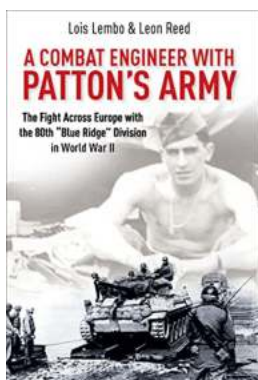
The Fight Across Europe With The 80th Blue Ridge Division In World War II

World War II was one of the darkest chapters in human history, filled with unimaginable horrors and heroic acts of bravery. In the midst of this global conflict, the 80th Blue Ridge Division, comprised of brave men from the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, made a name for themselves as they fought across Europe. Their journey was filled with triumphs, setbacks, and untold sacrifices.

From the initial landing on Omaha Beach during the D-Day invasion to the final push towards Berlin, the 80th Blue Ridge Division played a crucial role in the Allied victory. They faced fierce resistance from German forces, endured harsh conditions, and witnessed the devastation of war firsthand. Their story is a testament to the indomitable spirit of the American soldier.

The Battle of Normandy: A Baptism of Fire

On June 6, 1944, the 80th Blue Ridge Division found themselves on the shores of Omaha Beach, facing the full force of German defenses. The fighting was intense, and many brave soldiers lost their lives on that fateful day. Despite the overwhelming odds, the division managed to establish a foothold on the beach, paving the way for the liberation of Europe.



A Combat Engineer with Patton's Army: The Fight Across Europe with the 80th "Blue Ridge" Division in World War II by Jill Lepore (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 37447 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 289 pages
Lending : Enabled



As the Allies pushed deeper into France, the 80th Blue Ridge Division participated in numerous engagements. From the Battle of Saint-Lô to the fierce fighting in the Hurtgen Forest, the division demonstrated unwavering determination and resilience. They proved themselves to be a formidable force, capable of going toe-to-toe with the best the Germans had to offer.

The Ardennes Offensive: Battle of the Bulge

One of the defining moments for the 80th Blue Ridge Division came during the Battle of the Bulge. Hitler's desperate attempt to turn the tide of the war caught the Allies off guard, and the division found themselves at the center of the German offensive. Despite being heavily outnumbered and outgunned, the soldiers of the 80th fought valiantly to hold their ground.

In the freezing winter conditions of the Ardennes forest, the men of the 80th endured unimaginable hardships. They faced constant shelling, scarce supplies, and the relentless assault of the German army. Yet, they refused to yield, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy and buying crucial time for reinforcements to arrive.

The Final Push: Berlin Beckons

As the war neared its end, the 80th Blue Ridge Division pressed forward, determined to bring an end to Hitler's reign of terror. They fought their way

through Germany, liberating towns and cities along the way. The closer they got to Berlin, the fiercer the resistance became.

On April 27, 1945, the 80th Blue Ridge Division became the first American unit to meet the Soviet Army at the Elbe River, effectively dividing Germany in two. Their actions helped hasten the end of the war and brought hope to a war-weary world.

A Legacy of Heroism

The accomplishments of the 80th Blue Ridge Division in World War II cannot be overstated. Their bravery and sacrifices paved the way for the Allied victory, and their legacy lives on. Today, memorials and museums stand in their honor, ensuring that future generations will never forget the incredible journey of these ordinary men who did extraordinary things.

The fight across Europe with the 80th Blue Ridge Division in World War II serves as a reminder of the cost of freedom and the lengths people are willing to go to defend it. Their story is one of resilience, camaraderie, and unwavering dedication to a cause greater than themselves. We owe them a debt of gratitude that can never truly be repaid.

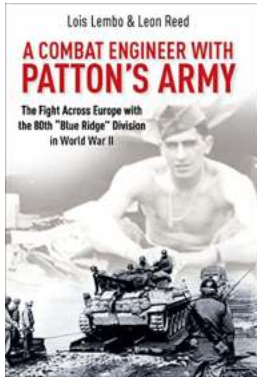
So, let us remember the brave soldiers of the 80th Blue Ridge Division and the countless others who fought alongside them. Their story is etched in the annals of history, a testament to the human spirit and the power of unity in the face of adversity.

