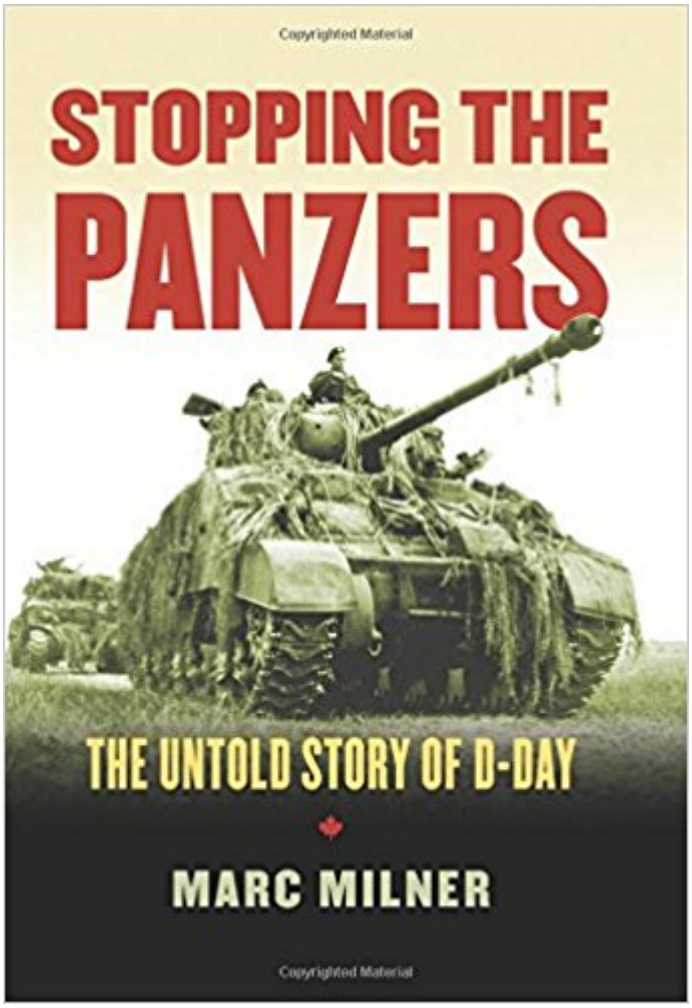
Ebook Directory
the best source of ebook

The book was found

Stopping The Panzers: The Untold Story Of D-Day (Modern War Studies)



PDF
Adobe
DOWNLOAD EBOOK

Synopsis

In the narrative of D-Day the Canadians figure chieflyÃ¢â ¬â •if at allÃ¢â ¬â •as an ineffective force bungling their part in the early phase of Operation Overlord. The reality is quite another story. As both the Allies and the Germans knew, only GermanyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Panzers could crush Overlord in its tracks. The CanadiansÃ¢â ¬â„¢ job was to stop the PanzersÃ¢â ¬â •which, as this book finally makes clear, is precisely what they did. Rescuing from obscurity one of the least understood and most important chapters in the history of D-Day, Stopping the Panzers is the first full account of how the Allies planned for and met the Panzer threat to Operation Overlord. As such, this book marks nothing less than a paradigm shift in our understanding of the Normandy campaign.Beginning with the Allied planning for Operation Overlord in 1943, historian Marc Milner tracks changing and expanding assessments of the Panzer threat, and the preparations of the men and units tasked with handling that threat. Featured in this was the 3rd Canadian Division, which, treated so dismissively by history, was actually the most powerful Allied formation to land on D-Day, with a full armored brigade and nearly 300 artillery and antitank guns under command. Milner describes how, over four days of intense and often brutal battle, the Canadians fought to a literal standstill the 1st SS Panzer CorpsÃ¢â ¬â •which included the WehrmachtÃ¢â ¬â„¢s 21st Panzer Division; its vaunted elite Panzer Lehr Division; and the rabidly zealous 12th SS Hitler Youth Panzer Division, whose murder of 157 Canadian POWs accounted for nearly a quarter of Canadian fatalities during the fighting.Stopping the Panzers sets this murderous battle within the wider context of the Overlord assault, offering a perspective that challenges the conventional wisdom about Allied and German combat efficiency, and leads to one of the freshest assessments of the D-Day landings and their pre-attack planning in more than a decade.

