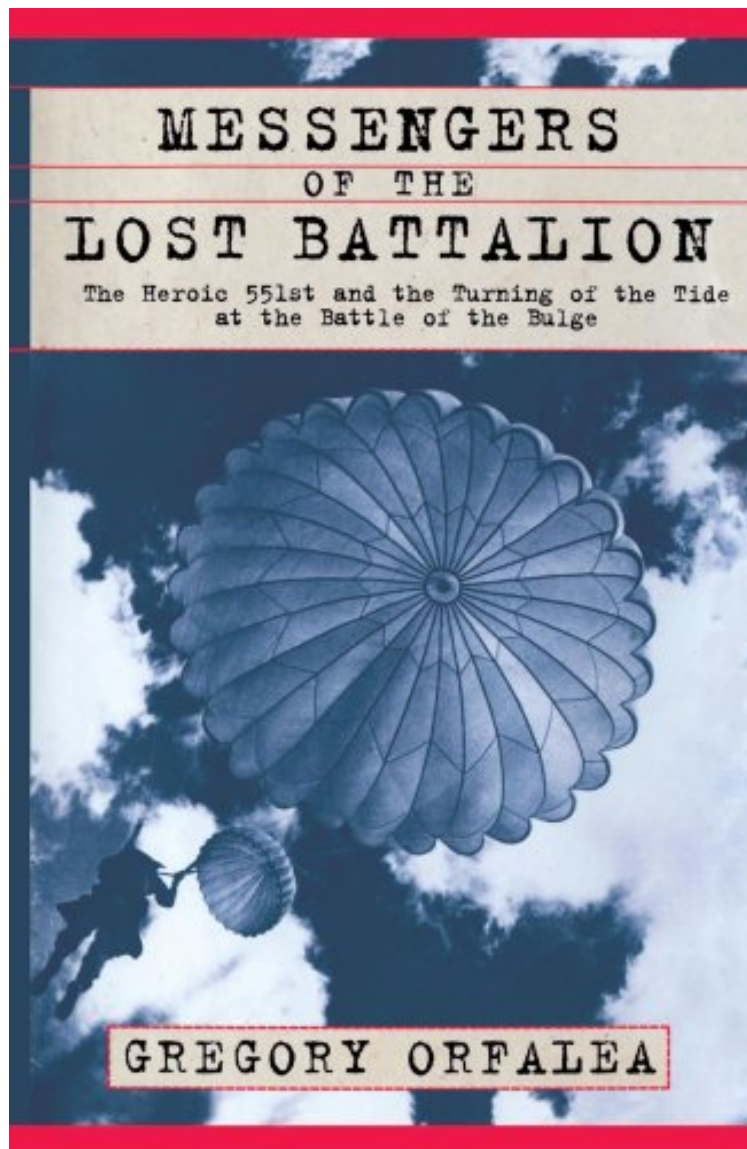


[FREE] Messengers of the Lost Battalion: The Heroic 551st and the Turning of the Tide at th (English Edition)

## Messengers of the Lost Battalion: The Heroic 551st and the Turning of the Tide at th (English Edition)

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Von Gregory Orfalea : Messengers of the Lost Battalion: The Heroic 551st and the Turning of the Tide at th (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Messengers of the Lost Battalion: The Heroic 551st and the Turning of the Tide at th (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Once you start you can't put it down!!Von Ein KundeThis is an incredible book, and a superlative history of the 551st. I found the beginning to be a bit slow, but that was only the beginning. As I got further and further into the book it got better and better. From the night jump to the maritime alps, and to the attack on Rochlinval. This book will also make your blood boil at the incredible injustice done to these heroic soldiers, by the Army and the government.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A masterful job of telling an interesting story in detail.Von eldonjoe@netscape.netThis is a superbly written account of the 551st airborne in WW II. The author tells the whole story by piecing together many small interesting individual stories much like Bruce Catton did with his civil war books. The individual stories are interesting with much detail of the personal adventure of the men who lived this adventure.

KurzbeschreibungThe author of Before the Flames and the son of a member of the ill-fated infantry battalion discusses America's 551st Battalion and their heroic, little-known role during World War II's Battle of the Bulge.From Kirkus sA son's record of his long, wide-ranging search to uncover his dead father's army experiences during WW II. Poet and historian Orfalea attended the first reunion of the 551st Battalion, hoping to find out something about his father, but discovered many mysteries instead. Why was this heroic airborne unit sent to its destruction against a well-entrenched German unit, and why were their achievements ignored in military history? During the Battle of the Bulge, with few other units not already pinned down or shattered, the 551st was sent against fanatically determined German forces in a counterattack that lasted five days, blunted a part of the German assault, took hundreds of prisoners, and left only 110 of the battalion's 643 soldiers standing when it ended. Despite this extraordinary record, the unit was disbanded, its records were destroyed, its bravery went unrecognized, and its very existence was swiftly forgotten by the army bureaucracy. Orfalea's investigations reveal the men of the 551st to have been exuberant loners, distrustful of authority; many had served time in the military stockade. Unattached to other Allied forces, they were, in many ways, seen as a rowdy, defiant bunch and thus, perhaps, dispensable. Despite the army's neglect, the unit received the Croix de Guerre from Charles de Gaulle, and a monument was erected to them by the Belgians in recognition of their heroic efforts. Orfalea, who writes vividly and with great detail about the men of the 551st and their battles, asserts that the army, ever reluctant to acknowledge past injustice in the ranks, is still unwilling (despite the entreaties of 551st survivors and several generals) to recognize the unit's remarkable achievement. A fine military history of a heroic, hitherto forgotten unit finally brought to light. -- Copyright 1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.From Library JournalYet another fragment in the intricate mosaic of World War II, this book is part battle history and part detective story but mostly an angst-ridden memoir to a troubled father. The 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion fought its way across Europe until it was nearly annihilated in a heroic assault during the winter battle in the Ardennes. Years later, Orfalea, a poet and the son of one of the survivors, became aware of the lost outfit and set out to uncover its story. In a sensitive and deeply introspective narrative, he has pieced together the experiences of his father and explores the "mystery" of the heroic unit's present obscurity. This conspiracy angle is somewhat overblown, but the story of the 551st needed to be told, and Orfalea does it better than most of the official unit histories. His narrative is enlightened by numerous deft character sketches, vivid flashbacks, and poignant anecdotes gleaned from army reunions. Recommended for military collections and larger public libraries.?Raymond L. Puffer, U.S. Air Force History Prog., Edwards AFB, Victorville, Cal.Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.