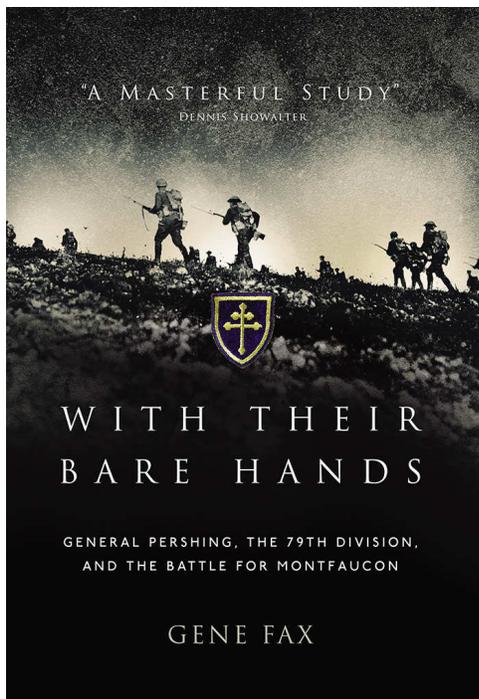


The U.S. Military History Group is pleased to announce *With Their Bare Hands: General Pershing, the 79th Division, and the Battle for Montfaucon* by Gene Fax as the winner of the 2017 Master Corporal Jan Stanislaw Jakobczak Memorial Book Award.

A committee of award-winning historians selected *With Their Bare Band* as the 2017 Jakobczak Award, which recognizes the outstanding book published between January 2016 and June 2017, that covers any topic in U.S. Military History from 1898 to 1945.

*With Their Bare Hands* was published by Osprey Press.

Gene Fax is an engineer by training who founded The Cadmus Group, Inc. He spent seventeen years researching and writing this book. Fax's grandfather served in the 79<sup>th</sup> Division in the First World War.



Praise from the Selection Committee members:

“*With their Bare Hands* follows the men of the 79<sup>th</sup> Division from inception, through training and deployment in an epic tale. Instead of delivering another hagiographic account, the author tells the meticulously researched unvarnished truth about the shortcomings of training, equipment, tactics and leadership in the American Expeditionary Force that would cause an unprecedented amount of casualties in a brief time. The critical story finds a full balance with eye witness accounts of doughboys who fought on despite the odds ‘with their bare hands.’ This book is one of the most important new books about American warfare in World War I.”

--Jörg Muth, author of *Command Culture: Office Education in the U.S. Army and the German Armed Forces, 1901-1940*

“Gene Fax’s *With Their Bare Hands* is a carefully researched and well told story of the US 79<sup>th</sup> Division in the Battle of Montfaucon in World War I. From a tight focus on a single division during a single battle, Fax takes a wide aperture to discuss the geography, sociology, strategy, and politics of the Great War. His judgments are measured; doling praise when warranted and criticism when earned. His use of original German sources is an appreciated departure from many books in the same genre, and his close look at the everyday soldier experience is among the best in its field.”

--Thomas A. Hughes, author of *Admiral Bill Halsey: A Navy Life*

“Making sense of the United States contribution to World War I is a challenging task, for the apparent brevity of the conflict belies the monumental effort to create a fighting force from nearly nothing in a matter of months. The majesty of Gene Fax’s *With their Bare Hands* is that by following a single division through the entirety of its war experience, Fax makes it possible for all to reenter that distant world and make better sense of what the experience must have been like, horrific and formative, for so many young men.”

--Jonathan Reed Winkler, author of *Nexus: Strategic Communication and American Security in World War I*