Book Information

Series: Modern War Studies
Hardcover: 400 pages
Publisher: University Press of Kansas (November 3, 2014)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0700620036
ISBN-13: 978-0700620036
Product Dimensions: 10 x 6.3 x 1.3 inches
Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds
Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #827,417 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #73 inÃ Â Books > History > Americas > Canada > 20th Century #150 inÃ Â Books > History > Military > Canada #1830 inÃ Â Books > History > Europe > France

Customer Reviews

"A fitting contribution to a growing body of literature on the history of the Canadian army in Normandy."Ã¢â ¬â ¢Journal of Military History"One of the most decisive battles of the Second World War II need no longer be forgotten."Ã¢â ¬â ¢American Historical Review"Presents a gripping, superbly researched narrative of the fighting in Normandy, with a salutary stress on the vital role of the Canadian Third Division."Ã¢â ¬â ¢Michigan War Studies Review"A very readable and valuable contribution to the literature on the Normandy operation."Ã¢â ¬â ¢New York Military Affairs SymposiumStopping the Panzers is a paradigm shift in Canadian history on Operation Overlord. It is a well-written book that is, despite the vast amount of new facts, easy to read. Because it is based on rigorous research from allied and a German archives and because of the authorÃ¢â ¬â„¢s familiarity with the terrain Stopping the Panzers is not just another book about Operation Overlord, but a truly unique view on the Canadian mission and role in the operation. Because it is so groundbreaking and well-written it is a Ã¢â ¬Å“must-haveÃ¢â ¬Â• for every individual interested in the Second World War.Ã¢â ¬â ¢ParametersÃ¢â ¬Å“One of the best books about Normandy to appear in recent years.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â ¢Stone & Stone: Second World War Books"An excellent book. A fresh and exciting new take on the opening days of Operation Overlord by a leading Canadian scholar. Milner not only rescues the Canadian army from the obscurity that has enveloped it in most histories of the campaign, he places the Canadians right at the heart of the Overlord narrative, where Allied planners intended them to be: in the center of the line; astride the most vulnerable terrain; and armed, trained, and equipped to shoot up the inevitable German counterattack. As Milner shows in this deeply researched and gripping narrative, that was precisely what they did."Ã¢â ¬â ¢Robert M. Citino, author of The Wehrmacht Retreats: Fighting a Lost War, 1943 Ã¢â ¬Å“An extraordinarily detailed account of the vital Canadian contributions to the Allied landings in Normandy, MilnerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s work completely revises our understanding of the role of Canadian forces in taking and holding a crucial segment of the landing area against repeated counterattacks by German panzer divisions. . . . A masterpiece of historical scholarship from one of the most authoritative voices in Canadian military history.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â ¢Peter Mansoor, author of The GI Offensive in Europe: The Triumph of American Infantry Divisions, 1941Ã¢â ¬â œ1945 "An impressive book that tells a compelling story. Among its many strengths are the broad, deep

documentation of both sides of the fight; the gift for combat narrative; and the authorÃ¢â ¬â„¢s intimate familiarity with the ground on which the battle was fought. It adds greatly to our understanding of the AlliesÃ¢â ¬â„¢Normandy campaign."Ã¢â ¬â ¢Harold R. Winton, author of Corps Commanders of the Bulge: Six American Generals and Victory in the Ardennes

Marc Milner is professor of history and Director of the Brigadier Milton F. Gregg, VC, Centre for the Study of War and Society at the University of New Brunswick. He is best known for his books on naval history, including North Atlantic Run, The U-Boat Hunters, and CanadaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Navy: The First Century. His 2003 book Battle of the Atlantic won the C. P. Stacey Prize for the best book in military history in Canada. An article based on the material in Stopping the Panzers was awarded the 2010 Moncado Prize given by the Society of Military History for the best article in The Journal of Military History.

