

Royal Rangers

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Soldier 1941–43 Union Infantryman 1861–65 Mau–Mau Warrior Blue Division Soldier
1941–45 Ninja AD 1460–1650 Kampfflieger Ironsides Fallschirmjäger Samurai
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in the early hours of d day 1944 a group from the us army 2nd rangers battalion were sent on
one of the legendary raids of world war ii the mission was to scale the cliffs overlooking
omaha beach and assault the german coastal artillery at pointe du hoc it was thought that
only a raid could ensure that the guns would remain silent during the d day landings but allied
intelligence was wrong after climbing the cliffs under aggressive german fire and securing the

battery site the rangers discovered that the guns themselves were no longer there it was only due to the heroic actions of the rangers involved that the guns were located in firing positions facing utah beach and destroyed before they could be used in the first of a brand new series for osprey this act of audacious daring is brought to life complete with illustrated artwork maps and rare german accounts taking a more critical look at the story steven zaloga analyses every detail from the intelligence failings to the boldness of the rangers in the face of such odds

merrill's marauders were the first american army infantry unit to fight in the china burma india theatre and one of the most renowned units to come out of world war ii the marauders established a lasting reputation for hard fighting and tenacity in the face of adversity combating a determined enemy some of the most difficult and disease ridden terrain in the world and a seemingly indifferent higher command pushed beyond the limit of their endurance at the end of nearly six months of operations behind japanese lines the remaining marauders were withdrawn from combat after suffering over 90 casualties because of its courageous actions the unit received the very rare honour of having every member presented with a bronze star for gallantry this book explores the creation training and combat experiences of the marauders one of the most famous units in the us army's roll of honour

the complete history of the 57th fighter group the first usaaf fighter unit to go into action in north africa organized in january 1941 just as the united states was building up military forces for its inevitable entry into world war ii the 57th fighter group went on to establish a number of other firsts during its illustrious combat history in this theatre flying p 40 warhawks the pilots of the 57th entered combat in august 1942 and fought throughout the final allied advance from el alamein through the axis surrender in tunisia the capture of sicily and the invasion of italy converting to the p 47d thunderbolt in late 1943 the 57th continued pounding the retreating axis forces in italy until the end of the war in europe featuring photographs throughout this volume also highlights a number of aces this fg produced during the war and how it was recognized for its pioneering achievements in the fighter bomber role

a fascinating and action packed look at the highest scoring unit within the cbi theatre telling

the story of the colourful characters who fought a difficult guerrilla war against the japanese famous for the fearsome sharkmouths that adorned their planes the 23rd fg fought a guerrilla war against the japanese steadily moving pilots and aircraft from one remote air base in china to another to keep the enemy off balance because china could only be supplied by air from india there were constant shortages of aircraft fuel and ammunition with which to contend the 23rd fg met these challenges head on and by the end of the war its pilots had compiled a score of 594 aerial victories and nearly 400 ground kills the human cost was high however 126 pilots lost their lives in china while serving in the 23rd

this book explores the experiences of the german afrikakorps soldier during the north africa campaign from the korps arrival in theatre in february 1941 to its eventual surrender in tunisia in may 1943 with a particular focus on the intense period of warfare in the western desert between 1941 and 1942 under the leadership of one of the war s most famous commanders erwin rommel the afrikakorps grew to include a broad range of armour infantry artillery anti tank engineer communications supply medical and service elements the soldiers of the afrikakorps considered themselves as part of an elite a highly select group that had no equal not only in the german army but in the rest of the world

a union supporter once said what is a man s life worth if our glorious union is to be shattered by traitors president lincoln s volunteers and conscripted soldiers expanded the permanent union army to include 1 700 regiments of foot soldiers during the course of the war those who became part of mr lincoln s army came from various social and economic conditions and they documented their day to day life in diaries letters and memoirs drawing on these narratives contemporary photographs and meticulous archival research this book provides a vivid account of the common union infantryman from recruitment and training to his experiences on the battlefield

the mau mau uprising 1952 60 remains a controversial conflict waged by warriors about whom many myths have been formed but little truth has been written condemned by history as a brutal rag tag force engaged in oath taking cannibalism and witchcraft the military activities of the mau mau have long been overlooked although their skill organization and

unique motivation forced the british government to undertake the longest airlift in military history and to deploy extensive force at a cost of almost 60 million before it could claim victory this book reveals the real men and women behind the mau mau the truth behind the oaths that bound them together and how they became a powerful force paving the way for kenya s independence

the all volunteer blue division was a formation that allowed franco s technically neutral spain to support nazi germany s invasion of russia following initial training in germany the blue division s units were sent to the eastern front in august 1941 where after a 40 day march to the front the division fought in several major actions including leningrad in 1943 with the tide turning against the axis forces in russia the division was ordered to be withdrawn yet many men chose to stay on and serve with the volunteer legion even after the collapse in the east some volunteered to serve with waffen ss units through to the fall of berlin in 1945 this book narrates the experiences of the common soldier exploring his motivation for serving the wehrmacht and detailing his dramatic experiences in a brutal and hostile theatre of world war ii

the ninja were the secret agents and assassins of feudal japan and they remain a subject of enduring fascination they first emerged during the power struggles of 9th and 10th century japan in response to the increasing demand for spies informants and even assassins and they were used until the mid 1600s when they disappeared on account of a campaign to destroy them this title provides an accurate and detailed account of the reality of the ninja detailing their daily life training hiring combat use and secret operations also covered are the ninja s use and knowledge of poisons medicines and charms

