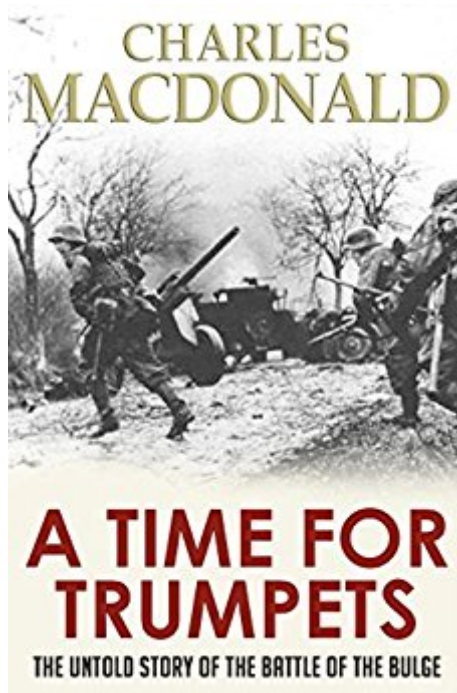




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# A Time For Trumpets: The Untold Story Of The Battle Of The Bulge



## Synopsis

On December 16, 1944, the vanguard of three German armies, totalling half a million men, attacked U.S. forces in the Ardennes region of Belgium and Luxembourg, achieving what had been considered impossible – total surprise. In the most abysmal failure of battlefield intelligence in the history of the U.S. Army, 600,000 American soldiers found themselves facing Hitler's last desperate effort of the war. The brutal confrontation that ensued became known as the Battle of the Bulge, the greatest battle ever fought by the U.S. Army – a triumph of American ingenuity and dedication over an egregious failure in strategic intelligence. *A Time for Trumpets* is the definitive account of this dramatic victory, told by one of America's most respected military historians, who was also an eyewitness to the conflict: MacDonald commanded a rifle company in the Battle of the Bulge. His account of this unique battle is exhaustively researched, honestly recounted, and movingly authentic in its depiction of hand-to-hand combat. Mingling first-hand experience with the insights of a distinguished historian, MacDonald places this profound human drama unforgettably on the landscape of history. *A Time for Trumpets* is a thorough account of an immensely influential battle. Praise for Charles MacDonald: 'Charles B. MacDonald writes not just military history but history of people caught up in momentous events. His is an epic account of one of history's most dramatic battles.' – John Toland, historian 'Combines a historian's detachment and precision with the personal feeling of a man who was there... Moving beyond expectations' – The New York Times 'The trumpets of the title peal throughout these pages... in a book that will appeal specialists and general readers alike.' – Publishers Weekly Charles B. MacDonald rose to the rank of Captain of the 23rd Infantry of the 2nd Division. After the war, in which he was awarded the Purple Heart and the Silver Star, he became an official Army Historian, retiring as Deputy Chief Historian in 1979.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a very good book full of details regarding the Battle of the Bulge. There are stories of each of the fighting divisions from both sides as well as personal stories that make it a very interesting read. I would have given it 5 stars except for one very significant fault as far as I am concerned. I do not know about the Hardback or Paperback, but the Kindle Edition has NO MAPS. This makes it extremely difficult to understand and I found myself just reading words without any knowledge of the geographical locations or strategy. I did look up a map of the battle, but nothing was of the detail that this book describes. In summary, it is a great book about the battle with a lot of details about the battle, strategy, divisions involved and personal stories. Would be a much better work if they had taken the time to place a map in the front of each chapter. But for the price, why complain.

