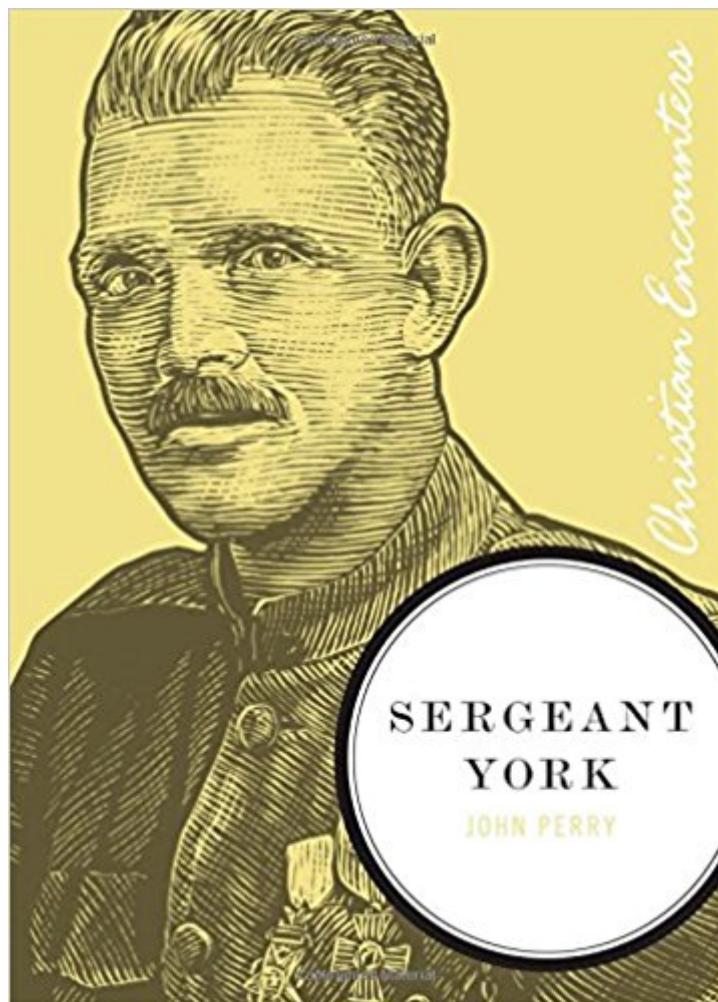


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# Sergeant York (Christian Encounters Series)



## Synopsis

Growing up in the Tennessee hills, Alvin York was equally renowned as a marksman and as a hard-drinking brawler. A dramatic New Year's conversion convinced him that killing was against God's will, and yet this shy, big-boned mountaineer singlehandedly dispatched two dozen Germans and captured 132 in the closing days of World War I. He earned the Medal of Honor and a ticker tape parade but refused to cash in on his fame, insisting "Uncle Sam's uniform ain't for sale." This succinct and gripping new account of Sgt. York's remarkable life includes details from exclusive interviews with the sergeant's three surviving children and information drawn from battlefield eyewitness reports and original film studio archives: fresh reminders of the legacy of one of America's great Christian patriots. We learn about life through the lives of others. Their experiences, their trials, their adventures become our schools, our chapels, our playgrounds.

Christian Encounters, a series of biographies from Thomas Nelson Publishers, highlights important lives from all ages and areas of the Church through prose as accessible and concise as it is personal and engaging. Some are familiar faces. Others are unexpected guests. Whether the person is D.L. Moody, Sergeant York, Saint Nicholas, John Bunyan, or William F. Buckley, we are now living in the world that they created and understand both it and ourselves better in the light of their lives. Their relationships, struggles, prayers, and desires uniquely illuminate our shared experience.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

John Perry graduated cum laude from Vanderbilt University, with additional studies at University College, Oxford, England. Before beginning his career as an author in 1997, he was an award-winning advertising copywriter and radio producer. John has published 21 books as an author, collaborator, or ghostwriter. He is the biographer of Sgt. Alvin York, Mary Custis Lee (wife of Robert E. Lee and great granddaughter of Martha Washington), and George Washington Carver. Among other books, he has also written about the 1925 Scopes "monkey" trial (Monkey Business, with Marvin Olasky, B&H Publishing, 2005) and contemporary prison reform (God Behind Bars, Thomas Nelson, 2006). He is a two-time Gold Medallion finalist and Lincoln Prize nominee. He lives in Nashville.

