

retreat hell we just got here

Retreat Hell, We Just Got Here: An In-Depth Exploration

Introduction

Retreat hell, we just got here. This phrase encapsulates the resilience, determination, and sometimes tragic circumstances faced by soldiers during some of the most intense and harrowing battles in military history. It is often attributed to soldiers who found themselves in situations where, despite the chaos and hopelessness of their circumstances, they refused to surrender or retreat without a fight. This article aims to explore the origins of this phrase, its historical context, the battles where it was most famously invoked, and what it reveals about the human spirit in the face of adversity.

Origins of the Phrase

The Military Context

The phrase "Retreat hell, we just got here" is believed to have emerged during the American Civil War, although its exact origin is debated. It captures the mentality of soldiers who, after arriving at a battlefield or an engagement, found themselves overwhelmed and ordered to retreat, only to protest fiercely. The statement embodies the stubbornness and fighting spirit that characterizes many soldiers' responses to retreat orders in the heat of combat.

Possible Sources and Variations

While the exact origin remains uncertain, variations of the phrase have appeared in military literature and oral histories. Some suggest it was popularized by Union soldiers during the Civil War, while others attribute it to soldiers in later conflicts, such as World War I, World War II, or the Vietnam War. Regardless of its precise origin, the phrase has become emblematic of defiance in the face of retreat.

Historical Battles and Contexts

The Battle of Shiloh (1862)

One of the earliest instances where a sentiment similar to "Retreat hell, we just got here" was expressed is during the Battle of Shiloh, fought in April 1862. Confederate soldiers, under General Albert Sidney Johnston, launched a surprise attack against Union forces under General Ulysses S. Grant. Despite initial setbacks and heavy casualties, Union soldiers fought fiercely to hold their ground. While the phrase itself is not directly documented from this battle, the fighting spirit displayed resonates with the attitude the phrase encapsulates.

The Battle of the Bulge (1944-1945)

During World War II, in the Battle of the Bulge, American soldiers faced a surprise German offensive in the dense Ardennes Forest. Despite being outnumbered and under-equipped, many units fought desperately to hold their positions. The resilience displayed during this battle exemplifies the "we just got here" mentality—soldiers who had only recently arrived at the front and refused to give up.

Vietnam War and Modern Usage

The Vietnam War saw numerous instances where soldiers and Marines faced overwhelming odds. The phrase has often been invoked in stories and oral histories of soldiers who, upon arriving in a combat zone, found themselves in situations requiring extraordinary resolve. Its modern usage underscores a universal military truth: the human will to resist surrender, even when retreat seems inevitable.

The Psychological and Cultural Significance

The Spirit of Resistance

The phrase exemplifies a core aspect of military culture: resistance at all costs. It reflects a mindset where soldiers, upon arriving at a battlefield, are committed to fighting to the last, often driven by duty, camaraderie, and a refusal to surrender.

Morale and Motivation

Using such phrases serves to boost morale and reinforce collective resolve. It signals to fellow soldiers that retreat is not an option, fostering unity and determination. The phrase becomes a rallying cry, embodying the fighting spirit that sustains troops through adversity.

The Human Element: Stories of Valor and Sacrifice

Personal Accounts from Soldiers

Many veterans have recounted moments where they or their comrades refused to retreat, echoing sentiments similar to "Retreat hell, we just got here." These stories often highlight:

- The shock of combat upon arrival at the front.
- The fierce desire to hold ground for comrades and country.
- The tragic losses that often accompany such stubborn resistance.

Lessons Learned

While stubbornness can sometimes lead to unnecessary casualties, it also exemplifies the courage and resilience of soldiers. Military strategists have learned that morale and fighting spirit are crucial components of combat effectiveness, and phrases like "Retreat hell" symbolize that ethos.

The Symbolism and Legacy

Representation in Media and Literature

The phrase has permeated popular culture, appearing in movies, books, and documentaries about warfare. It serves as a shorthand for courage and defiance in the face of overwhelming odds.

