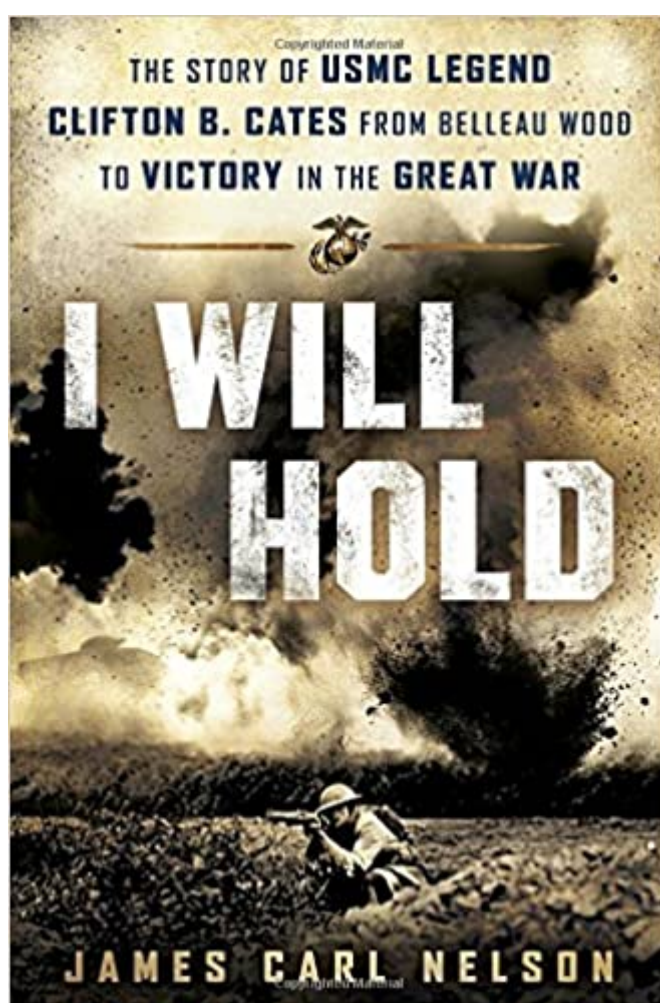


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# I Will Hold: The Story Of USMC Legend Clifton B. Cates, From Belleau Wood To Victory In The Great War



## Synopsis

Winner of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation 2017 Colonel Joseph Alexander Award for Biography  
The incredible true story of Clifton B. "Lucky" Cates, whose service in World War I and beyond made him a legend in the annals of the Marine Corps. Cates knew that he and his small band of marines were in a desperate spot. Before handing the note over to a runner, he added three words that would resound through Marine Corps history: I WILL HOLD. From the moment he first joined the Marine Reserves of the American Expeditionary Force in World War I, Clifton B. Cates was determined to make his mark as a leader. Little did he know what he would truly accomplish in his legendary career. Not as well-known as his contemporaries such as Alvin C. York, his fame would not come from a single act of heroism but from his consistent and courageous demeanor throughout the war and beyond. In the bloody second half of 1918 with the 6th Marine Regiment, he was awarded the Navy Cross, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Purple Heart, the Silver Star, was recognized by the French government with the Legion of Honor and the Croix de Guerre, and earned the nickname "Lucky." I Will Hold is the inspiring, brutally vivid, and incredible true life story of a Marine Corps legend whose grit and unstoppable spirit on the battlefield matched his personal drive and sage wisdom off of it. INCLUDES PHOTOS

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A thrilling, smooth-flowing account...an action-packed study of Marines at war." --Leatherneck, the Magazine of the Marines  
"A great, riveting story that moves along like a novel." --Mitchell Yockelson, author of Forty-Seven Days: How Pershing's Warriors Came of Age to Defeat the

