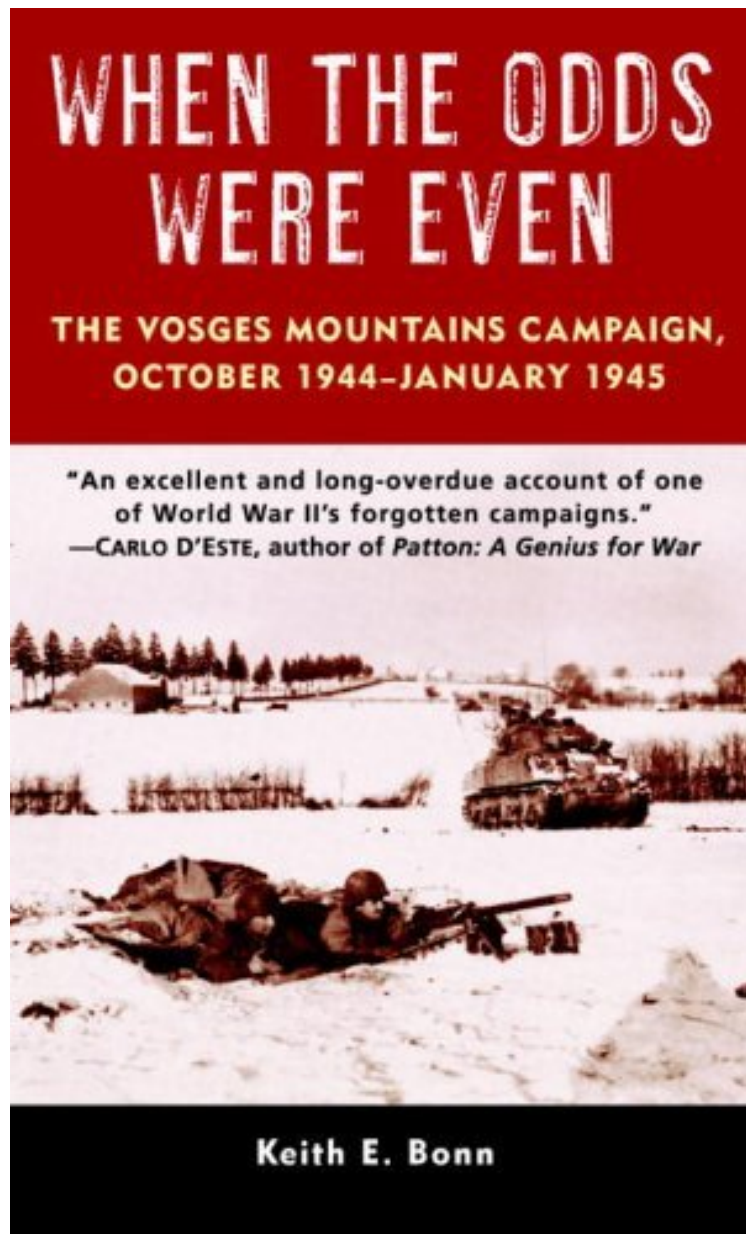


(Read now) When the Odds Were Even: The Vosges Mountains Campaign, October 1944-January 1945

## When the Odds Were Even: The Vosges Mountains Campaign, October 1944-January 1945

Von Keith Bonn

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**Von Keith Bonn : When the Odds Were Even: The Vosges Mountains Campaign, October 1944-January 1945** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised When the Odds Were Even: The Vosges Mountains Campaign, October 1944-January 1945:

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Revisi...  
View Von D. Caracillo  
The time? Autumn and winter 1944-45. The place? The Vosges Mountains of northeastern France. Allied forces from the 7th US Army pitted against the vaunted, often overly hailed, but numerically superior Wehrmacht pierced the perimeter of Hitler's Army Group G. Defending the Vaterland from the formidable defensive bastions in the Alsace were some of Germany's finest combat formations. However, for the first time in military history an attacker vanquished a defender entrenched in the Vosges Mountains. While the odds were even for both sides in terms of personnel strengths and combat multipliers, US doctrine was more clearly reflected in the organization of its troops for combat and US soldiers were far better trained and led than most of their German counterparts. The result of these differences was the success of American arms in the Vosges Campaign. Infantry officer and author Keith E. Bonn conducts a complete analysis of the winter battle in *When the Odds Were Even*. While explaining the ground rules for comparing historical entities, Bonn offers a precise and thoroughly researched chronicle of the campaign from its initial successes in early October to the harsh fight for the Low Vosges in the closing days of 1944. At this point in the Second World War the Americans possessed air, logistical, and manpower superiority in the European Theater of Operations. However, due to the poor weather and impregnable terrain in the Vosges those advantages were obviated and the opposing forces were pitted against each other clearly on even terms. Referring to Clausewitzian principles and doctrinal concepts, Bonn offers the reader an absolute complete case study of this often overlooked battle. This great mountain barrier of the Vosges Mountains constituted the last great geographical barrier before the Rhine itself. Crossing the Rhine would place the Allies on the doorstep of the Third Reich. By late 1944 the German Army in the west was suited neither by organization or personal training for the execution of its mission to hold back the Allies from the gates of Germany. While the American's tactical and operational doctrine was very similar to the that of the Germans, the US 6th and 15th Corps clearly out fought the Germans. In the end, the victor would be decided not by the numbers, air power, or armor superiority, but by training and tactical proficiency. And that victor was the US Army. *When the Odds Were Even* carefully analyzes this campaign and conveys an accurate picture of the comparative combat proficiency of the two adversaries involved. Keith Bonn has provided this long overdue account in a masterful manner refuting the much claimed idea that the US should discard its own uniquely evolved institutions and doctrines and simply imitate the Wehrmacht. Historians and military leaders must read this book for it proves that the superior training, organization, and execution of doctrine by the American Military units is what accounted for the unprecedented success of the 7th Army in 1945 and will continue to do so in the future.

Kurzbeschreibung  
In three months of savage fighting, the U.S. Seventh Army did what no army in the history of modern warfare had ever done before conquer an enemy defending the Vosges Mountains. With the toughest terrain on the Western Front, the Vosges mountain range was seemingly an impregnable fortress, manned by German troops determined to hold the last barrier between the Allies and the Rhine. Yet despite nearly constant rain, snow, ice, and mud, soldiers of the U.S. Seventh Army tore through thousands of pillboxes, acres of barbed wire, hundreds of roadblocks, and miles of other enemy obstacles, ripping the tenacious German defenders out of their fortifications in fierce fighting and then held on to their gains by crushing Operation Nordwind, the German offensive launched in a hail of steel at an hour before midnight on the last New Years Eve of the war. Keith Bonn's fascinating study of this little-known World War II campaign offers a rare opportunity to compare German and American fighting formations in a situation where both sides were fairly evenly matched in numbers of troops, weapons, supplies, and support. This gripping battle-by-battle account shatters the myth that German formations were, division for division, superior to their American counterparts.  
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Pressestimmen  
An excellent and long-overdue account of one of World War II's forgotten campaigns.  
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