Memorials and Commemorations

Memorials often honor those who fought with such resolve, emphasizing the importance of resilience. The phrase "Retreat hell, we just got here" is sometimes engraved or referenced to commemorate the fighting spirit of fallen soldiers.

Lessons from History

Understanding the Cost of Resistance

While resistance is admirable, history also teaches the importance of strategic retreat to preserve forces for future engagements. The phrase underscores the tension between fighting spirit and practical military strategy.

The Balance Between Courage and Wisdom

Military leaders must balance encouraging resistance with the need for tactical withdrawals. The phrase reminds us that sometimes, the bravest act is knowing when to retreat for the greater good.

Conclusion

The rallying cry "Retreat hell, we just got here" embodies the unyielding spirit of soldiers who refuse to surrender despite overwhelming circumstances. Its origins, whether rooted in Civil War history or modern conflicts, reflect a universal truth about human resilience in warfare. Through stories of heroism, sacrifice, and stubborn resistance, this phrase continues to inspire both military personnel and civilians alike. It reminds us that, in the face of adversity, the human spirit can be fiercely tenacious, and sometimes, the bravest thing one can do is to stand firm—no matter the odds.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the origin of the phrase 'Retreat, hell! We just got here!'?

The phrase is attributed to U.S. Marine Lieutenant Colonel William Dabney during the Battle of Saipan in World War II, expressing determination and fighting spirit in the face of adversity.

How has the phrase 'Retreat, hell! We just got here!' been used in military history?

It has become a rallying cry among military personnel, symbolizing resilience and refusal to retreat despite challenging circumstances, often cited to boost morale during difficult battles.

Is 'Retreat, hell! We just got here!' still relevant in modern military culture?

Yes, the phrase remains a powerful motivational quote used in military circles and popular culture to emphasize perseverance and unwavering commitment during tough times.

Has the phrase been referenced in popular media or

movies?

Yes, the phrase has appeared in films, documentaries, and literature related to warfare, often used to evoke patriotism and the fighting spirit of soldiers.

Are there any similar motivational quotes inspired by 'Retreat, hell! We just got here!'?

Yes, many military and motivational quotes emphasize perseverance, such as 'Never give up' or 'Fight till the end,' inspiring soldiers and individuals to stay resilient in tough situations.

Additional Resources

Retreat Hell, We Just Got Here: An In-Depth Examination of a Phrase that Echoes Valor and Resilience

The phrase "Retreat Hell, We Just Got Here" stands as a powerful epitaph of military bravado and tenacity. Originating from the intense battles of the Pacific Theater during World War II, it embodies the indomitable spirit of soldiers who, despite facing overwhelming odds, refused to surrender or retreat without a fight. This article explores the origins, historical significance, cultural impact, and contemporary relevance of this emblematic phrase, providing a comprehensive understanding of its place in military history and collective memory.

Origins and Historical Context of "Retreat Hell, We Just Got Here"

Military Roots and First Usage

The phrase "Retreat Hell, We Just Got Here" is widely attributed to American soldiers fighting in the Pacific during World War II, particularly in the island-hopping campaigns against Japanese forces. While the precise origin is debated, the phrase encapsulates the mentality of frontline troops who believed that retreat was unacceptable, especially when they had only recently arrived at a combat zone.

Historical records suggest that the phrase was popularized during the Battle of Guadalcanal (1942-1943), a pivotal campaign in the Solomon Islands. Soldiers, facing fierce Japanese resistance, reportedly used the phrase to reinforce their resolve in the face of tactical setbacks. It reflected an attitude of perseverance, emphasizing that they had just arrived to engage in the fight and would not abandon their position prematurely.

Symbolic Significance in Military Culture

The phrase not only served as a morale booster but also illustrated the aggressive, resilient mindset of American troops during WWII. It encapsulated the ethos that surrender was not an option, and that their presence in the theater was recent and vital, thus any notion of retreat was unthinkable.

