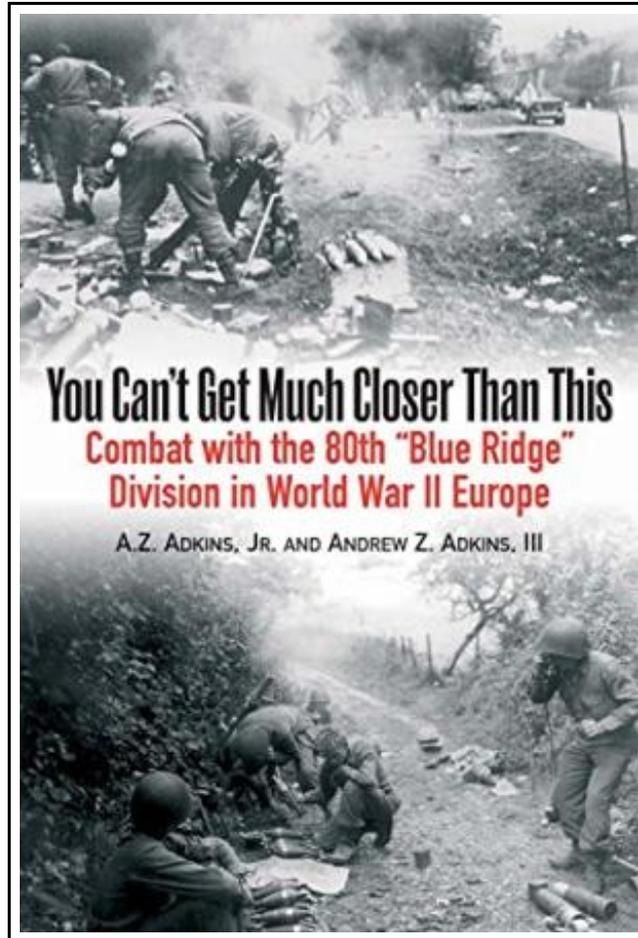


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Casemate Books. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, You Can't Get Much Closer Than This: Combat with Company H, 317th Infantry Regiment, 80th Division, Andrew Z. Adkins, In 1943, Andrew Z. Adkins, Jr. joined the 80th Infantry Division, then undergoing its final training cycle in the California-Arizona desert. Upon reaching the division, 2nd Lieutenant Adkins was assigned as an 81 mm mortar section leader in Company H, 2nd Battalion, 317th Infantry Regiment. When the 80th Infantry Division completed its training, it was shipped in stages to the United Kingdom and then on to Normandy, where it landed on 3 August 1944. The first real test came on 20 August 1944, when the battalion attacked high ground near Argentan during the Allied drive to seal German forces in the Falaise Pocket. While scouting for mortar positions in the woods, Andy Adkins ran into a group of Germans and shot one of them dead with his carbine. He later wrote, 'It was a sickening sight, but having been caught up in the heat of battle, I didn't have a reaction other than feeling I had saved my own life.' Adkins went on to fight in a succession of bloody battles across France. The unit suffered grievous losses as it took hills and towns away from brave German veterans. In the course of fighting, graphically portrayed in this soldier's memoir, Andy Adkins acted with remarkable skill and courage, placing himself at the forefront of the action whenever he could. His delivery of critical supplies to a unit in an embattled French town earned him a Bronze Star Medal, the first such award in his battalion. You Can't Get Much Closer Than This is at heart a young soldier's story of war. In vibrant, piercing terms, it tells of a junior officer's coming of...



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