

500 Sheets: Lt. Col. John Hanlon's Debt of Honor



Published by the Town as a gift to Bastogne, Belgium, during the 75th anniversary of World War II, *500 Sheets* is the heart-warming and inspiring true story of World War II hero Lt. Col. John D. Hanlon and his hometown, Winchester, Massachusetts. At the heart of this story is a promise he made during the Battle of the Bulge to a group of Belgian villagers who, without hesitation or question, answered his call for help. The story of that promise and how it was kept by the people of Winchester captured the attention of people across the country as newspapers and even *Life* magazine followed the events.

Using historic photographs and many of Hanlon's own writings, this volume traces his story up through the dreadful moment when, as a battalion commander of the 101st Airborne Division's 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment near Bastogne, Belgium, he envisioned his men in their olive green paratroop uniforms as sitting ducks against the background of white snow. With the help of 500 sheets, they survived. However, the story did not end there, for Hanlon still had a promise to keep.

Ultimately, this is the story of how Hanlon, with the help of his hometown, fulfilled his promise and won the hearts of two countries through his integrity. It is also a story about the deep gratitude and the friendship that arose between a Belgian village and an American town because of 500 bed sheets.

The book not only tells Hanlon's story but is a tribute to the servicemen and women of Winchester, exemplified by Col. Hanlon, and to those who have supported them on the home front and abroad.



Author Ellen Knight first presented the story to modern readers as a series of newspaper features in the *Daily Times Chronicle*, Winchester Edition. In book form, the story is richly illustrated, including full-color photographs of the paintings with which the village of Hemroulle thanked Winchester for being remembered.

To order the book, contact the Winchester Archival Center.
Cost: \$30 plus any applicable shipping fees.