Furthermore, the phrase aligns with the broader military culture of "never retreat" that has been cultivated through training, tradition, and stories of heroism. It exemplifies the attitude of facing danger head-on and fighting to the last, a mindset that became a defining feature of the American military during the war.

Analysis of the Phrase's Cultural Impact

Propaganda and Public Perception

The phrase gained prominence not only among soldiers but also in popular culture, military propaganda, and media coverage. It became a rallying cry, symbolizing American resilience and fighting spirit during a time of global conflict.

Post-war, the phrase was often quoted in newspapers, memoirs, and films, reinforcing the narrative of brave soldiers unwilling to surrender or retreat. It helped shape public perception of WWII soldiers as fearless and committed, fueling patriotism and national unity.

Legacy in Military and Veteran Communities

Decades after WWII, "Retreat Hell, We Just Got Here" has persisted as a badge of honor among veterans and active service members. It is frequently inscribed on military memorabilia, patches, and insignia, serving as a reminder of the grit and determination that defines military service.

The phrase also appears in speeches, documentaries, and military ceremonies, where it honors the sacrifices of those who fought and underscores the importance of perseverance in the face of adversity.

Broader Significance and Related Cultural Narratives

Comparison with Other Military Phrases

"Retreat Hell, We Just Got Here" can be contextualized alongside other military sayings that emphasize perseverance, such as:

- "Never give up, never surrender"
- "Fight to the last man"
- "Retreat is not an option"

Each phrase reflects a core value of military service: unwavering commitment, resilience, and the refusal to abandon comrades or missions.

Literary and Cinematic Representations

The phrase has been depicted in numerous films and books recounting WWII stories, often used to portray soldiers' unbreakable resolve. For example, in war movies like *Saving Private Ryan* and *The Pacific*, similar sentiments are expressed through dialogue and narrative, emphasizing the intensity and heroism of combat.

These representations serve to reinforce the phrase's cultural resonance, portraying it as an archetype of military valor.

Contemporary Relevance and Modern Military Doctrine

Applicability in Modern Warfare

While the phrase originated during WWII, its underlying message remains relevant today. Modern military doctrine emphasizes adaptability, resilience, and strategic perseverance—qualities embodied by the phrase.

In contemporary operations, the idea of "not retreating" often translates into tactical patience, strategic withdrawal when necessary, and relentless pursuit of objectives. The core principle remains: commitment to mission and comrades, even in challenging circumstances.

Lessons from History for Today's Military and Civilians

The phrase serves as a reminder that resilience can be a decisive factor in conflict. It encourages service members and civilians alike to persevere through difficulties, emphasizing that initial setbacks do not justify surrender.

Moreover, it highlights the importance of morale, camaraderie, and a fighting spirit—values that transcend military contexts and can inspire resilience in

various aspects of life, such as disaster response, business challenges, or social movements.

Criticisms and Limitations of the "Retreat Hell" Mindset

Potential for Risky Decision-Making

While valor and perseverance are admirable, an uncritical adherence to the "no retreat" mentality can lead to reckless decisions. Military history demonstrates that strategic retreat or withdrawal is sometimes necessary to preserve forces and achieve long-term objectives.

Blindly refusing to retreat can result in unnecessary casualties or mission failure, underscoring the importance of balancing resolve with strategic judgment.

Modern Ethical Considerations

In contemporary warfare, ethical considerations about the lives of soldiers and civilians have influenced doctrines that prioritize minimizing harm. The glorification of relentless combat must be tempered with the understanding that retreat or negotiation can sometimes be the most humane and effective course of action.

Conclusion: The Enduring Legacy of "Retreat Hell, We Just Got Here"

The phrase "Retreat Hell, We Just Got Here" encapsulates a defining aspect of military ethos—unyielding resilience, courage, and the refusal to surrender prematurely. Rooted in the crucible of WWII, it has transcended its origins to become a symbol of perseverance in both military and civilian contexts.

