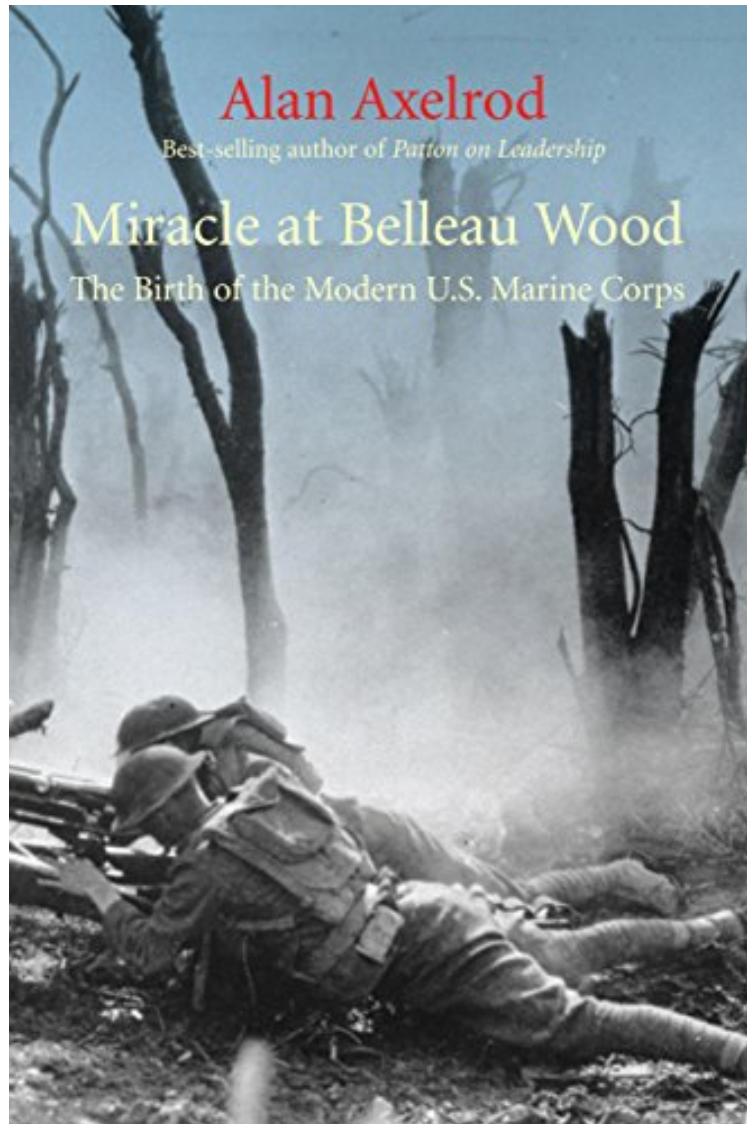


(Download pdf) Miracle at Belleau Wood: The Birth of the Modern U.S. Marine Corps

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Alan Axelrod

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Alan Axelrod : Miracle at Belleau Wood: The Birth of the Modern U.S. Marine Corps before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Miracle at Belleau Wood: The Birth of the Modern U.S. Marine Corps:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Just a great researched book on the Marines of Belleu woodsBy BlazerJust a great researched book on the Marines of Belleu woods. I have seen road names for the small, but

significant battle, but reading thru this horrific battle , it makes me proud of our origins and our U.S. Marines. Great story, and well researched, I've read a LOT of war books, and this little unrecognized book is well worth the read. Enjoy! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent! By James L Naughton Terrific book about the United States Marine corps early involvement during the first world war. Started and finished it in one sitting! It shows how effective a motivated well trained small American force was able to change the course of the German Army on their way to Paris France. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Devil dogs By usmc-mike The book was an excellent story of the circumstances, political reality and savagery of a hard fought battle that formed the reputation of the Corps. The detail brought the reader closer to the realities of war that includes confusion, fear, elation, suffering and many other conflicting feelings and emotions. I struggled with concern about Marines being thrown into a meat grinder of artillery, machine guns, snipers, poison gas and other ways of killing. At the same time, I felt immense pride in the fierceness and tenacity of those Marines who preceded me and who contributed to the brotherhood that I am a part of.

The Battle of Belleau Wood, stunning in both its concentration and intensity, was the fiery furnace from which the modern United States Marine Corps emerged as America's fiercest and most effective warriors, the world's preeminent fighting elite.

From Publishers Weekly Prolific bestseller Axelrod (Patton: A Biography, etc.) examines the evolution of the Marine Corps in this sprightly popular history of the pivotal WWI Battle of Belleau Wood in France. The Marine Corps, founded in the American Revolution, entered the 20th century on the verge of extinction. Saved by a congressional intervention that repealed Theodore Roosevelt's 1908 executive order withdrawing Marines from warships, the Marine brass looked to WWI as a chance to build up their ranks. The War Department sent two Marine brigades to France, but the U.S. commander, Gen. John Pershing, was reluctant to use them—relenting only when a German offensive threatened Paris. Belleau Wood, formerly "an idyllic patch of forest" used as a hunting preserve for the wealthy, was occupied by the Germans and transformed into "a natural fortress" bristling with machine-gun emplacements. In a savage, month-long fight, the 4th Marine Brigade pushed the entrenched Germans out of Belleau Wood, earning a new nickname from the enemy (Devil Dogs), forging a reputation as "America's fiercest warriors" and securing the future of the corps. Based exclusively on published material, Axelrod's brisk if conventional narrative provides a solid introduction to a crucial battle for fans of military history. (June) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Axelrod is one America's great military historians. He's done it this time with riveting non-stop action that reads like the best of Hemingway's frontline reports plus the Marine Corps novels of W.E.B. Griffin. Axelrod pushes you right into the action, onto the battlefield, and never lets up. You become a firsthand witness to one of the world's great battles, proud and heart-pounding as the elite force, the Devil Dogs, are born in a small forest outside Paris. This is one book I wish I'd written!"--Paul B. Farrell, J.D., Ph.D., syndicated columnist for Dow Jones' MarketWatch. He is the author of The Lazy Person's Guide to Investing, a former investment banker with Morgan Stanley, and a former Staff Sergeant in the US Marine Corps. "Alan Axelrod has perfectly captured the embodiment of U.S. Marines and their unparalleled Esprit de Corps in his new book, 'Miracle at Belleau Wood.' As a former Marine, I find Axelrod's descriptions of the combat in that bloody battle for which the Corps became legendary -- and which is the foundation of its mythic lore -- compelling and gut-wrenching. Axelrod's re-telling of the tales -- some from the letters, diaries and personal accounting of those who fought there -- more than does justice to Marines at Bois de la Brigade de Marine, as Belleau Wood became known to honor the Devil Dogs who fought and died there. More heroes and legends grew from Belleau Wood than from any other battle in the Corps's history. The names ring out in Axelrod's book -- Daly, Blanchfield, Lee. Legends one and all. Axelrod brings it all to life for the reader. Though a historical accounting of the battle, 'Miracle at Belleau Wood' puts the reader in the front row -- 'inches of real estate were purchased with gallons of blood' -- as you witness the heroism and ups and downs endured by the Marines as they defeated the Germans at overwhelming odds. As Axelrod writes, '...created...in 1775, the United States Marine Corps was born in that French forest...in 1918.' A must read!"--Jay Kopelman, author of the best-selling From Baghdad with Love, and a former Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps