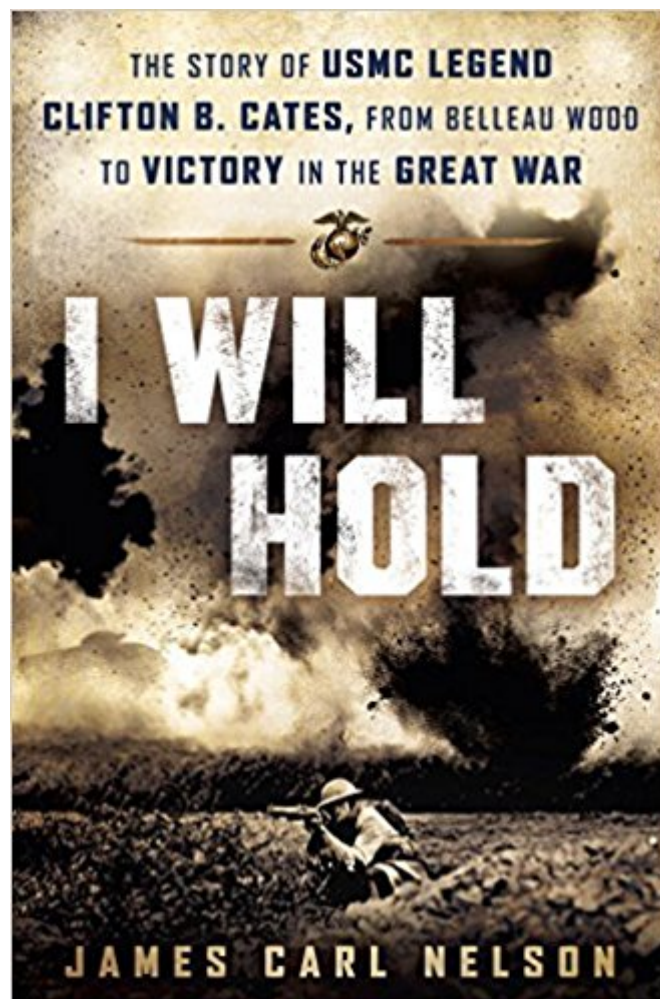


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# **I Will Hold: The Story Of USMC Legend Clifton B. Cates, From Belleau Wood To Victory In The Great War**



## Synopsis

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

If you think you don't want to read any more about The Great War, you are wrong. "I Will Hold" is beyond politics, beyond rhetoric, beyond "pacification" and body counts and the psychotic vaudeville of Belleau Wood press briefings. Its materials are fear and death, hallucination and the burning of souls. As a veteran of 37 years in the USMC, I can say unreservedly that "I Will

Holdâ • is a certain kind of reporting come of ageâ ”that is, achieving literature. James Carl Nelson’s reporting addresses itself to great human issues, subjective, painfully honest, scaled of abstractions down to the viscera, the violence and the sexuality understood and transcended. Stunning,

Let me just say that author James Carl Nelson brings to life the fearsome battles in which the United States Marine Corps fought and sacrificed themselves in Word War 1 -- and shows how the ordeals at Belleau Wood, Soissons, and Blanc Mont forged the legend of the Corps’ 19th Commandant Clifton Bledsoe Cates. I have to say it’s a terrific, action-packed read that is going to delight and enthrall readers of U.S. and military-history.

James Carl Nelson, an established World War I author and historian with two books on the 28th Infantry Regiment (1st Division) to his credit, turns his attention to the Marine Corps and Captain Cliff Cates of the 6th Marine Regiment. Using a broad array of sources, including letters, diaries, unit histories, newspaper articles, and memoirs, Nelson covers not only Cates’s story, but the story of the Marine Brigade in the Great War. Telling the story chronologically, and with skillful prose, Nelson shows us the ground-level view of combat. Early into the narrative we understand why Cates received the nickname Lucky Cates; he passed through numerous battles with a variety of close calls. Cates eventually rose to become Commandant of the Marine Corps. After reading this book, readers will have a greater understanding of why that was so. There are eight pages of black and white photographs included. The book would have benefited by the addition of some good maps. That aside, I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in Marine Corps or World War I history. Peter L. Belmonte Days of Perfect Hell: The U.S. 26th Infantry Regiment in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, October-November 1918 Italian Americans in World War II (IL) (Voices of America)

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