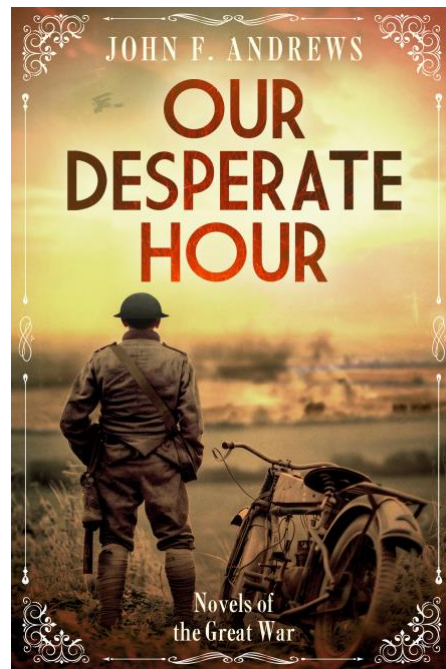
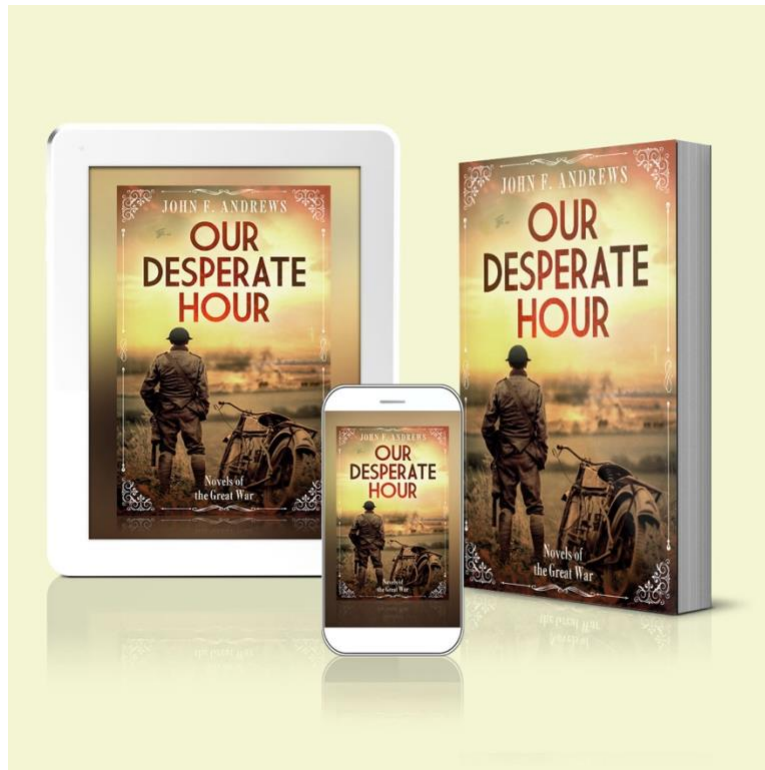


*Our Desperate Hour – Novels of the Great War*  
**PRESS KIT**





# NOVELS OF THE GREAT WAR

HEROES REMEMBERED

From award winning author  
**JOHN F. ANDREWS**

This section shows three book covers by John F. Andrews. From left to right: 'Our Desperate Hour' (same cover as above), 'Dogs Don't Cry' (featuring a soldier and a dog), and 'American Nurse in Paris' (featuring a nurse in a blue uniform). The books are set against a background of a cloudy sky.

## AWARDS

2025 Colorado Authors' League Book Awards:

**Winner in Historical Fiction, post 19<sup>th</sup> Century**

2025 Eric Hoffer Book Awards:

**First Runner Up: Historical Fiction**

**Short list: Grand Prize**

**Finalist: Da Vinci Eye Award (Cover Art)**

2025 Independent Press Award

**Distinguished Favorite in Military Fiction**





## REVIEWS

This is one for the war buffs, and particularly those who enjoy Marine Corps lore. Andrews captures the pain of war in muscular prose . . . clearly knows the period—and particularly the era’s medical practices—but he largely eschews the usual tragedy of WWI narratives . . .

**Kirkus Reviews Verdict: “GET IT”.**

----- *Kirkus Reviews*

This is a remarkable book. Although a fictional account of the Marine Corps' baptism to the Great War, it reads like a war diary of the participants. Some characters are fictional, some are real people. However, the author has provided a vivid account in a highly readable style of the interactions of these personalities in a time of crisis. Warts and all, heroes and scoundrels. His medical background has given the author a unique perspective on the medical aspects of this keystone battle in Marine Corps history. The two chapters on the aid station in Lucy le Bocage are a truly stunning account of the brutal realities of war up close and personal. I could smell the cordite and the stench of the detritus of war. This book is a wonderful tribute to those military medical professionals who worked in terrible conditions to administer first aid to the Devil Dogs at Belleau Wood. Highly recommended.

----Colonel William T. Anderson, USMC (Ret), noted USMC WWI historian

Andrews takes the reader into the action and makes you feel as if you were there, experiencing the horrific scenes of war along with his characters. His descriptions of wounds and the effects of poison gas are not for the faint-hearted, but that is to be expected in a war novel. Andrews is a physician, so his descriptions of medical procedures are accurate. He also writes movingly about the needless tragedy of the men lost in this battle, because of the incompetence of the French general and high-ranking officers, and the inexperience of the Americans. We also learn about the rivalry between the Army and Marine Corps, and we wonder how many deaths could have been prevented if they had worked more closely together. Highly recommended.