Its cultural impact extends beyond the battlefield, inspiring stories, films, and personal narratives that celebrate human tenacity. At the same time, modern military thinking recognizes the importance of strategic flexibility, acknowledging that retreat, when properly executed, can be a sign of strength rather than weakness.

In a broader sense, the phrase reminds us that moments of adversity demand not just physical endurance but also moral resolve. Whether on the battlefield or in life's daily struggles, the spirit behind "Retreat Hell, We Just Got Here" encourages us to face challenges head-on, with determination and resolve, understanding that perseverance often defines victory.

In summary, the phrase "Retreat Hell, We Just Got Here" remains a powerful testament to the human capacity for resilience and courage. Its historical roots, cultural significance, and contemporary relevance continue to inspire individuals and militaries worldwide, echoing the timeless truth that sometimes the greatest strength lies in unwavering resolve amidst chaos.

Retreat Hell We Just Got Here

retreat hell we just got here: "Retreat, Hell! We Just Got Here" Austin Osman, 2005

retreat hell we just got here: Retreat, Hell! We Just Got Here! George B. Clark, 1994*

retreat hell we just got here: Thunder in the Argonne Douglas V. Mastriano, 2018-06-15 In July 1918, sensing that the German Army had lost crucial momentum, Supreme Allied Commander Ferdinand Foch saw an opportunity to end the First World War. In drafting his plans for a final grand offensive, he assigned the most difficult sector—the dense Argonne forest and the vast Meuse River valley—to the American Expeditionary Forces under General John J. Pershing. There, the Doughboys faced thickly defended German lines with terrain deemed impossible to fight through. From September 26 through the November 11 armistice, US forces suffered more than 20,000 casualties a week, but the Allies ultimately prevailed in a decisive victory that helped to end the Great War. In *Thunder in the Argonne*, Douglas V. Mastriano offers the most comprehensive account of this legendary campaign to date. Not only does he provide American, French, and British perspectives on the offensive, but he also offers—for the first time in English—the German view. Mastriano presents a balanced analysis of successes and failures at all levels of command, examining the leadership of the principals while also illuminating acts of heroism by individual soldiers. The Meuse-Argonne Offensive is widely regarded as one of America's finest hours, and the amazing feats of Sergeant Alvin York, Major Charles Whittlesey of the Lost Battalion, and Lieutenant Sam Woodfill—all accomplished in the midst of this maelstrom—echo across the ages. Published to coincide with the centennial of the campaign, this engaging book offers a fresh look at the battle that forged the modern US Army

retreat hell we just got here: *Unbreakable Hearts: A True, Heart-wrenching Story About Victory...Forfeited!* Earl Dusty Trimmer, 2019-05-16 Earl "Dusty" Trimmer relates with both skill and personal experience events surrounding our most forgettable and misunderstood war in America's history. He brings it all home with his down-to-earth style and considerable knowledge. In *Unbreakable Hearts*, Dusty dives into the Vietnamese history and culture and skillfully brings the reader into understanding our Vietnamese enemy's amazing resolve. He brilliantly explains the evolution of our Vietnamese enemy over hundreds of years of invasions and wars. Always defending their country to remain free became an art. In Chapter 7, Dusty describes the Vietnamese women fighters as "Hellcats." My own experience with the formidable Vietnamese Viet Cong women's skills and expertise closely mirrors Dusty's. Hooch girls could plant booby traps in a GI's hooch with a skill and savvy they were forced to learn during decades of on-the-job training in continuous wars with unwelcomed invaders. My own Military Police experience after leaving the infantry revealed these incidents vividly. In later chapters, Dusty moves into our own veterans' profound resolve and toughness. North Vietnam's famed General Giap called us "an honorable enemy." One could suggest from this writing that our enemy taught us well. We did things in the Vietnam War the average person would have to go to the movies to believe. After reading Trimmer's descriptions, I must conclude that indeed this book could be one for the movie industry. Dusty Trimmer brings to life our days and nights living and fighting in these foreboding jungle warfare conditions. After reading this fine work and reflecting on my own experiences, I cut away a little more of the pain. Pride swells for

having served with all of these wonderful veterans of the Vietnam War. Pain for our terrible losses. For myself, these experiences culminated in wisdom I would otherwise have failed to achieve. God bless Dusty for telling our story. Forward march, Brothers!

