

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910790712303321
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Titolo	Verdun : the longest battle of the Great War // Paul Jankowski
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York : , : Oxford University Press, , 2013 ©2013
ISBN	0-19-931691-0 0-19-931690-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (345 p.)
Disciplina	940.4/272
Soggetti	Verdun, Battle of, Verdun, France, 1916
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Contents; Timeline; Introduction; 1. The Three Hundred Days of Verdun; 2. Verdun under German Eyes; 3. Verdun under French Eyes; 4. The Offensive Trap; 5. The Prestige Trap; 6. The Attritional Trap; 7. The Nightmare; 8. Rancor; 9. Warning Signals; 10. Enemies; 11. Circles of Loyalty; Epilogue; Acknowledgments; Appendix on Sources; List of Abbreviations; Notes; Bibliography; Index; A; B; C; D; E; F; G; H; I; J; K; L; M; N; O; P; R; S; T; V; W; Y; Z
Sommario/riassunto	At seven o'clock in the morning on February 21, 1916, the ground in northern France began to shake. For the next ten hours, twelve hundred German guns showered shells on a salient in French lines. The massive weight of explosives collapsed dugouts, obliterated trenches, severed communication wires, and drove men mad. As the barrage lifted, German troops moved forward, darting from shell crater to shell crater. The battle of Verdun had begun. In Verdun, historian Paul Jankowski provides the definitive account of the iconic battle of World War I. A leading expert on the French past, Jankowski co