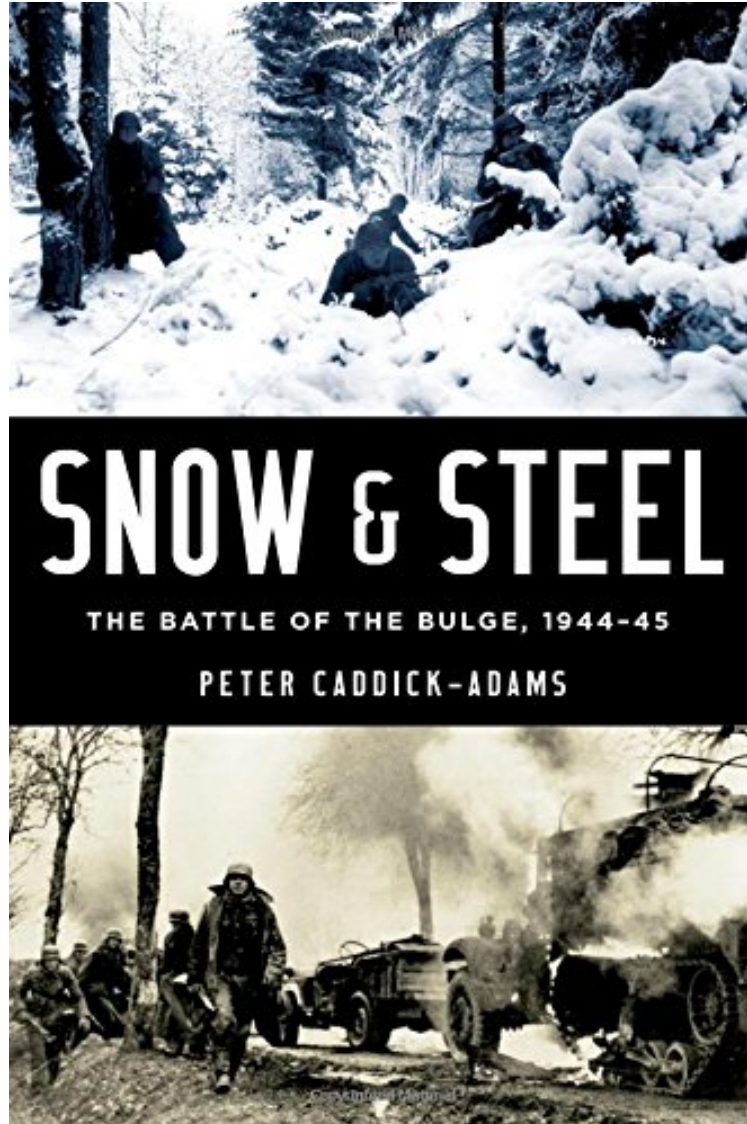


(Free pdf) Snow and Steel: The Battle of the Bulge, 1944-45

Snow and Steel: The Battle of the Bulge, 1944-45

Peter Caddick-Adams

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Peter Caddick-Adams : Snow and Steel: The Battle of the Bulge, 1944-45 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Snow and Steel: The Battle of the Bulge, 1944-45:

60 of 61 people found the following review helpful. I've read most of the works on Hitler's 1944 Ardennes Offensive and I rate Peter Caddick-Adams' "Snow and Steel" as the best inBy Homer T. HodgeOver the past fifty years or so, I've read most of the works on Hitler's 1944 Ardennes Offensive and I rate Peter Caddick-Adams' "Snow and Steel" as the best in terms of not only informative detail but explaining the bigger picture and course of events. It is

