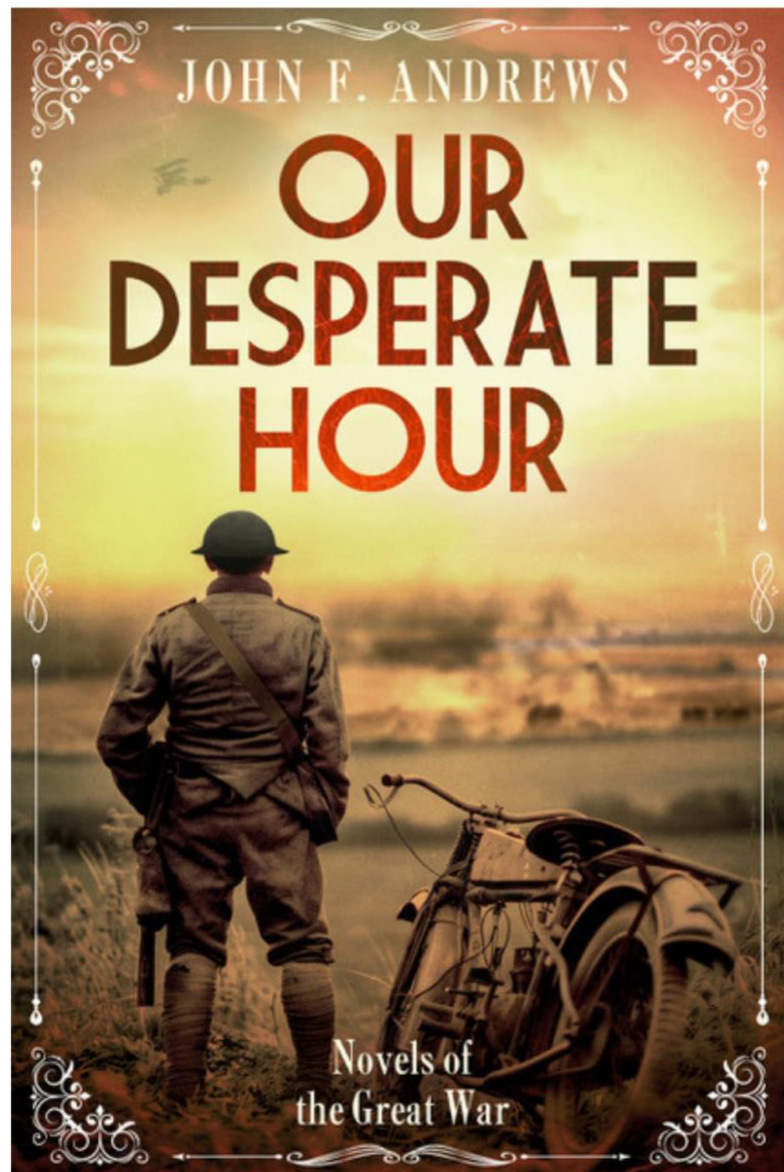


**INTRODUCING
OUR DESPERATE HOUR**



MISSION:

REMEMBER FORGOTTEN HEROES

TACTICAL AREA OF OPERATION:

BELLEAU WOOD, FRANCE

INSPIRATION:

THE AUTHOR'S SONS AND THEIR COMRADES
MARINES AND THEIR NAVY "DOCS"



SEMPER FIDELIS

**OUR
DESPERATE
HOUR
AWARDS**



*Marine Corps Heritage
Foundation: 2025 James Webb Award*



*2025
Historical Fiction*



*2025
Historical
Fiction*



*2025
Cover Art*



2025



WEBSITE



*2025
Military/War
Fiction*



AWARDS

2026 Marine Corps Heritage Foundation James Webb Award

**2025 Writer's Digest 13th Annual Self-Published E-book Awards:
Honorable Mention in the Mystery/Thriller category**

**2025 Colorado Authors' League Book Awards:
Winner in Historical Fiction, post 19th Century**

**2025 Eric Hoffer Book Awards:
First Runner Up in Historical Fiction
Short list for the Grand Prize
Finalist for the Da Vinci Eye Award (Cover Art)**

**2025 Independent Press Award
Distinguished Favorite in Military Fiction**

**2025 Independent Author Network
Finalist in Fiction, Military/War**

REVIEWS

Your remarkable work profoundly communicates the experience and importance of the United States Marine Corps while preserving a rich history that our Corps and Nation should never forget.

---- Marine Corps History Foundation

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*

Enhanced for the reader's benefit by the historical research of John F. Andrews in the process of writing his 'Novels of the Great War', "Our Desperate Hour" is a simply fascinating and skillfully written story that brings the reader into a yesteryear of World War I and its impact on the lives of the men who fought across the battle fields of France. A gem of historical fiction that is an exceptional and highly recommended acquisition selection for community library 20th Century Historical Fiction and World War I themed fiction collections . . .

----Midwest Book Review

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.

...fans of war novels will find much to appreciate here.

---BlueInk Reviews

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.

Alternate:

US Army Major Ab Johnson, a navy surgeon, navy corpsman, and a Marine private plunge into a desperate battle as the tide of the Great War turns. It is a crucible that transforms each of them. This is a story of honor, courage, commitment, a father's love of his son, and the bonds of combat.

Alternate:

A father's search for his estranged son, a US Marine second lieutenant, plunges Army Major Ab Johnson into a desperate battle where the greatest hope was to survive. This is a story of the Battle of Belleau Wood shown through the Ab's eyes and those of a US Navy surgeon, a Navy corpsman, and a young Marine private.

Amazon ad copy:

The Battle of Belleau Wood as you have never seen it as a father searches for his estranged son. A story of honor, courage, commitment, and hope (Amazon ad copy)

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's Marine Corps Connection:

Dr. Andrews became a Marine Corps Family Member in 2003 when his son, Michael J. Andrews, graduated from boot camp at the San Diego Marine Recruit Depot. His younger son, Matthew S. Andrews graduated from the same boot camp in 2005. Thus, Andrews is a Marine Father twice over. His most memorable events since 2003 are largely related to the USMC. Mike served from 2003 to 2013 with the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion and 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion, later designated as the 1st Raiders over the course of six combat deployments. Matt started as an enlisted reservist and completed OCS while in college. He served as a platoon leader with the 1/23 Marines as an infantry officer and then moved into aviation with multiple deployments as an F/A-18 pilot. He served as a flight instructor when detached to the Finnish Air Force.

Andrews writes from the heart, with deep love for his sons and their fellow Marines. He knows what their families go through on the home front and leverages his medical expertise to provide a unique medical perspective in his novels.

AUTHOR LINKS

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<https://amazon.com/author/johnf.andrews>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/46743900.John_F_Andrews

YouTube: YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@JohnAndrews-g7u>

Author newsletters sign up at: <https://46-north-publications-llc.kit.com/743a603dd0>

NOVEL DETAILS

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PURCHASE LINKS

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

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Our-Desperate-Hour-Novels-Great-ebook/dp/B0DKJSNS6J/>

Apple Books: <https://books.apple.com/us/book/our-desperate-hour/id6737520293?ls=1>

Barnes & Noble: <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/s/Our%20Desperate%20Hour>

Bookshop.org: <https://bookshop.org/p/books/our-desperate-hour-novels-of-the-great-war-john-f-andrews/21931357?ean=9798989383573&next=t>

Goodreads: https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/220660108-our-desperate-hour?ref=nav_sb_ss_1_18

Kobo: <https://www.kobo.com/us/en/ebook/our-desperate-hour>

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