I bought this book under the impression that it would offer a detailed reappraisal of the opening tactical level battles between the invading Canadians and 12th SS Panzer Division. I was wrong to believe that, because it offers so much more.Let me say at the onset that this book is immaculately researched and written in extremely accessible prose. That said, its not about non-stop battle action, so fans of that genre might want to think a bit before purchasing. However, if you are interested in new information about D-Day, and this book abounds with original insights, Milner will appeal to you.The first two chapters provided me with the unexpected surprise referred to above. They are devoted to the politics influencing the Canadian Army's participation in D-Day, who eventually led that formation during the Normandy campaign, the relationship between the Canadian, American, and British roles in the opening stages of the invasion, and how the Allies prepared for the German response to the landings. There are a number of interesting revelations, to include the fact that the Canadian and British armored formations unveiled the Sherman Firefly and M-10 Achilles for the first time during the Normandy campaign. The Anglo-Canadians also employed sabot rounds for their towed anti-tank guns for the first time during the invasion. The Germans, therefore, were faced with a much more potent anti-armor threat than they expected.In turn, SHAEF totally overestimated the number of panzers potentially opposing the landings, which led in part to the decision to assign the Canadians the task to absorb the inevitable counterattack. Readers must remember that past landings at Gela, Sicily and Salerno, Italy figured prominently in the minds of Allied commanders and planners - many of whom had recently transferred from the Mediterranean theater along with Montgomery and Eisenhower. In both instances, German panzer

units almost defeated Allied landings by promptly and vigorously counterattacking. The Allies could not afford to let this happen again. As a result, a series of wargames were conducted which identified the exact terrain that needed to be captured and held prior to the expected counterattacks. The Canadians, after being replaced by the British Second Army as the main effort of 21st Army Group, were given the mission of defending against those counterattacks while the British struck toward Caen.Why hasn't this all been discussed before? Perhaps Milner is on a bit of shaky ground here as he supposes the impact of earlier historical writings, but what he said made sense to me. The first problem stemmed from the fact that the Canadian Official historians started writing about their nation's role in Normandy far too early to gain access to still classified and as of yet un-archived materials. Thus they did not use many British documents and were afforded limited access to captured German records - many of which were still be collected and sorted out. Follow-on efforts reinforced these omissions, tending to echo earlier writings as well as British accounts. Other Canadians, such as John English, approached the topic from the perspective that Canadian soldiers in Normandy were ill-served by their senior commanders rather than examine the intricacies of selected tactical engagements.On the international front, the British were more far interested in highlighting their own success than shining a spotlight on Canadian accomplishments. The American official historians, for their part, concentrated solely on the achievements of the U.S. Army with merely a cursory contextual reference to the Anglo-Canadians. Commercial historians followed the line of the official historians, with accounts most familiar to the general American public being guilty of lumping the Anglo-Canadians into one amorphous khaki clad mass. The Germans, having been defeated in Normandy, sought to recognize the accomplishments of their soldiers (and fellow veterans) against the mechanized juggernaut of the Western Allies. It wasn't until a retired British officer, Mike Reynolds, while writing a book about the German 1st SS Panzer Korps in the Normandy Campaign, that the accomplishments of the Canadians began to be recognized.I said that the book did NOT concentrate on tactical level accounts, but that changes beginning in Chapter 3. For the remaining six chapters of the book, readers are transported (via primary accounts and eyewitnesses from both sides) into the cordite enshrouded turrets of Shermans, Panzerkampfwagen IVs and Panthers. You are transported to the fields and villages outside Caen in vivid fashion while viewing events from the perspective of the attacking Germans and defending Canadians. Heroism, sacrifice, mistakes, and brutality abound. As readers familiar with this phase of the Normandy campaign realize, a series of contentious events occur in the closing phases of this engagement. I will let others judge whether German actions toward Canadian prisoners were justified or not. The statistic that one in five Canadians who died between 7 and 10 June were

murdered as POWs bears remembering.I found the author’s perspective on events very information and persuasive because Milner exploits primary documents and eyewitness accounts to the fullest. He does not borrow from other authors, with perhaps an exception being made to point out how earlier accounts are in error. All in all, this book is a fitting tribute to the Canadian soldiers who fought outside Caen in the early phase of the Normandy campaign because it provides long-deferred recognition of their accomplishments and sacrifices. Readers with a preference for the German perspective will find the author’s recounting of the 12th SS Panzer Division’s initial combat experiences very interesting, even if they perhaps disagree with Milner’s interpretation of those events.This book, along with David O’Keefe’s "One Day in August" are the most informative volumes on the Canadian Army that I have added to my library in the past five years. Highly recommended. Have already purchased several copies for friends with like interests.