retreat hell we just got here: Proceedings of the ... Annual Convention of the New York State Bankers Association New York State Bankers Association, 1919 With the constitution and by-laws, list of officers and members.

retreat hell we just got here: *University Sheepdog in Westwood, L.A.* Terrence Duren, 2016-08-18 Retired UCLA Police Officer, Terrence Duren, at the center of the 2006 UCLA Taser Incident, writes his memoir, "University Sheepdog in Westwood, Los Angeles to set the record straight regarding his life and law enforcement career. There were television news reports and articles written about the Taser incident and of Terrence Duren's past. Some of these news reports and articles were unflattering and did not paint a complete picture of him and other officers involved in the Taser incident. In addition to the protests held at UCLA and other UC campuses, there were high volume of telephone calls to UCLA with people voicing their anger and support over the Taser incident. These telephone calls came from people living in the United States and abroad. There was such a high volume of phone calls that UCLA's telecommunications nearly broke down. After a complete and thorough investigation, the UCLA police chief as well as UCLA campus administrators, concluded that Officer Duren did not violate policy with his use of the Taser. University sheepdog in Westwood, Los Angeles is a memoir that gives a better understanding of Officer Terrence Duren and his former colleagues. This memoir is a story of Sheepdogs (police officers), protecting the Sheep (students\faculty\staff\visitors and others), from the Wolves (criminals). Some of the contents in this memoir will tell of Terrence Duren's Officer Involved Shootings, on and off campus, his working undercover for six months buying narcotics from UCLA hospital employees, his confrontation with members of the Nation of Islam, his SWAT standoff with an armed suspect, lewd and lascivious activity in the men's restrooms, his mentoring victims and suspects, flimflammer, and more! Additionally, this Memoir has contents regarding Terrence's childhood growing up around Black Panthers, his service in the United States Marine Corps in peace time and during the First Gulf War. This memoir is unlike any other police story ever told. As you read this memoir, sit down and strap up because you are about to go on a ride!

retreat hell we just got here: *Respect and Recognition of the Finest Fighting Unit of This Country* Norman G. Albert, 2012-06-05 Norman Albert served in the Marine Corps in World War II with duty in China with the 1st Marine Division disarming the Japanese soldiers and returning them to their mainland Inspired by the book First to fight written by Victor Krulak on how the presidents and Army Generals tried to diminish or eliminate the Marine Corps altogether. He read many books from different authors on how the Army Generals interfered with the Marine Corps, while their officers were trying to win battles in World War I, World War II and Korea. He quoted from books such as DEVIL DOGS AT BELLEAU WOOD, BRUTE, FOR COUNTRY AND CORPS, WITH THE OLD BREED, CORAL AND BRASS AND THE TRIAL OF GENERALS. He stated, Presidents, Army Generals, the Army dominated Battle Monument Commission, Navy Admirals, The Navy Bureau of Ships and Congress should apologize for their part in disrespecting the Marine Corps. The Marine Corps through its history and accomplishments during wars have not only earned the right to exist but also not have to fight for the privilege to fight for their country.

