

Hell War

One Page Summation

War is Hell, and then the demons showed up.

Silas Overton is a man who believes in nothing but himself, having learned all things are fallible and that he can only count on himself.

William Roser is a man who has faith in God, the wisdom of the United States military, and just about everything else in this world except himself.

One man who believes in nothing but himself and one man who believes in everything but himself.

In the days after World War II these two men are sent to the Vatican to steal holy relics to stave off an imminent demonic invasion of America made possible by the use of the atomic bomb. One man willing to do anything to carry out his mission, the other unwilling to harm anybody but himself to succeed.

Starting off on a simple smash and grab mission these two men end up taking up the quest for the Holy Grail, test wits with Lucifer, and both meet their end stopping Lucifer from casting God from Heaven. In the process one learns there is much in the world worthy of his faith, and the other learns he ultimately cannot succeed unless he believes in himself.

Plot Summary for Hell War

The events of Hell War begin in 1946, but not the same 1946 as our history books teach. This is a world beset by demonic forces while humanity tries to claw its way out of the most destructive war in history. It is a world forced to fight when it has nothing left to fight with.

When the first atomic weapons were dropped in this world something different happened than in our world. The first test bomb at the Los Alamos Testing Grounds went off without a hitch, but that was only because so little organic matter was caught in the blast. The bomb created a massive amount of devastation and a weak point in the fabric of reality, but no one recognized this before hell broke loose, literally. The bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki had these two effects, but also did far more. All the organic matter not protected by a human soul caught in the bomb blast was transformed into something not of this world. Created out of an amalgam of different types of living beings, these horrendous creatures immediately began rampaging across Japan. While no one is exactly sure what these creatures are they have universally been given the same name: demons. Within a few weeks of the transformation the demons had opened a stable portal to hell using the weak point in reality created by the atomic bomb, through which reinforcements began to pour.

In each blast thousands of demons were born, and within days they began to move. These creatures, despite being made up of dozens of different “species” moved with order and discipline, overrunning all of Japan within a month. Now the surviving humans in Japan are prisoners, food, collaborators or members of the fledgling resistance movement. Lacking much of a navy the demons advanced mainly over land through China and across Asia, making a beeline for Europe and the Middle East (specifically the Vatican, Mecca and Palestine). By the summer of 1946 most of China, India, and the Indo-China region are under demonic control and demon infestations are common throughout Asia and Europe. The demons have only made small advances across the Pacific, but the U.S. Navy has faced heavy casualties in containing the demons.

Arc 1: Holy Ground

The story of Hell War concentrates on Lieutenant Silas Overton, an Army Ranger sniper. Plucked from an assignment in the Pacific, he is sent to Europe with Sargent William Roser of the Occult Services Division to investigate rumors of a new defense system deployed by the Vatican. The pair are ordered to find out what the system is and, if possible, how to replicate it to seal off the Los Alamos testing grounds to prevent the demons from opening another portal to hell, this time in the middle of the United States. If the system cannot be replicated the two are to steal it. On the trip to the Vatican the two have several short adventures, dealing with religious artifacts, wandering demons and defecting German soldiers. When the two finally arrive at the Vatican they find it is protected from the demons by pieces of the True Cross spread around the borders of the city. Overton and Roser decide to leave the fragments in place around the city since removing them would doom the city and all within.

Arc 2: Hidden Truth

While still in the Vatican Roser learns the possible location of the Holy Grail due to some help from an orphan named Michael. Thinking the Grail might provide the same protection as the fragments of the True Cross, Overton and Roser head to the Middle East after the Grail. This arc takes the characters through deserts, demon hordes, and Arab resistance groups in their quest for the artifact so many others have sought. With the help of local demon fighters Overton and Roser reach the hiding place of the Grail deep in the desert, but they learn there are more competitors for the Cup of Christ. After a prolonged fire fight with a group of Russian soldiers Roser learns Stalin also wants the Grail to use in some sort of ritual to appease the demons, but unfortunately this ritual will cause the deaths of millions. After securing the Grail from a gauntlet of traps, guardians and tests Roser and Overton head north to Russia to try and put a stop to Stalin's plans.