Interesting book on just why the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division was landed between the US and British beaches on D-day, its mission and what the 3rd accomplished. A refreshing new viewpoint from the Canadians showing that the Allies had a grasp of the probable reaction of the HEER to the invasion; and placed the Canadians to stop them. Recommended if interested in D-Day and the Canadian Army in WW2.

Awesome

A summary of the review on StrategyPage.Com’Prof. Milner (New Brunswick) looks at one of the most critical, yet largely overlooked actions in the first days of the Allied Normandy Campaign, the struggle of the 3rd Canadian Division to cover the flank of the British offensive against Caen while keeping the panzers away from the beach. Although Milner opens with two chapters about plans and preparations for the landings, this book is about hard fighting, with many excellent battle pieces. During the four-day battle, which was particularly heavy on June 7, the Canadians were engaged by several German divisions, most notably the 12th SS Panzer ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Hitler YouthÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•, 21st Panzer, and Panzer Lehr. While the Canadians bent, they held and then threw back the attackers. Milner includes many illustrations and several excellent maps, which are not only appropriate, but very useful for understanding events, as are his frequent short profiles of individual soldiers. Stopping the Panzers is a very readable and valuable contribution to the literature on the Normandy operation.’For the full review, see StrategyPage.com

"Stopping the Panzers" brings much needed attention to the critical contribution to the success of D-Day of the defensive battles fought by Canadians, 7-10 June 1944. Marc Milner has provided a well-researched and written account the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division's steadfast resistance to repeated German attacks, one that takes care to include the context for WHY the Canadians were at the right place at the right time. What would happen in the contest for the broad, open plain between Bayeux and Caen - good tank country - would be crucial to which side would win the D-Day battle. For many readers, Milner's book will add a major piece too long missing from their understanding of D-Day.

Download to continue reading...

Stopping the Panzers: The Untold Story of D-Day (Modern War Studies (Paperback)) Stopping the Panzers: The Untold Story of D-Day (Modern War Studies) Hitler's Light Panzers at War: Rare Photographs from Wartime Archives (Images of War) World War 1: Soldier Stories: The Untold Soldier Stories on the Battlefields of WWI (World War I, WWI, World War One, Great War, First World War, Soldier Stories) HitlerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Heavy Panzers 1943-1945: Rare Photographs from Wartime Archives (Images of War) Panzers East and West: The German 10th SS Panzer Division from the Eastern Front to Normandy Hitler's Panzers: The Lightning Attacks that Revolutionized Warfare World War 2 HistoryÃ¢â ¬â„¢s 10 Most Incredible Women: World War II True Accounts Of Remarkable Women Heroes (WWII history, WW2, War books, world war 2 books, war history, World war 2 women) Forgotten: The Untold Story of D-day's Black Heroes, at Home and at War Day Trading: Make Hundreds Daily Day Trading One Hour a Day: Day Trading: A detailed guide on day trading strategies, intraday trading, swing trading and ... Trading, Stock Trading, trader psychology) The 3-Day Herpes Cure - A Proven Natural Method to Stopping Outbreaks From Ever Happening Again The Argument Culture: Stopping America's War of Words Civil War: American Civil War in 50 Events: From the Very Beginning to the Fall of the Confederate States (War Books, Civil War History, Civil War Books) (History in 50 Events Series Book 13) World War 1: World War I in 50 Events: From the Very Beginning to the Fall of the Central Powers (War Books, World War 1 Books, War History) (History in 50 Events Series) The Things Our Fathers SawÃ¢â ¬â •The Untold Stories of the World War II Generation-Volume II: War in the AirÃ¢â ¬â •From the Great Depression to Combat Not a Good Day to Die: The Untold Story of Operation Anaconda The Nazi Titanic: The Incredible Untold Story of a Doomed Ship in World War II The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II Ashley's War: The Untold Story of a Team of Women Soldiers on the Special Ops Battlefield The Forgotten 500: The Untold Story of the Men Who Risked All for the Greatest Rescue Mission of World War II