exceptionally well researched, well organized and superbly written. While many if not most works in English focus primarily on the American actions, organizations, and persons, the author covers the German side equally to include the actions and experience of many individual German soldiers. He provides a comprehensive description of German planning, preparation, and objectives of the operation. I found his discussion of historic and cultural aspects that influenced Hitler's conception of the plan particularly fascinating. The penultimate chapter, "Punctuation Marks of History," looks at the impact and influence of this major battle on subsequent history and current events. I enjoyed the work, learned from it, and recommend it to anyone interested in understanding the U.S. Army's largest battle of World War II.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Modern Retelling of an Old Story By Charles Fred Smith This is an outstanding work in a crowded field of study. In 1988 I took McDonald's Trumpets book and spent a week going from place to place in the battle area of the Bulge. This book is highly detailed but well done with one exception. The author spent 15 chapters in providing much trivia leading to the battle that was somewhat interesting but not particularly necessary for an knowledgeable historian. Once in the battle, Craddick-Adams did a great job of using the first person interviews from recorded recollections of participants to bind the story together from both the German and the American sides. I recommend the serious reader use Google Maps to blow up the area and show all the tiny towns where action took place even if it was only a roadblock. By keeping the relative locations of the units in contact in place, the reader can really follow the action stories provided. Craddick-Adams provides a superb narrative which makes it easy for the reader to follow the units in contact in a very fluid situation. He spends adequate effort in drawing the strategic as well as the tactical situations. I recommend this book but it is not a casual read such as a number of Bulge books of the last ten or so years. The author is a Brit who is obviously impressed with the performance of the Americans in the Battle of the Bulge.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Snow and Steel is a well researched, written and moving story of American victory over Nazi Germany in the Battle of the Bulge. By C. M. Mills My father was a staff sergeant in General Hodges First Army. He fought in the Hurtgen Forest and in the Ardennes in that bitter winter of 1944. Bringing the Battle of the Bulge the last strike of Hitler's hammer against the Allies to modern readers in a challenge. This feat is well accomplished by Dr. Peter Caddick-Adams. He has written earlier books on Monty and Rommel as well as the Monte Cassino Campaign. He is a professional soldier who has led troops in Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan. He is British but has a refreshingly positive attitude to American contributions to winning the global struggle against the hideous Axis powers. Snow and Steel is a soldier's eye view of the battle as we read first person accounts by both American and German soldiers. Caddick-Adams also lets us look over the shoulders of SHAEF commander General Dwight Eisenhower who had to keep peace between British General Bernard Law Montgomery and General Omar Bradley who led 12th Army in the Ardennes. The Germans launched their surprise last gamble attack on December 16, 1944 but after over a month of bloody fighting were turned back. Their goal was the port of Antwerp where massive Allied supplies were being unloaded for use in the field. The Germans had poor logistics and Hitler's plan was insane. The very readable text is accompanied by photos of the battle and a massive bibliography and footnotes. This is one of the best battlefield books I have ever read! Caddick-Adams is one of World War II's finest young historians. Superb!

Between December 16, 1944 and January 15, 1945, American forces found themselves entrenched in the heavily forested Ardennes region of Belgium, France, and Luxembourg defending against an advancing German army amid freezing temperatures, deep snow, and dense fog. Operation Herbstnebel--Autumn Mist--was a massive German counter-offensive that stunned the Allies in its scope and intensity. In the end, the 40-day long Battle of the Bulge, as it has come to be called, was the bloodiest battle fought by U.S. forces in World War II, and indeed the largest land battle in American history. Before effectively halting the German advance, some 89,000 of the 610,000 American servicemen committed to the campaign had become casualties, including 19,000 killed. The engagement saw the taking of thousands of Americans as prisoners of war, some of whom were massacred by the SS--but it also witnessed the storied stand by U.S. forces at Bastogne as German forces besieged the region and culminated in a decisive if costly American victory. Ordered and directed by Hitler himself--against the advice of his generals--the Ardennes offensive was the last major German offensive on the Western Front. In the wake of the defeat, many experienced German units were left severely depleted of men and equipment. Its last reserve squandered, these irreplaceable losses would hasten the end of the war.