retreat hell we just got here: *The Advancement of Liberty* Matthew C. Price, 2007-12-30 This book is a counterpoint to the prevailing view that the United States is an imperialist nation that has violently pursued power in the world to advance its own narrow interests. The basic theme is that at the dawn of the 20th century, there were six democracies in the world, but by century's end, democracy was ascendant. This epic historical transformation has been thanks in great measure to the vision and sacrifices made by Americans. Matthew C. Price examines the great conflicts of the 20th century, showing how American democratic principles have utterly reshaped global values and politics. The defeat of fascism and imperialism in World War II led to the Marshall Plan, the single most influential rebuilding program in human history. The fostering of democracy in Japan, the

establishment of the UN, and the fall of the Soviet Union reshaped the world in unforeseen ways. America has dedicated itself to democracy in the Middle East, to democratization in China, and to the larger quest for the spread of liberal democratic principles worldwide, even when the struggle is difficult, dangerous, and ongoing. Early in the century, Woodrow Wilson said that America should make the world safe for democracy. In taking up that challenge, the United States changed human history.

retreat hell we just got here: Backbone Ph.D. Julia Dye, 2019-05-22 Noncommissioned officers stand as the backbone of the United States Marine Corps. The Corps is among the most lasting institutions in America, though few understand what makes it so strong and how that understanding can be applied effectively in today's world. In this insightful and thoroughly researched book, Julia Dye explores the cadre of noncommissioned officers that make up the Marine Corps' system of small-unit leadership. To help us better understand what makes these extraordinary men and women such effective leaders, Dye examines the fourteen leadership traits embraced by every NCO. These qualities—including judgment, enthusiasm, determination, bearing, and unselfishness—are exemplified by men like Terry Anderson, the former Marine sergeant who spent nearly seven years as a hostage in Beirut, John Basilone, the hero of the Pacific, and many others. To assemble this extraordinary chronicle, Julia Dye interviewed Anderson and dozens of other Marines, mining a rich trove of historical and modern NCO heroes that comprise the Marine Corps' astonishing legacy, from its founding in 1775 to the present day.

retreat hell we just got here: Battlefield Commission Curt Munson, 2016-01-21 Idealistic Marine Charlie McDowell represents the third generation of his family to serve his country in time of war. But after two years in combat, Charlie has a battlefield commission and wound so serious it threatens to waylay his military career. He's forced to return home to conquer the rehabilitation that stands in the way of his return to active duty. While there, he also plans to finish his education and reconcile with the girl he loves. Before any of that can happen, though, Charlie is rocked by trauma-related depression, nightmares, and hallucinations that threaten to turn him into an emotional as well as physical cripple. He realizes he must learn to deal with the horror of what he has seen and done overseas. Charlie's fight to recover also demands he survive his new commanding officer, a bitter man with an old score to settle who seems determined to drive Charlie from the service. From the battlefield, to the bedroom, to the halls of academia, Charlie McDowell is a man of his time and so much more, but can he conquer his own demons to become the hero of his aspirations?

retreat hell we just got here: The Spy from Place Saint-Sulpice Barry Michael Broman, 2023-04-06 CIA intelligence officer Rick Blayne must use all his skills—and charm—to achieve his mission of infiltrating émigré Cambodian factions in the center of international intrigue, Paris. Richard “Rick” Blayne has a mission. One of the CIA's top expert on Cambodia, who escaped the country's fall to the Khmer Rouge and has monitored the ensuing genocide from Thailand ever since, he has been sent to Paris to further the CIA's plan to infiltrate the Cambodian resistance to the Hanoi-controlled puppet government in Phnom Penh. Arriving in the middle of a Parisian summer, Rick feels out of place and uncertain if he can handle the assignment. Vying factions seek to form a guerrilla force. As he establishes contact with old Cambodian friends in both the factions vying to control the resistance, he is drawn into an operation to recruit a Russian diplomat serving in Paris. With the help of a Thai fashion designer serving as an access agent, Rick, under the guidance of Sasha—a seasoned CIA Soviet “head hunter” and deputy chief of Paris station—moves the operation forward at a time of great upheaval and change for the Soviet Union.

retreat hell we just got here: The Devil Dogs at Belleau Wood Dick Camp, 2008-04-15 Facing massed German machine guns, the Marines made sweep after bloody sweep through Belleau Wood. Repeatedly accosted by the retreating French and urged to turn back, Captain Lloyd Williams of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, uttered the now-famous retort, Retreat, hell. We just got here. And indeed, by the end of that terrible June of 1918, the Marines had broken the back of the Germans' powerful spring offensive. Their ferocity had earned them the nickname