the kampfflieger are relatively unknown within aviation circles although many of them had careers as distinguished as those of their fighter pilot counterparts the men of the bomber crews did not enjoy the luxury of combat tours they flew until they died or became unfit for combat duty this book studies the attitudes beliefs and motivation of the average crewman following him through recruitment and training to experience on campaign in western europe africa and the russian front detailing the exploits and trials of the famous ju 87 stuka dive

bomber crews and their own crucial part in germany s war effort

the ironside is symbolic of the one occasion when the army took an active role in british politics he represents a unique period when ordinary people displaced the established order to take political control into their own hands in the nineteenth century a rash of historical publications paintings and statues with a civil war theme reflected the political divisions of victorian society and royalist and parliamentary causes were argued over again reflecting the sub text of contemporary political struggles this book attempts to take a wider view of the ironside as a warrior who evolved from the experiments of the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries to combine firepower with the armoured cavalryman

few of the combatants of world war ii have captured the imagination as compulsively as the fallschirmjäger boldness and courage were vital characteristics in the rigorous selection process and their training was highly demanding hitler s airborne troops were involved in some of the most daring actions of the whole war from the 1940 assault on eben emael and the invasion of crete in 1941 to the rescue of mussolini and the attempt on tito s life in addition they saw service as elite line infantry in the key theatres of north west europe north africa and the eastern front this title looks at the life and experiences of the average fallschirmjäger and includes first hand accounts from different theatres and periods of the war

this title details the culture weapons armour and training of the elite samurai warrior class in the fascinating age of battles period 1550 1600 this was a period of vital importance not only because of the political effects of the chaos but also due to the changes in warfare that occurred in 1542 the portuguese introduced the matchlock musket into japanese warfare and this book traces the effect that this important innovation had on the samurai life outside the field of battle is also examined making this an unmissable book for those interested in this brave warrior caste

bi and multilingualism are of great interest for contemporary linguists since this phenomenon deeply reflects on language acquisition language use and sociolinguistic conditions in many different circumstances all over the world multilingualism was however certainly rather common already if not especially in the premodern world for some time now research has

started to explore this issue through a number of specialized studies the present volume continues with the investigation of multilingualism through a collection of case studies focusing on important examples in medieval and early modern societies that is in linguistic and cultural contact zones such as england spain the holy land but also the new world as all contributors confirm the numerous cases of multilingualism discussed here indicate strongly that the premodern period knew considerably less barriers between people of different social classes cultural background and religious orientation but we also have to acknowledge that already then human communication could fail because of linguistic hurdles which prevented mutual understanding in religious and cultural terms

this book examines the brief but colorful history of the 1st us volunteer cavalry and details the rich experiences of the men who fought in its ranks founded in may 1898 after the outbreak of the spanish american war the unit was composed of volunteers from all walks of american life posted to cuba it fought in the battles of las guasimas kettle hill and san juan hill at this time theodore roosevelt assumed command and the unit became known as roosevelt s rough riders eventually withdrawn the men returned to a hero s welcome in the us the last veteran of the unit died in 1975 but a rich body of source material has survived and much of this is covered in this fascinating work

the storming of badajoz was an epic action which involved wellington s infantry in some of the most savage hand to hand fighting of the whole peninsular war at appalling cost in a nightmare assault during the night of the 6 april 1812 wellington s soldiers hacked their way over the bodies of their dead and wounded and through the huge medieval walls of the town these were held with great tenacity skill and courage by a resolute french and german garrison having stormed the town the battle crazed army went berserk and the horrors of the sacking which followed as much as the sublime courage of the attackers have passed into legend

the vietnamese knew the long range patrol scouts as the men with green faces a reference to the camouflage paint that they used operating in patrols of four to six men these men were like ghosts scouting far behind enemy lines this book examines the long range patrol scout s

superior stealth movement techniques camouflage and concealment tracking counter tracking observation and other fieldcraft skills it also examines the occasions they participated in small scale direct actions including ambushes and raids written by a special forces vietnam veteran this book not only depicts the remarkable lives of these scouts when on campaign but also details the training and conditioning that it took to become one of these shadow warriors

the political situation in ireland at the beginning of the 20th century was characterised by crisis and change armed rebellion against the british crown the prosecution of the anglo irish war the emergence of the irish free state and the eruption of the civil war over the treaty with great britain ensured that the birth of the modern irish nation was bloody and difficult this book details the life of an average volunteer and includes the experiences of internment the lack of established medical facilities for wounded life on the run discipline and typical duties

in sicily normandy and in the frozen hills of the ardennes america s airborne warriors proved themselves some of the toughest and most determined soldiers of world war 2 what made these soldiers so special how were they recruited how did they learn to jump and fight what special tactics and equipment did they use this title looks at what it was like to be one of the united states airborne elite through the experiences of the soldiers themselves it is the story of the men who invariably led the way the soldiers who flew to battle and walked home

this book gives an accurate picture of the pirates who sailed in the waters of the caribbean and off the american coastline during the golden age of piracy between 1660 and 1730 it traces the origins of piratical activity in the 16th century and examines the boucaneer buccaneer culture in jamaica and hispaniola it details what drove individuals to a life of piracy how they dressed their weaponry the ships they used and the codes by which they operated whether viewed as villains or victims the pirates were a major threat to shipping and commerce in the western atlantic for more than 70 years elite 67 69 and 74 are also available in a single volume special edition as pirates

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