Great story. Greater because it's true! Bought for my kids using the literature-based Modern World and American History by Beautiful Feet curriculum. Best recommendation comes from one of my kids who said, "This was really a good book, mom."

This book is a very good historical account of SGT York's life AFTER the First World War, and his struggles to improve educational opportunities for the children within his home area of TN. I got a little lost in all the political wrangling between himself and some of the local political powers, I had to re-read some sections to get a better understanding of all that. This book really highlights the unknown part of SGT York's life, that he could have gotten rich off his combat heroics, but instead choose to do "good works" for his community instead. This part of SGT York's life is just as honorable, maybe even more so, than what he did on the battlefield. If you're looking for "combat history" here, get a different book. His actions in WWI that earned him the Medal of Honor is covered briefly at the beginning of the book and the rest of it is about his struggles to build a school. Which is actually fitting, since SGT York himself, saw his works at home, after the war, to be more important than what he did in France.

Sergeant Alvin C. York has been a monumental figure in my life since I was a child. One of my earliest memories is watching Sergeant York, the film, with my dad on a rented tape, and "Ma wants ya, Alvin" was idiomatic among my friends. As good as the film is, the irony is that it concludes with forty years of York's life remaining to be lived, and it was those forty years for which York wanted to be remembered. Thanks to Howard Hawks's outstanding film, many are familiar with the broad outlines of York's life up through World War I. Growing up in backwoods Tennessee, York was a drunkard who experienced a profound conversion thanks to his devout mother. To the astonishment

of all, the drinking, swearing, fighting York became the Sunday school teaching, Bible-reading, pacifist York. He settled down, turned inward, and fervently studied his Bible. Then the US entered World War I. John Perry's biography of York is a great read, not only because it tells an important story well but also because it fills in details in a familiar--but somewhat fictionalized--story. This holds especially true for York's conversion and crisis of conscience as a soldier. When all efforts to obtain conscientious objector status failed, sympathetic officers in York's company helped him through his doubts about fighting, trading Bible verses with him until York arrived at what was essentially a Just War position--"I don't approve of taking human life unless it is necessary," he said after the war, "but I considered it necessary." As I mentioned, the film, made in 1941 as another war edged toward an isolationist America, covers only those events that made York famous. These events take up barely a third of Perry's biography. The rest is a less familiar tale. The film depicts York returning a hero and settling down. In reality, following York's departure for France he never really stopped fighting--though, as in his wartime experiences, love and peace were foremost in his mind. During the 1920s York campaigned nationwide for the cause of rural education, citing himself--with barely a third grade education--as an example. When his project was derailed by politics and finances, he used his rapidly sharpening skill with the public to force it through. Similar problems plagued the York Agricultural Institute for years to come. As savvy as York eventually became in the arts of public speaking and opinion making, he remained, at his core, a simple country man, devoutly religious and generous to a fault. His generosity got him in trouble as he donated virtually all his income to religious and educational projects, especially following the release of the film *Sergeant York* in 1941. He gave away nearly all of his considerable royalties from the film to start the York Bible School, which he saw as fulfilling the (mostly) failed mission of the York Agricultural Institute to impart both religious and vocational instruction. Passing his royalties directly to these projects without deigning to inform the IRS landed York in a legal wrangle that ended only after Ed Sullivan plead for charitable contributions on his TV show in the 1960s. "York's faith transformed his life," Perry concludes, "and that transformation in turn had a ripple effect that eventually touched millions." The lesson of York's life, Perry argues in closing, is that simple faith and humility are more powerful weapons than any hunting rifle. This is a quick, powerful read and a good introduction to an important hero--not a war hero, but a hero of the faith. In York's words: "I do not care to be remembered as a warrior but as one who helped others to Christ." Highly recommended.

Inspirational story of a great, and courageous man. Hope future generations take the time to learn

his contribution to our country.

Of course, I like all things Kindle

great book

This is an excellent read and look into the life of one of our most read & watched heroes. This is the first book as part of our Men's Book club this cycle.

An outstanding biography of a World War 1 hero - a man who lived his faith. Low price at

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