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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 As a historical document, *Toward the Flame* is significant for its highly detailed account of the controversial military action at Fismette.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

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Customer Reviews

"This work has been considered by many to be the finest American frontline memoir to come out of World War I. It is powerful and certainly a classic." —Michael D. Hull, *ARMY Magazine* (Michael D. Hull *ARMY Magazine*)

Hervey Allen was the author of many volumes of poetry and prose, including the popular novel *Anthony Adverse*. Steven Trout is an associate professor of English at Fort Hays State University. He is the author of *Memorial Fictions: Willa Cather and the First World War* (Nebraska 2002) and a

coeditor of *Literature of the Great War Reconsidered: Beyond Modern Memory*.

excellent book. Really enjoyed it.

I learned only recently that Allen had written this book and that he was known for his poetry. I knew him only by my favorite books, *The Forest and the Fort*, *Bedford Village* and *The City in the Dawn*, which I first read when I was 12. *Toward the Flame* is another well-written book that accurately depicts the confusion of war and its effects on those who fight. I would recommend it to anyone who enjoys great writing and historical details about the Great War.

Excellent memoir on WWI. It is a very good and graphic read. The book gives you a real sense of the day to day life of a soldier in the 28th Division and the kind of fighting which took place in France. I only wish the book would have been longer!

I don't think a memoir or history of the Great War has ever answered all the questions I have about it. *Toward the Flame* is a well written recollection of events of the author. I purchased the book as it was recommended highly. Glad I did.

Excellent product. Got it promptly and am very satisfied.

very convenient way to buy a fine book

Very concise rendering of one soldier's experiences in a minor action that had a life transforming effect on the author. Should be read by anyone truly interested in World War I

Excellent

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