Record Nr. UNINA9910814033303321 Autore Faulkner Richard Shawn Titolo The school of hard knocks: combat leadership in the American Expeditionary Forces / / Richard S. Faulkner College Station, Tex., : Texas A&M University Press, 2012 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-280-77231-X 9786613683083 1-60344-698-2 Edizione [1st ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (410 p.) C.A. Brannen series; no. 12 Collana Disciplina 940.4/1273 Command of troops - History - 20th century Soggetti Military morale - United States World War, 1914-1918 - United States Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Originally presented as: Thesis (Ph.D.)--Kansas State University, 2008. Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Combat leadership in the AEF: a tale of Alvin and Charles -- "To be instructed in the dark art and mystery of managing men" -- Small-unit leadership in the Old Army -- "We find ourselves in need of a vast army of officers" -- The stateside selection and training of officers -- "By improvised and uncoordinated means" -- Officer selection and training in 1918 -- "Ninety-day wonders" and "jumped-up sergeants" --Stateside mobilization and the challenges of small-unit leadership --"My God! This is Kitchener's army all over again" -- Leader training in the American Expeditionary Forces in France -- "Gone blooey" -- The AEF's systems for addressing officer incompetence and inefficiency --Noncoms, doughboys and the Sam Brownes -- The relations between the leader and the led in the US Army -- Combat physics and the ugly realities of attritional warfare -- The school of hard knocks -- Combat leadership and the attritional battlefield -- Conclusions: A tale of George and Henry -- Appendix: Organization of AEF infantry rifle companies and platoons. Sommario/riassunto This important new history of the development of a leadership corps of

officers during World War I opens with a gripping narrative of the battlefield heroism of Cpl. Alvin York, juxtaposed with the death of Pvt.

Charles Clement less than two kilometers away. Clement had been a captain and an example of what a good officer should be in the years just before the beginning of the war. His subsequent failure as an officer and his redemption through death in combat embody the question that lies at the heart of this comprehensive and exhaustively researched book: What were the faults o