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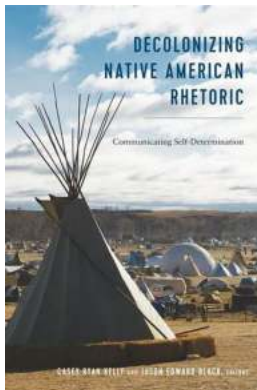
George Patton is renowned for his daring tank thrusts and rapid movement, but the many rivers and obstacles his Third Army encountered crossing Europe required engineers spearheading his advance. *A Combat Engineer with Patton's Army* is the untold story of Frank Lembo, one of Patton's men who helped move the American command in the battle of Argentan in the Normandy Campaign, in the high-speed pursuit of the German Wehrmacht eastward across France, and in the brutal battles waged during the Battle of the Bulge and during the final combats along the borders of the collapsing Reich.

Throughout his time in Europe Lembo maintained a running commentary of his experiences with Betty Craig, his fiancé and future wife. This extensive correspondence provides a unique eyewitness view of the life and work of a combat engineer under wartime conditions. As a squad (and later platoon) leader, Frank and his comrades cleared mines, conducted reconnaissance behind enemy lines, built bridges, and performed other tasks necessary to support the movement of the 317th, 318th, and 319th Infantry Regiments of the Blue Ridge Division—Patton's workhorses, if not his glamour boys.

Frank wrote about the deadly river crossings at the Moselle, Seille, and Sauer, all under enemy fire, and of the frustrating pauses when supplies were diverted. He

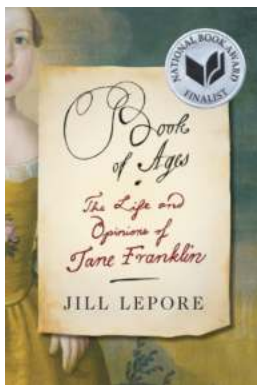
participated in the mid-December sprint to Luxembourg and the relief provided at Bastogne during the Bulge, the liberation of concentration camps once Third Army had charged into Germany, and of their occupation duty in Bavaria. Frank's letters go beyond his direct combat experiences to include the camaraderie among the GIs, living conditions, weather, and the hijinks that helped keep the constant threat of death at bay. His letters also worked to reassure Betty with hopeful dreams for their future together.

Including dozens of previously unpublished photographs, *A Combat Engineer with Patton's Army: The Fight Across Europe with the 80th "Blue Ridge" Division in World War II* offers the rare perspective of what day-to-day warfare at the ground-level looked like in the European Theater through the eyes of one of the men spearheading the advance.



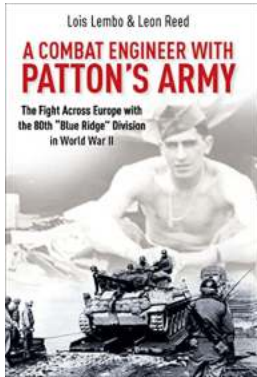
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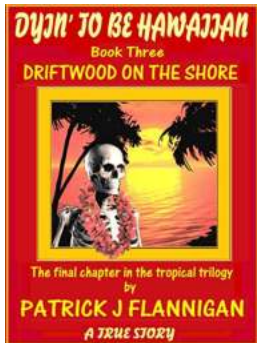
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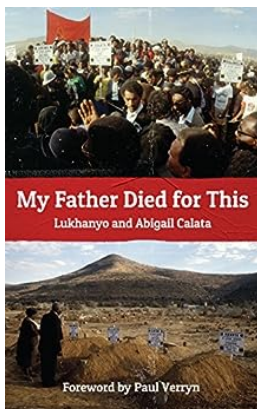
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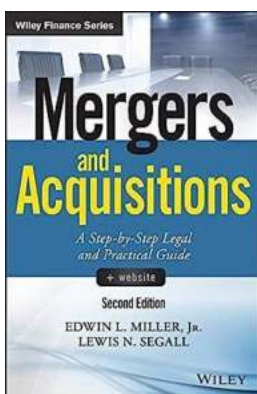
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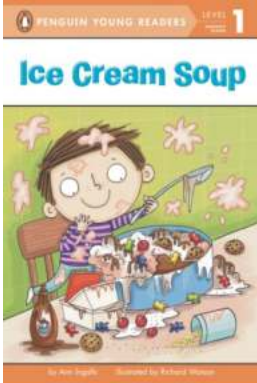
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