

The book was found

Toward The Flame: A Memoir Of World War I



Synopsis

Considered by many to be the finest American combat memoir of the First World War, Hervey Allen's *Toward the Flame* vividly chronicles the experiences of the Twenty-eighth Division in the summer of 1918. Made up primarily of Pennsylvania National Guardsmen, the Twenty-eighth Division saw extensive action on the Western Front. The story begins with Lieutenant Allen and his men marching inland from the French coast and ends with their participation in the disastrous battle for the village of Fismette. Allen was a talented observer, and the men with whom he served emerge as well-rounded characters against the horrific backdrop of the war. As a historical document, *Toward the Flame* is significant for its highly detailed account of the controversial military action at Fismette. At the same time, it easily stands as a work of literature. Clear-eyed and unsentimental, Allen employs the novelist's powers of description to create a harrowing portrait of coalition war at its worst.

Book Information

Paperback: 282 pages

Publisher: University of Nebraska Press; Reissue edition (June 1, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0803259476

ISBN-13: 978-0803259478

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.7 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (14 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #661,959 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in Books > History > Military > Korean War > Personal Narratives #65 in Books > History > Military > Korean War > Campaigns #220 in Books > History > Asia > Korea

Customer Reviews

The strength of Hervey Allen's *"Toward the Flame"* as a war memoir lies in its being a first-person narrative, with all the seeming immediacy and honesty that firsthand experience affords. We remember George Santayana's deliberately hyperbolic warning against the more academic third-person alternative: "History is a pack of lies about events that never happened told by people who weren't there." Hervey Allen was there. Allen allows a "you are there" window into the daily life of WWI combat (Second Battle of the Marne) during six summer weeks in 1918. Missing is the familiar focus on stalemated trench warfare that characterized other battles. For most of the memoir,

Allen is actually on the move through once-picturesque hilly regions of France, but usually in the more peaceful wake of front-line units. The end of the memoir finds him in the intense "Flame" of Fismette fighting. Allen's matter-of-fact tone owes something to the blunting effects of memory (the book was published in 1926) but perhaps also to a healthy skepticism about fighting a war largely within European nations and their colonies. Christendom was attacking itself, with the YMCA standing-in for the ineptness of the church itself, "selling gum drops and cakes when civilization hung in the balance." Allen contemptuously notes that "As a matter of fact, there was little else it could do, and that in itself was a great comment." It is to Allen's credit that he doesn't allow later research and speculation about the larger picture to infiltrate his direct experience account. There is no mention, for example, of WWI's other (and some would argue more significant) battlefield: the fight against militaristic Islam represented by the Ottoman Turks. After all, the war started in the Balkans.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Toward the Flame: A Memoir of World War I Bending Toward the Sun: A Mother and Daughter Memoir With the Possum and the Eagle: The Memoir of a Navigator's War over Germany and Japan (North Texas Military Biography and Memoir) Toward a True Kinship of Faiths: How the World's Religions Can Come Together War of Necessity, War of Choice: A Memoir of Two Iraq Wars In Deadly Combat: A German Soldier's Memoir of the Eastern Front (Modern War Studies) (Modern War Studies (Paperback)) Mucha 2017 Square Flame Tree (ST-Glitter) The Faith We Sing: Pew - Cross & Flame Edition (Faith We Sing) CONTEMPORARY LAMPWORKING: A Practical Guide to Shaping Glass in the Flame. Third Edition - VOLUME 2 Wassily Kandinsky 2017 Square Flame Tree Peacocks 2017 Square Flame Tree Tiffany 2017 Square Flame Tree (ST-Glitter) Edward Hopper 2017 Square Flame Tree Paul Klee 2017 Square Flame Tree Degas' Dancers 2017 Square Flame Tree Japanese Woodblocks 2017 Square Flame Tree (ST-Glitter) Forest Fairies 2017 Square Flame Tree (ST-Glitter) Catalina Estrada 2017 Square Flame Tree Contain the Flame: Outdoor Fire Safety (How to Be Safe!) ESV Premium Gift Bible (TruTone, Midnight, Flame Design)

[Dmca](#)