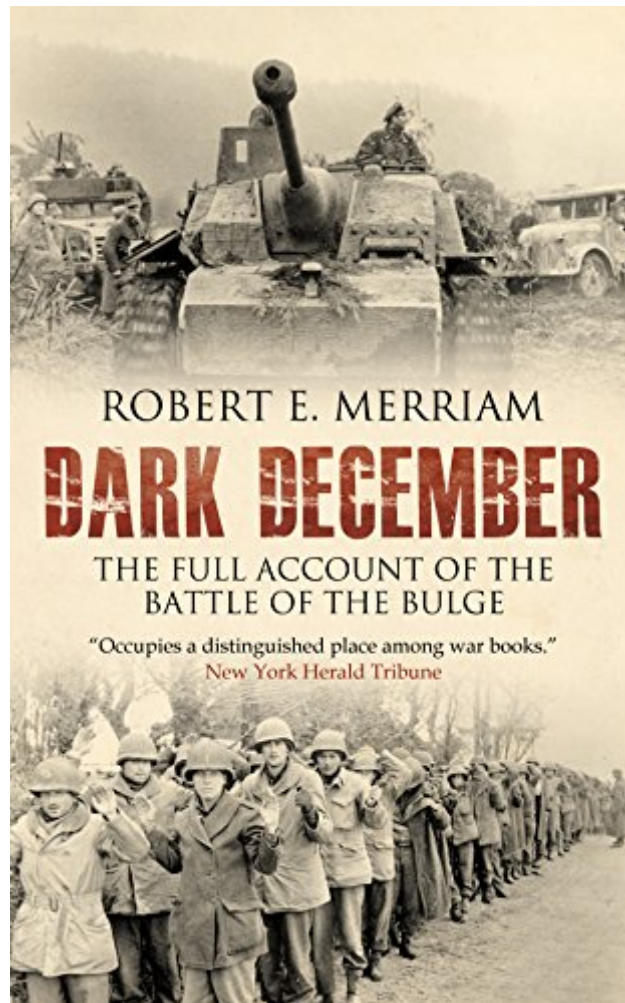




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# Dark December: The Full Account Of The Battle Of The Bulge



## Synopsis

“This is undoubtedly the greatest American battle of the war, and will, I believe, be regarded as an ever famous American victory.” • Winston Churchill

On 16 December 1944, the German army launched their last of their attacks against the Allied forces. With the American forces off guard the German offensive surged through the Ardennes for a last-ditch attempt to win the war on the Western Front. Robert E. Merriam, a soldier who witnessed the battle, pieces together a step by step account of what occurred from the planning undertaken by the German High Command, to the initial engagement and encirclement of the Allied troops through to the counter-offensive that devastated the German forces. Merriam spent much time wandering from the front-lines to the corps headquarters, listening, noting, and talking with men who were attempting to stem this sudden German tide. These first-hand accounts, along with numerous battle records, form the basis of Merriam’s fascinating work *Dark December*. “*Dark December* occupies a distinguished place among war books. Every paragraph is based upon evidence, not flimsy wartime rumors. Technical enough for the professional, accurate enough for the historian (in fact, it is history of the best), it is lucid and understandable for the general reader.” • New York Herald Tribune

“If other veterans of the Army’s historical division can maintain Mr. Merriam’s high standard of stimulating, critical and painstaking work, we will be fortunate. *Dark December* can be heartily recommended to anyone faintly interested in the war.” • New York Times

“The book explodes a number of myths which have been winning their improper way into general belief.” • Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., *Booklist*

*Dark December: The Full Account of the Battle of the Bulge* is essential reading for anyone interested in World War Two and the most famous battle of the Western Front. Robert E. Merriam was a captain in the United States Army from 1942 to 1964. *Dark December: The Full Account of the Battle of the Bulge* was first published in 1947. He spent a number of years in politics, including three years as deputy assistant to the president under Dwight D. Eisenhower. He passed away in 1988.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I read this book because both my father (a career soldier and horse cavalryman turned armor officer) and my father-in-law fought on this ground and carried so many memories home with them. As an avid reader of military history, I appreciated the author's candid willingness to cite the Allies failures and shortcomings, for those are what prepare us for success in future battles, whether the next day or decades away. Well researched and documented, this is not a read for someone interested in a war thrill story. However, taking the time to study provided maps throughout the book will put events and locations in perspective, helping to bring clarity to what has often been a ton of information readers must sort through alone.

Well written and well researched. Written by one who was close to the action at the command level and spoke with the surviving German commanders after the war. The author judiciously analyzes the claims of both sides. The discussion of how surprise was gained should be mandatory reading for military leaders. Not the book for you if you are looking for details of feats of arms or stories of individual or small group heroics. A few quibbles. There are a few, less than ten, glaring editorial errors. The maps are too few and so small as to be almost illegible.

The book is a very objective review of what happened before, during and after Operation Autumn Storm began. It reviews mistakes on both sides of the campaign with a fairly sober eye, and helps clarify what could be considered misconceptions fed by the John Wayne-type films that tended to be very one-sided. The only reason I don't give it five stars is, as the author notes very early, it's hard to do the campaign the justice it deserves in 200 pages. Otherwise it's probably the best all-around

account I have read on the campaign.

An excellent, personal and knowledgeable, account of the Battle of the Bulge by a US Army intelligence officer who was present during the battle. He interviewed senior leaders from both sides and provides a balanced assessment of errors, successes and results, splendidly detailed, in the largest battle on the Western front in WW2.

This is a great book for a military historian, as it includes very specific details about divisions and placement. It lacks the personal stories that draw me to books about the war. If you like the details, this book is great for you. If your looking for heartfelt stories about soldiers in battle, you won't love this book.

VERY WELL DONE. THE AUTHOR GIVES A COMPLETE PICTURE OF THE LAST GASP OF THE THIRD REICH. HE, LIKE MAX HASTINGS AND STEVEN AMBROSE, TELLS IT LIKE IT WAS, NOT AS WE HOPED IT WOUOD BE.

This was a first hand account of all actions involved with the attack of the Ardennes. This work is one of the best accounts of actions in those weeks in December of 1944. I have read many a story, but to have the facts put together like this, is one worth reading. An excellent and interesting factual account.

This book contained the information from the German planning of this battle through their defeat, and what the allied armies did to win this battle. It gives you the information about the horrible conditions and casualties that the soldiers suffered through to win this battle and eventually the end of the war in Europe.

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