In Snow and Steel, Peter Caddick-Adams draws on interviews with over 100 participants of the campaign, as well as archival material from both German and US sources, to offer an engagingly written and thorough reassessment of the historic battle. Exploring the failings of intelligence that were rife on both sides, the effects of weather, and the influence of terrain on the battle's outcome, Caddick-Adams deftly details the differences in weaponry and doctrine between the US and German forces, while offering new insights into the origins of the battle; the characters of those involved on both the American and German sides, from the general staff to the foot soldiers; the preparedness of troops; and the decisions and tactics that precipitated the German retreat and the American victory. Re-examining the SS and German infantry units in the Bulge, he shows that far from being deadly military units, they were nearly all under-strength, short on equipment, and poorly trained; kept in the dark about the attack until the last minute, they fought in total ignorance of their opponents or the terrain. Ultimately, Caddick-Adams

concludes that the German assault was doomed to failure from the start. Aided by an intimate knowledge of the battlefield itself and over twenty years of personal battlefield experience, Caddick-Adams has produced the most compelling and complete account of the Bulge yet written.

"Caddick-Adams knows more about the Bulge than any other historian I have read... I admire his originality... Snow and Steel offers an authoritative narrative of the drama." --Max Hastings, *The Sunday Times* (UK) "[Peter Caddick-Adams] has woven the threads together skillfully and written a book which analysis and narrative combine to provide a brilliant anatomy of a modern battle. Above all, and this is what makes the book enjoyable for the general reader as well as the military buff, Caddick-Adams explains the context of the battle and examines the strengths or weaknesses of the antagonists, their leaders, equipment, ideologies, economic resources, and intelligence systems." --*The Times* (UK)"The Battle of the Bulge was the last gasp of Hitler's armed forces before inevitable defeat and one of the few pitched battles fought in the West. Caddick-Adams has marshalled a wealth of fascinating detail to show that Hitler's last gamble was a military fantasy while Eisenhower emerges from this account as one of the great strategists of the war. This will surely become the standard history of this climactic confrontation in the West." --Richard Overy"Peter Caddick-Adams is fast emerging as one of our most authoritative and exciting military historians... Combining deft analysis with anecdote, he never loses sight of the immense human drama, and his empathy for the many combatants and civilians caught up in this brutal battle is profoundly moving. This is a rich, thought-provoking and surely definitive account of one of the most iconic battles of the Second World War." --James Holland, author of *The Battle of Britain and Dam Busters*"Peter Caddick-Adams's *Snow and Steel* offers readers, at long last, the entirety of the German Ardennes offensive of 1944-5, popularly known as the Battle of the Bulge. Until now the story of the Bulge has been recounted unevenly, in bits and pieces and with emphasis upon pockets of heroism and horror. This book's singular achievement is to offer a balanced view of the strategy and tactics of both sides. Writing with authority yet wearing his scholarship lightly, Caddick-Adams offers an encyclopedic and immersive narrative of the battle that was, in Churchill's words, 'an ever-famous American victory.'" --Andrew Roberts, author of *The Storm of War: A New History of the Second World War*, and *Napoleon: A Life*"*Snow and Steel* tells the story of the Battle of the Bulge from foxhole to the Fuhrer's Command Headquarters, leaving the reader with a new appreciation for the largest battle America fought in the Second World War. With a soldier's insight into the flow and fog of battle, *Snow and Steel* demonstrates why Peter Caddick-Adams rates highly among the new generation of battlefield historians. A must-have and must-read for students of the European War." --LTC (Ret) Roger Cirillo, Association of the US Army Institute of Land Warfare"Caddick-Adams is probably the best military historian of his generation, and *Snow and Steel* is the definitive account of one of the key punctuation marks in history, when the western Allies thwarted Germany's last attempt to turn the tide of the Second World War." --Chris Bellamy, University of Greenwich"*Snow and Steel* is a fresh re-telling of a widely known story. Throughout the narrative Peter Caddick-Adams transitions smoothly back and forth between the highest strategic and operational echelons, down to the level of the frontline GI and Landser. The result is a rich tapestry of the single largest battle in American history." --Maj. Gen. David T. Zabecki, U.S. Army (Ret'd)"Like its predecessor (*Monte Cassino: Ten Armies in Hell*), *Snow and Steel* brings a fresh and innovative approach to military history-so long restricted to the dry study of generals and operations. By exploring the cultures and motivations of the participant armies, as well as by excavating veterans' accounts of surviving the sharp end, Caddick-Adams suffuses life, spark, and dynamism into his new narrative of the incredible story of the Battle of the Bulge." --Alexander Rose, author of *Washington's Spies* (now an AMC series)"A gripping account of one of the most important campaigns of the last year of World War Two, *Snow and Steel* deserves attention from anyone interested in the war." --Jeremy Black, author of *War and Technology* "Caddick-Adams is a master at integrating narrative and analysis, and at balancing personal experiences with descriptions of operations. Broadly conceived, comprehensively researched, clearly written, *Snow and Steel* stands at the forefront among accounts of the Battle of the Bulge." --Dennis Showalter, Colorado College"*Snow and Steel* highlights very effectively a chapter in American military history that has real resonance today. We all have something to learn from reflecting on it." --General Sir Nick Parker, former Commander, UK Land Forces"Caddick-Adams knows the battlefield well and tells a gripping tale based on the first hand experiences of those who fought across its snowy landscape, pricking a few myths along the way and re-assessing the fighting reputation of some of the commanders involved." --Tim Newark, author of *The Mafia at War*"Most military historians write about command and control, but very few have such powerful command and control themselves to drive such a comprehensive and excellent narrative. This is a complex tale, told in an utterly compelling fashion." --Paul Moorcraft, Director of the Centre for Foreign Policy Analysis, London"Packed with fascinating first hand accounts, authoritative analysis and compelling personal vignettes, *Snow and Steel* is hard to put down. Peter Caddick-Adams, a leading Bulge scholar, has walked the battlefields of the Ardennes and studied the campaign for decades. Only an author of his vast experience could produce such a work of importance and excellence. Even if you have read many books on the Bulge, you will learn more from this one." --John C. McManus, author of *Alamo in the Ardennes: The Untold Story of the American Soldiers who Made the Defense of Bastogne Possible*"Superb: an impeccably researched, finely judged reappraisal of a pivotal World War Two battle that still