Teufelshunde--Devil Dogs--from their enemies; it also won such admiration from their allies that the French government changed the name of Belleau Wood to Bois de la Brigade de Marine. The Devil Dogs at Belleau Wood recreates the drama of the battle for Belleau Wood as it was experienced by those who were there. Drawing on numerous firsthand accounts of the month-long engagement, the book captures the spirit of the Leathernecks in desperate battle. It offers a harrowing look at a critical campaign in which, as one soldier says, men were being mowed down like wheat. And, amidst the carnage and cruelty, it tells the very human story of camaraderie and courage that carried the day. Rich with the personal insights and observations that bring history to life, the book is illustrated with a great number of photographs, many of which are rare and never before published.

retreat hell we just got here: The Marine Corps Gazette , 1962

retreat hell we just got here: **Congressional Record** United States. Congress, 1993

retreat hell we just got here: *Over There* Carl Andrew Brannen, 1997-06 When America declared war in 1917, I was a few months past eighteen years of age and just finishing my first year in college. By the time I was to reenter in the fall for the second year, war activities were [under way] on a large scale. Men were going into some branch of the service on all sides. I felt that my family should do their bit in uniform, and my age designated me as the most appropriate one. This Texas A&M College student was Carl Andrew Brannen; these are his memoirs of a time when boys became men and your country became your life. *Over There: A Marine in the Great War* takes the reader on an almost two-year journey through his world as a young soldier in the war. Based on Brannen's memoirs recorded in the 1930s and photographs he took with a German camera as a soldier, this book describes day-to-day obstacles he and his fellow soldiers faced during Marine Corps training, movement to France, and mortal combat. As I jumped for protection into a ditch nearby, a fusillade of bullets caught me below the heart on the left side, through one lens of the field glasses, and against my bandoleer of ammunition. The best I remember, ten bullets in my own belt exploded, but they had deflected the enemy bullets, saving my life. Brannen, though wounded in battle and in the hospital for three weeks, went on with 80th Company through the Meuse-Argonne campaign to the armistice on November 11. He pulled his months of duty in the occupation of the Rhineland and, at its end, earned a place in the Composite Regiment of men selected to represent the American Expeditionary Forces in the many ceremonial events of 1919. Complemented with a unique set of photographs by the author's son that retrace his father's military campaigns, *Over There* is a highly personal account, presented from an enlisted man's perspective of the battle fronts of Belleau Woods in the Château-Thierry sector, Soissons, Pont-a-Mousson, St. Mihiel, Blanc Mont Ridge, and the Meuse-Argonne battle. As a first hand commentary and a social document of life in the trenches during World War I, it is a useful contribution to military history. Brannen's personal accounts will touch and fascinate all those interested in World War I.

retreat hell we just got here: To the Last Man Jeff Shaara, 2004-10-26 Jeff Shaara has enthralled readers with his New York Times bestselling novels set during the Civil War and the American Revolution. Now the acclaimed author turns to World War I, bringing to life the sweeping, emotional story of the war that devastated a generation and established America as a world power. Spring 1916: the horror of a stalemate on Europe's western front. France and Great Britain are on one side of the barbed wire, a fierce German army is on the other. Shaara opens the window onto the otherworldly tableau of trench warfare as seen through the eyes of a typical British soldier who experiences the bizarre and the horrible—a "Tommy" whose innocent youth is cast into the hell of a terrifying war. In the skies, meanwhile, technology has provided a devastating new tool, the aeroplane, and with it a different kind of hero emerges—the flying ace. Soaring high above the chaos on the ground, these solitary knights duel in the splendor and terror of the skies, their courage and steel tested with every flight. As the conflict stretches into its third year, a neutral America is goaded into war, its reluctant president, Woodrow Wilson, finally accepting the repeated challenges to his stance of nonalignment. Yet the Americans are woefully unprepared and ill equipped to enter a war that has become worldwide in scope. The responsibility is placed on the shoulders of General