An outstanding book capturing the Battle of the Bulge in great detail. Charles B. McDonald took great pains to record unit movements, engagements and results for the entire battle - although after reaching the German high water mark the account doesn't go into near the detail as the earlier portions of the operation. US Army regimental actions are recorded in great detail with many descriptions going down to the Company level. A great piece of work for those interested in small unit actions in the Ardennes. Although the greatest amount of detail captured is of American units the German and SS units are not forgotten. The author regularly records Axis units at the division and frequently at the regimental / Kampfgruppe level. Mr. McDonald engaged with fellow veterans capturing their experiences and weaving them into the story. Highlights of personal accounts include survivors of the Malmedy Massacre, German tank commanders exploitation of the fog of war, and the Allied soldier's confusion caused by the German's use of captured US Army vehicles. The amount of individual accounts isn't quite to the level of George Koskimaki's Battered Bastards of Bastogne. None the less there is enough there to really give the reader a sense of what it was

like to fight in the Bulge. Mr. McDonald includes discussions of the strategic aspects of the Battle. He provides insight into Hitler's thinking and his general staff's response to his plans. An extensive discussion of the impending battle's indicators that Allied intelligence missed, and how that major failure impacted future strategic decision making post Battle of the Bulge. Mr. McDonald describes the role ULTRA intercepts played in the Allies' decision making process and provides numerous examples of how the intelligence was used throughout the book. The historical research and writing without a doubt deserves four stars. Mr. McDonald did an excellent job organizing the material into a readable format which I was able to follow without too much effort. I read the e-book (Kindle) version which is published by Endeavour Press. Endeavour's conversion / editing to the e-book version is rated at three stars. Generally Endeavour did a good editing job - a few places where they missed removing hyphenated words and a few misspellings, but nothing that actually detracts from the read. Copious use of hyperlinks for references and chapters. Now for the serious blunder by Endeavor - they included no maps. Here we have a detailed study of a large military operation and have absolutely no maps to refer to during the dialog. As a result I was very close to giving this book as published two stars. I ended up referring to maps published by the US Army's official history of the battle which can be found on-line. In summary a must read for Bulge enthusiasts - especially if you are interested in specific engagements of the operation. If you are looking for an introductory book on the Battle of the Bulge I do not recommend this as a first read. There is so much detail it is easy to lose sight of the forest for all the trees. Regardless do not purchase the Kindle version of this book due to the missing maps. Instead go for the paper version.

This is definitely one of the best books I've ever read concerning the infamous Battle of the Bulge in WWII. The author, who fought in this battle, did an excellent job of research in putting this play-by-play account of the battle together. For some of you this book will probably provide too much information in that it details specific unit battles which took place over the entire battlefield. This book is not the typical Hollywood account of the battle; that is a battle that specifically address only one specific unit in the battle for Bastogne. Although the battle for Bastogne was critical and the holding of this major cross-roads town was paramount to stopping the German attack, many other critical battles occurred which involved a wide variety of mechanized artillery, tank, and infantry units of the Allied Command. This book also details the battle strategy of the German Army in this critical last-ditch effort of Adolf Hitler to stop, or at least curtail, the Allied advance into Nazi Germany. It gives a detailed account of German fighting units' military objectives and strategies who fought in this battle. This book also goes into detail of the types of weapons used by both the Allied and

German forces in this battle. As an example, the U.S. Army's POSIT artillery round; which at the time of the battle was a secret classified artillery shell designed to explode at a specific-set altitude over enemy-held positions.

This book reads as a truncated chronology and with repetitive introductions of the same staff officers. The accounts of individual actions woven into the time line is very helpful in understanding the role of the local battle within the whole. In my kindle copy there was not a map or maps that one could reference as the many small villages and towns were the subject of a particular section within the book. I would switch from the kindle book to a Google search to reference online available battle of the bulge maps. In summary the book is informative but the writing is uneven and frequently repetitive.

This Kindle book had my interest sometimes by the throat, it was hard to put down! BUT, it is severely crippled with no maps!!! It is absolutely unforgivable for an otherwise excellent battle history to omit any maps!! I've never seen this before. The reader shouldn't have to constantly interrupt their reading to find locations using google maps/earth to get a sense of where the actions were taking place. I should have read the reviews before buying. I've asked my library to hold a hard copy for me. Surely maps are included there?

This is a classic book about ground combat in the WW2 European Theater. It was written by an Infantry company commander who actually participated in the battle. The prose is extremely well written, easy to understand, concise, and the book is neither dry nor boring. It discusses strategy and tactics, but also presents the Battle of the Bulge from an infantry man or tankers point of view. It also somewhat discusses the battle from the German side of the conflict.

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