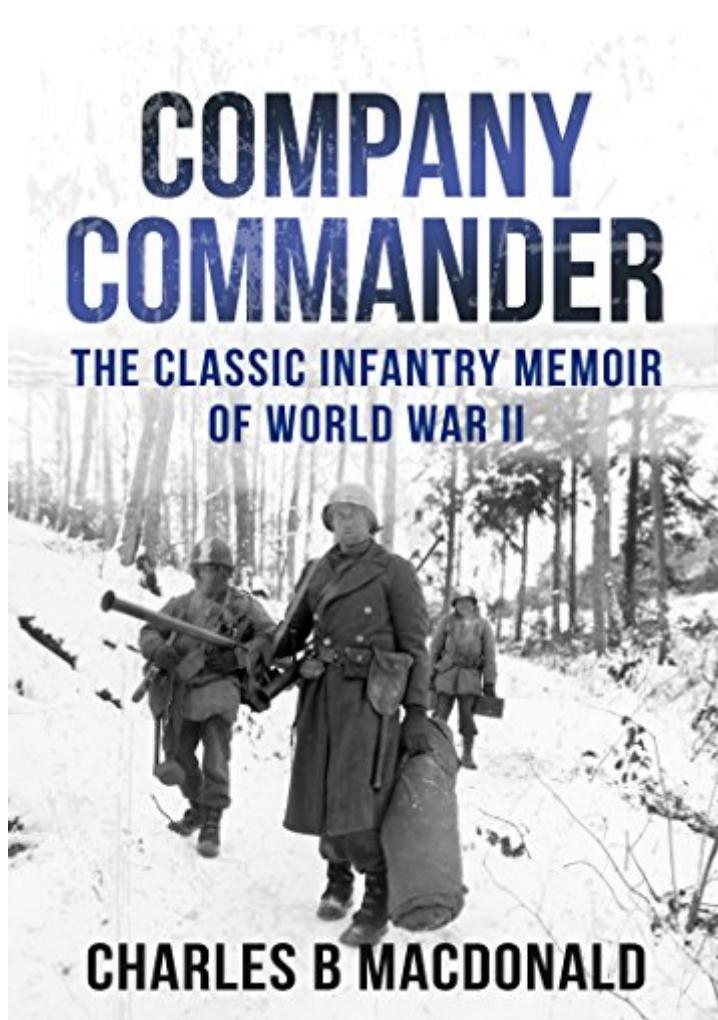


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Company Commander: The Classic Infantry Memoir Of WWII



Synopsis

Many great books have been written about World War Two - but Company Commander describes the war at first hand. As a newly commissioned Captain of a veteran Army regiment, MacDonaldâ™s first combat was war at its most hellish â" the Battle of the Bulge. In this plain-spoken but eloquent narrative, we live each minute at MacDonaldâ™s side, sharing in all of combatâ™s misery, terror, and drama. How this green commander gains his menâ™s loyalty in the snows of war-torn Europe is one of the great, true, unforgettable war stories of all time. The book comes with an introduction by Ronald H. Spector, author of â" Eagle Against the Sun.â" Company Commanderâ™ is a stark view of one of the most brutal battles of the Second World War. Charles B. MacDonald also wrote A Time for Trumpets and other books. In the war he 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. Follow us on Twitter: @EndeavourPress and on Facebook via <http://on.fb.me/1HweQV7>. We are always interested in hearing from our readers. Endeavour Press believes that the future is now.

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Customer Reviews

Captain Charles B. MacDonald first commanded I Company, 3-23rd IN, 2nd ID from October 1944 to January 1945 and later G Company, 2-23rd IN from March to May 1945. This memoir was written a few years after the war when recollections were still sharp and resulted in a very detailed account of what it was like to take command of a line infantry company and lead it into battle. This book is a must-read for all army officers who seek to command at company-level and it is also informative for military historians as well. In comparison to the more recent Band of Brothers, ostensibly a company-level account of E Company, 506th PIR's actions during the same period, Charles MacDonald's book is clearly superior. In fact, Company Commander is everything Band of Brothers is not: accurate, objective and informative. Unlike BOB, MacDonald does not claim that the companies he commanded were anything special or that he demonstrated heroic leadership (he did win the silver star in the Battle of the Bulge). Instead, the author is very honest, admitting his apprehension and anxiety about commanding infantry on the front line. Although there is some tension with battalion and regimental headquarters, mostly about ill-considered orders and creature comforts, there is not the character assassination that is so prevalent in BOB; Macdonald was career army and he wasn't going to make points by ridiculing superiors. MacDonald arrived as a replacement and took command of I Company just as the unit was conducting a relief-in-place of another US unit in some captured positions in the Siegfried Line in the Ardennes. While civilian readers may find the first 100 pages devoted to this "quiet time" to be dull, military readers will not.

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