John “Blackjack” Pershing, and by mid-1917 the first wave of the American Expeditionary Force arrives in Europe. Encouraged by the bold spirit and strength of the untested Americans, the world waits to see if the tide of war can finally be turned. From Blackjack Pershing to the Marine in the trenches, from the Red Baron to the American pilots of the Lafayette Escadrille, *To the Last Man* is written with the moving vividness and accuracy that characterizes all of Shaara’s work. This spellbinding new novel carries readers—the way only Shaara can—to the heart of one of the greatest conflicts in human history, and puts them face-to-face with the characters who made a lasting impact on the world.

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retreat hell we just got here: *Of Irish Blood* Mary Pat Kelly, 2015-02-03 It's 1903. Nora Kelly, twenty-four, is talented, outspoken, progressive, and climbing the ladder of opportunity, until she falls for an attractive but dangerous man who sends her running back to the Old World her family had fled. Nora takes on Paris, mixing with couturiers, artists, and les femmes Americaines of the Left Bank such as Gertrude Stein and Sylvia Beach. But when she stumbles into the centuries-old Collège des Irlandais, a good-looking scholar, an unconventional priest, and Ireland's revolutionary women challenge Nora to honor her Irish blood and join the struggle to free Ireland. Author Mary Pat Kelly weaves historical characters such as Maud Gonne, William Butler Yeats, Countess Markievicz, Michael Collins, and Eamon de Valera, as well as Gabrielle Chanel, Gertrude Stein, James Joyce, and Nora Barnicle, into *Of Irish Blood*, a vivid and compelling story inspired by the life of her great-aunt. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

retreat hell we just got here: *Kansas and Kansans in World War I* Blake A. Watson, 2024-10-21 When president Woodrow Wilson spoke in Topeka on February 2, 1916, in favor of a stronger military, he faced skepticism and outright opposition from many Kansas residents—including Governor Arthur Capper and University of Kansas chancellor Frank Strong. But when war against Germany was declared two months later, Kansans joined forces to lend support in money and manpower. In *Kansas and Kansans in World War I*, Blake Watson helps readers understand how World War I affected Kansas and its residents, and how Kansans in turn had an impact on the outcome of the Great War. Through thorough and extensive use of letters, newspapers, and other documents, Watson brings individual soldiers’ service to life, using their own words to describe their attitudes and experiences. Watson also looks at Kansans’ service and support on the home front, chronicling Kansans’ participation in initiatives such as Liberty Loan bonds, newspapers’ publication of military service honor rolls and soldiers’ letters from abroad, and the xenophobia and hysteria that confronted Mennonites—who were pacifists—and German Americans. Finally, Watson describes postwar efforts to honor Kansas veterans and fallen soldiers with commemorations and memorials, including Haskell University’s Memorial Arch, the University of Kansas’s Memorial Stadium and Memorial Union, and Kansas State University’s Memorial Stadium.

retreat hell we just got here: *Devil Dogs* Jeanne Clark, 2013-01-15 In telling the story of the extraordinary contributions of the U.S. Marines in World War I, this now-classic history examines the Corps’ entire experience in France. Now available in paperback, the book is a valuable resource for data, especially details about each unit and how they functioned. Bolstered with information from official documents as well as published and unpublished memoirs, readers follow the Marines from their recruitment, through training and shipment overseas, to the horrors of trench warfare. The famous battle at Belleau Wood is fully examined, along with the lesser known campaigns at Blanc Mont and Meuse River, and the critical engagements at Verdun, Marbache, and St. Mihiel. Readers learn how the 4th Marine Brigade earned the nickname “Devil Dogs” and why their experiences helped forge the Corps’ identity. It is a new addition to the Leatherneck Classics series.

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