German Army in World War I"Striking a perfect balance between literary craft and historic scholarship, James Carl Nelson paints a vivid portrait of young Marine Lieutenant Cliff Cates, who led men to victory after victory in the trenches and killing fields of World War I—his Western Front and survived against insurmountable odds, forging a leader who would become Marine Corps Commandant and inspire legend. Guided by the voices of Cates and his fellow marines, Nelson takes the reader on a wartime journey at times triumphant and inspiring, at others poignant and harrowing, from the bloody woods of Belleau to the killing fields of Soissons and Saint-Mihiel up to the bank of the Meuse River. I Will Hold is essential historical literature and military history at its best." -- Matthew Davenport, author of *First Over There: The Attack on Cantigny, America's First Battle of World War I*"James Nelson has captured the enthusiasm and passion of Clifton Cates as a young officer of Marines in the First World War. This story amazes us, not just because Cates survived horrific battles against horrendous odds, but because this plucky lieutenant's infectious optimism and spirit also survived the days of relentless misery and moments of heart-stopping terror. Nelson writes the story beautifully, drawing upon Cates' own words and never before published eyewitness accounts by men who knew him. I Will Hold will not disappoint lovers of Marine Corps and Great War history." -- Peter F. Owen, Lieutenant Colonel, USMC (Retired), author of *To the Limit of Endurance: A Battalion of Marines in the Great War*.Praise for the military histories of James Carl Nelson*The Remains of Company D: A Story of the Great War*"The standard for research into the story of the American Expeditionary Force. Essential for all students of modern war." — *Library Journal*"A personal, moving journey that will be a welcome addition to any military-history bookshelf." — *Kirkus Reviews**Five Lieutenants: The Heartbreaking Story of Five Harvard Men Who Led America to Victory in World War I* "The multiple voices, coupled with Mr. Nelson's narrative skills, create a powerful mosaic that captures the exhilaration and horror of war." — *Wall Street Journal*"This eloquent work of the toll of war builds moving stories through a wealth of personal detail." — *Kirkus Reviews*

James Carl Nelson is a journalist and author of *Five Lieutenants: The Heartbreaking Story of Five Harvard Men Who Led America to Victory in World War I* and *The Remains of Company D: A Story of the Great War*, which was given an Editor's Choice Award as one of 2009's best seven history books by Booklist. He lives in Minneapolis.

Once again James Carl Nelson has struck a deep and memorable chord in this, his third account of the American experience on the battlefields of France in the First World War. Gripping, fast-paced,

descriptive, and accurate, this comprehensively researched biography of US troops in combat will hold you in its grasp deep into the night. "I Will Hold" joins Nelson's "The Remains of Company D" and "Five Lieutenants" in the most prominent spot of my bookcase. I will read this again and again, and will encourage my students to do so as well!

Anyone interested in the history of the Marine Corps will find this book very informative. I feel this book explains some of the reasons certain Army officers had it "in" for my Marine Corps. In Korea, under Army command and at the end of the army supply they certainly did us few favors!

Having read dozens of WWII chronicles of men in combat, it's still surprising to me how few have been written about its precursor, World War I. James Carl Nelson's *I Will Hold: The Story of USMC Legend Clifton B. Cates, from Belleau Wood to Victory in the Great War* is an unsung hero-type saga that stands up to the powerful expectations of readers who know their military history. I'm still slightly bewildered that the tale of future USMC Commandant Clifton B. Cates had to wait nearly a century to be told, but here it is, a terrific read...

An in-depth account of one marine and his leadership ability during WWI. The last couple of chapters really expose the vanity of the generals and their insatiable desire during the last 12 hours of the war.

This is a very good companion book to the author's other book *The Remains of Company D*. The Marines were at Soissons down the line a ways from the author's grandfather whose Company D was featured in the author's other book. . I would have liked a few maps to follow the progress of the battles, but the book was not designed as a treatise of military strategy/doctrine. It is well written in a way that maintains the interest of the reader. I recommend this book.

You don't find much about the Marines in WWI outside stories of Belleau Wood. It follows Cates through his Marine Corps career with the primary focus being on WWI. I would love to see a follow up on his time in WWII and commandant during the Korean Conflict with the challenges of trying to save the Corps from being disbanded and rolled into the Army.

General Clifton Cates is from the next county west of my hometown, just 10 miles away. It was great reading about his WWI experience. The Lake County Armory is named for him, and a new

Mississippi River landing is named Cates Landing for his family's original farm.

The subject of this book is Marine Lieutenant Clifton Cates who fought at the battle of Belleau Wood and the subsequent battles that followed. Some great insights to the man who would later become Commandant of the Marine Corps.

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