Arc 3: Finality

When they reach Russia Overton and company learn that Stalin has made a deal with the demons to sacrifice millions of people in a ritual that will give the demons vast power in exchange for leaving Russia alone. Overton and Roser decide they cannot let this happen and, along with a group of assassins from the resistance movement in Japan, try to disrupt the ritual. During this effort Lucifer appears to Roser and tells him the demons are doing the ritual to gain enough power to overthrow Lucifer and his fallen angels from their leadership of hell. Lucifer says he doesn't want this and tells Roser how to stop the ritual. Roser initially doesn't trust Lucifer but in the end Lucifer's suggestion to stop the ritual is the only one available so Roser does it, not knowing Lucifer engineered Roser's interference so all the souls sacrificed would go to Lucifer instead of the demons. Now brimming with power Lucifer heads to the Los Alamos Testing Grounds to use the weak point in reality there to open a doorway to heaven so he can have a rematch with God. Because of his shame from helping Lucifer and his desire for revenge Roser gives himself completely over to the blood magics he had dabbled in since the beginning, now willing to go to any length to stop Lucifer.

Overton and company rush to Los Alamos to try and stop Lucifer, crafting a bullet from a shard of the true cross from the Vatican. Also Roser goes to Los Alamos to have his shot at stopping Lucifer. Finally they all arrive at the base and combat quickly erupts between Roser and Lucifer. In the end Roser gives his life so Overton has time to shoot the True Cross bullet, forcing Lucifer back into hell but both Roser and Overton die in the process.

Other Stories:

I have also worked on a second story about the surviving characters traveling to Japan to try and overthrow the demons who rule it. This story is more of a covert action/horror story with strong manga influences.

Major Character List:

Lieutenant Silas Overton: An Army Ranger sniper, he survived the Normandy invasion mainly by being a coward. During the invasion his paratrooper squad was tasked with taking out an hardened position but they retreated because of taking heavy fire. Because of their retreat dozens of other lives were lost when troops tried to push past the machinegun nest. Seeing what failure costs Overton has become obsessed with completing his missions with little regard for what that may entail. This had made him popular with his commanders but not with his fellow troopers. Never again would he make friends with other people in his unit. He is a crack shot with most rifles and through the end of the Pacific campaign he developed quite a reputation. Since the appearance of the demons he has been assigned to a Ranger detail charged with keeping the uncountable small islands that dot the Pacific clean of demon infestation. He has the highest demon kill record of any U.S. soldier. Initially Overton is something of a pompous ass and not very heroic but he changes over the course of the story to become more concerned with other people.

Sargent William Roser: A member of the newly founded Occult Services Division, Roser was a divinity student before being drafted in 1944. He served as an army chaplain, entering Europe in the later stages of the Normandy invasion. Towards the end of the European campaign he and his platoon uncovered one of Hitler's stashes of occult treasures, which he studied some of before they were sent back to command. One of these items was a book detailing some of the different types of demons, hinting that Hitler had dealings with these creatures before he committed suicide. After V-E day Roser's company was assigned to garrison West Berlin. A few months after the bombs were dropped Roser was instrumental in helping hunt down a demon that got into Berlin by identifying the demon type and its habits using the information from Hitler's records. This brought him to the attention of the newly formed (and highly secretive) Occult Services Division, where he was shortly transferred too. Since then Roser has been one of the main agents of the OSD. He's a bookish fellow who's not much for fighting and often tries to learn more than man was meant to know. Unfortunately this quest for knowledge has begun a transformation in him, his repeated contact with demonic influences slowly infecting him. He's done his best to hide this even from himself, but it is getting worse. At the beginning of the story Roser seems to be the real good guy of the heroes, but slowly he spirals down into evil over the course of the story as he uses more and more of the arcane arts.