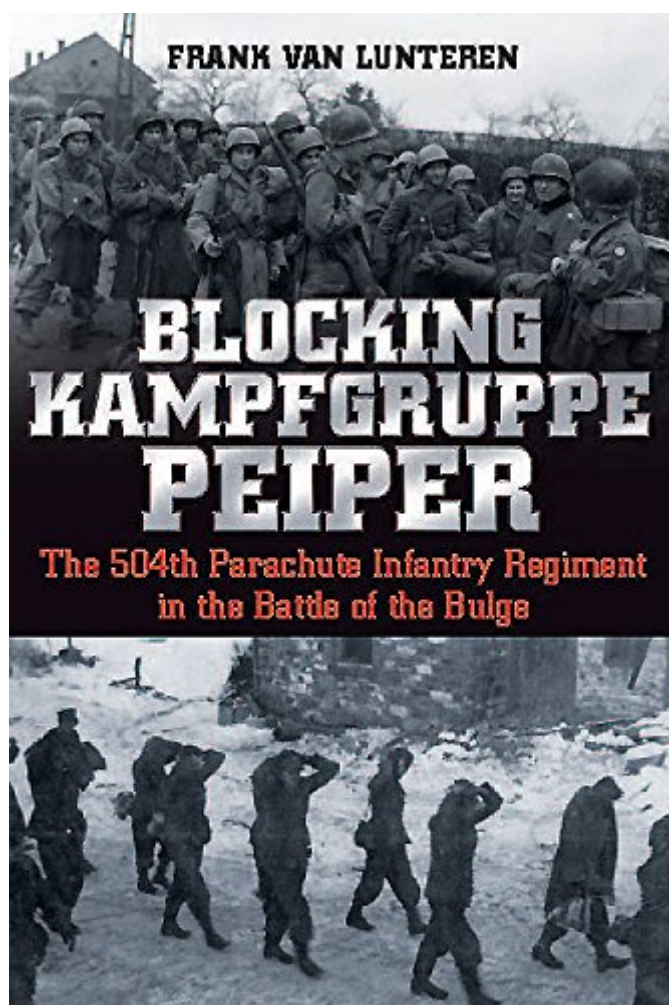


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Blocking Kampfgruppe Peiper: The 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment In The Battle Of The Bulge



Synopsis

In December 1944 an enormous German army group crashed through the thin American line in the Ardennes forest. Caught by surprise, the Allies were initially only able to throw two divisions of paratroopers to buttress the collapse—the 82nd Airborne, which was rushed to the area of St. Vith, and the 101st, which was trucked to Bastogne. After their successful campaign in Holland, Colonel Reuben Tucker's elite 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment was resting and refitting in France when news came of the German breakthrough. Most dangerous to the Allies was the German spearhead of the 1st SS Panzer Division led by Jochen Peiper, which aimed to sever the Allied front. The 504th was committed to block the SS advance, and within 48 hours of their arrival Colonel Tucker's paratroopers were attacking the SS-Panzergrenadiers of Peiper's battlegroup, eventually forcing them to withdraw. More ferocious fighting ensued as follow-up German units forced a U.S. retreat from St. Vith. In adverse weather conditions against the German 9th SS Panzer and 3rd Fallschirmjäger Divisions, the 504th lived up to its regimental motto—Strike and Hold. Although some rifle companies were whittled down to less than 50 paratroopers, the Americans doggedly fought on until victory was achieved. Moving quotations of letters to the next-of-kin provide insight into the impact of their deaths both on the battlefield and homefront. In this work Van Lunteren provides a fascinating, close-in view of the 504th P.I.R. during the Battle of the Bulge as well as its gallant sacrifice. Using never before published diaries, letters, battle reports and interviews with over 100 veterans, a comprehensive account is painted of a triumphant U.S. regiment in one of the fiercest fought campaigns in the history of the U.S. Army.

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Customer Reviews

Frank Van Lunteren has written another great book about the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment. He has skillfully taken battle logs and created an architecture with which to overlay 504 veterans first hand accounts along with actual citations for awards for bravery in creating a superior account of the regiments actions in the Battle of the Bulge and specifically in it's fight against Kampfgruppe Pieper. In two books Frank has told me more about my father in the Second World War than he ever even tried. I know why now.....it was a horrible experience.....

This is the first book I've read that was authored by Frank. I happened to stumble across Frank several years back while doing internet research on a family friend who was in the 504th and was killed during the Battle of Cheneux. Frank helped me find information I would have never been privy to without his help. Fast forward to this book...I had been waiting for it's release for quite some time and was not disappointed when I finally got a copy. Speaking for the family of Cpl. Stevenson, if it weren't for the meticulous research done by Frank, there would still be dozens of families out there with unanswered questions about their loved ones and nowhere to turn for answers. If you're a fan of WW2 history, buy this book. You won't regret it.

I was attracted to Frank van Luterens books because I am related to Ross S. Carter the author of "Those Devils In Baggy Pants". If you are looking for a historian's view with research as the backbone these books are for you! You won't be disappointed. The book on the 504th PIR in Italy is coming out in the fall.

We waited for this book to be published and we are not disappointed. I am ordering copies for my brothers as our father Raymond Holsti has his story told in this book. Great writing. Thankyou for telling the stories of all the soldiers who fought for our freedom.

As with his first excellent installment on the history of the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Frank van Lunteren uses quotes from interviews, letters, telegrams and other sources to let the men who served "tell the story". This, as well as his years of dedicated research and his own style make this book very worth reading by anyone interested in history. Many history books can be bland and uninteresting, but this is how history should be told- with as much first hand accounts as possible. It's a very good book, continuing the story begun with "The Battle of the Bridges".

My husband was in the 101st Airborne and my cousin Lt Robert Bramson was in the 82nd Airborne. This book is their story and I was excited to read it!! Fortunately they both came home with purple hearts, but miraculously able to get on with their lives.

Frank is a genuine historian with great detail and perception. He keeps in contact with families of the heroes he writes about in his books.

Basically just a report on the people in the outfit that won medals and what their citations were for. Rather dry reading. Not very exciting

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