resonates today." --Saul David, author of *All the King's Men: The British Soldier from the Restoration to Waterloo*"Peter Caddick-Adam's depth and level of analysis of Adolf Hitler's last great offensive, in a desperate gamble to alter the course of World War II is impressive. Packed with fascinating detail, *Snow and Steel* captures the perspectives of both sides in the epic Battle of the Bulge in a manner that hooks the reader into the unfolding drama. A riveting account, his book spans the generalship of the opposing armies and their grand sweeps of strategy down to the experiences of the frontline soldier at the sharp end. The 1944 German Ardennes offensive has been covered many times before, but this is a classic and gripping examination that stands out." --Colonel Stuart Tootal"Caddick-Adams casts a wide net, delving deep into the background, conduct, consequences and even historiography of this iconic battle, so even experienced military buffs will find plenty to ponder." --Kirkus s "The World War II battle pantheon mostly reads like the index to an atlas: Anzio, Iwo Jima, Stalingrad, Tobruk, etc. One exception in the name game traces to a flinty European forest, which we speak of today, thanks to an imaginative newshawk, by employing the subtitle to Peter Caddick-Adams's masterful new book. In this tank-size volume, the gifted Briton, a major in the British Territorial Army who lectures at the U.K. Defence Academy and who most recently wrote with élan of another conflict (*Monte Cassino: Ten Armies in Hell*), illuminates the Battle of the Bulge until he has run out of facets. He layers context and connections with an inclusive style. Both the reader who knows nothing or little of this battle and the maven steeped in Bulgeiana will come away from *Snow and Steel* educated and satedEL. *Snow and Steel* is a treasure." --Michael Dolan, Senior Editor, *World War II Magazine* "Caddick-Adams leaves nothing out, and the details can be overwhelming. But the book's comprehensiveness and rigor will make it hard to supersede as the most authoritative history of the battle." --Foreign Affairs About the AuthorPeter Caddick-Adams is a lecturer in military history and current defense issues at the UK Defence Academy. He is the author of *Monte Cassino: Ten Armies in Hell* and *Monty and Rommel: Parallel Lives*. He holds the rank of major in the British Territorial Army and has served with U.S. forces in Bosnia, Iraq, and Afghanistan.