---Vicki Kondelik, Reviewer for *Historical Novel Society Magazine*



There are many comparisons to be made to both fiction and non-fiction works based on WWI, but nothing stands out so much as Remarque's classic title *ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT*. It also makes an interesting comparison to Andrews's book, as Remarque's work comes from the perspective of a German soldier. The similarities between the American soldier's experience in Andrews' book and that of Paul Baumer, the German soldier who is Remarque's protagonist, are uncanny. Both authors vividly describe the raw destruction of artillery and its effects on soldiers, the difficulty getting enough food, sleep, and supplies, the dirty, cramped, confused fighting, and the randomness of who lives and dies. Where they differ is that Andrews includes a bit more of the heroics, whereas Remarque refuses to move away from the gritty and pragmatic realism it is focused upon. Andrews' offering has more of a Hollywood blockbuster feel, while Remarque's work is better suited to an arthouse production.

...anyone who enjoys historical war stories will love this book. Moreover, this novel transcends its genre and will likely have wide appeal.

**RECOMMENDED** by the *US Review*

John F. Andrews's *OUR DESPERATE HOUR* is a vivid, thoroughly researched, and powerfully told story of the horrors and cruelties of World War I. Its immediate, personal intimacy and emotional intensity will pull the reader in and refuse to let go.

---Catherine Langrehr, reviewer for *Indie Reader*

*Indie Reader* Star Rating: 5.0 Stars.

#### **Reader review:**

##### **5.0 out of 5 stars Powerful book**

This powerful book takes us on a journey into the battlefield in France during WW I. If you like historical fiction, the details in this book make it seem like you are standing right there. You feel what it was like through the many well-fleshed out characters. It was simply hard to put the book down. One can see what people endured during the war, military and civilian alike, and feel the heartbreak of the father, Ab Johnson, as he seeks news of his son near the front. One also becomes aware of the amazing acts of courage that people are capable of during wartime.

The author's stories are beautifully written, making the characters and events come to life! And these stories do need to be told. His well-researched historical fiction certainly accomplishes this. The two other wonderful books in this series are *An American Nurse in Paris* and *Dogs Don't Cry*.

---Linda Asadourian, Amazon reader

## **BLURB**

**A father's search for his estranged son plunges US Army Major Ab Johnson into the pivotal First World War Battle of Belleau Wood. The fate of Paris and the outcome of the war balance on a knife's edge. This is a story of honor, courage, commitment, a father's love for his son, and the bonds of combat.**

Ab Johnson has one last chance to reconcile with his son, Jack, a marine second lieutenant who is heading into the worst conflict in human history. Second lieutenants don't last long in the killing fields of France. Ab volunteered to rejoin the army and come to France for a liaison job far from the fighting, only to be transferred to the Paris Medical Group. His quest leads him from the backrooms of Paris, through command posts, and to the front lines during the Battle of Belleau Wood. He confronts French petulance and American inexperience as he struggles to help organize an army medical system swamped with casualties during his desperate search.

Ab's story intertwines with three others: an arrogant surgeon who sees war as opportunity; a navy corpsman searching for his place in the world; and a marine private full of fighting spirit and patriotism. They confront their destinies in a grueling fight filled with chaos and heart-stopping fear. Each joined the war effort for his own reasons—now all they hope for is to survive.

## **SHORT DESCRIPTION**

US Army major Ab Johnson, a navy surgeon, navy corpsman, and a marine private plunge into a desperate battle upon which the Great War will turn and a crucible that transforms each of them.

## **FROM THE AUTHOR**

*Our Desperate Hour* takes readers inside the epic World War I Battle of Belleau Wood in ways that no other novel has ever done. The reader journeys between the command centers, medical aid stations, and the front lines, shoulder-to-shoulder with the real heroes of this battle. At its center are Honor, Courage, and Commitment. It is a story of a father's love of his son, fortitude, and comradeship. I wrote this as an ode to the Marines and their Navy "docs". My sons, both Marines, and their comrades inspired me. Semper Fi.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

### Short:

John F. Andrews is the award-winning author of the *Novels of the Great War Series*, including *Our Desperate Hour*, *An American Nurse in Paris*, and *Dogs Don't Cry*. He writes from the perspective of a service family member and critical care physician to craft unique stories based on real events. His characters struggle shoulder-to-shoulder with some of the real heroes of WWI as well as showing the plight of civilians caught in one of the most horrible conflicts in human history. His novels are stories of struggle, survival, hope, resilience, and love.

### Expanded:

John F. Andrews began writing fiction in 2012. His *Novels of the Great War* leverage his fascination with history along with his knowledge and experience as a physician and a Marine Corps father. The latter has given him an intimate understanding of what it is like to be a service family member. This series includes: *An American Nurse in Paris*, *Dogs Don't Cry*, and *Our Desperate Hour*, with three more novels on the way.

Andrews was born in Chicago and raised and worked in Wisconsin and Minnesota. After earning a BA in psychology, he completed medical school at the University of Minnesota. He trained in internal medicine at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Michigan, and then completed a pulmonary medicine fellowship at the University of Chicago. He earned board certifications in Internal, Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine. After a successful practice in Green Bay, Wisconsin, he and his wife, Sue, retired to Manhattan, Montana. He became involved in the fire service and worked as an EMT, firefighter, and medical officer. John and Sue then moved to Arvada, Colorado, where they enjoy family and the magnificent Rocky Mountains.

## AUTHOR LINKS

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## NOVEL DETAILS

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Author website purchase link: <https://johnfrederickandrews.com/where-to-buy>

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