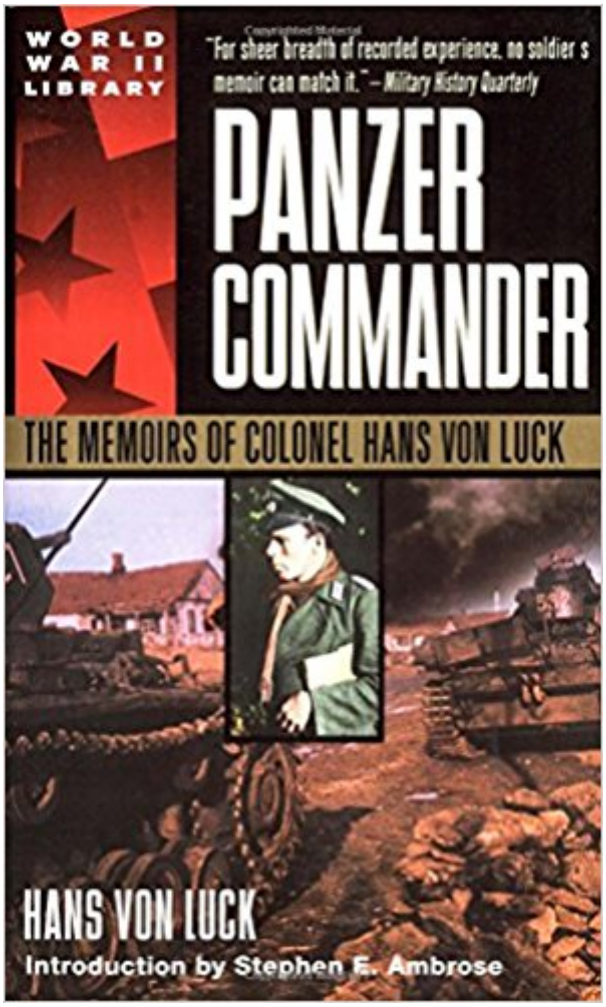
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Panzer Commander: The Memoirs Of Colonel Hans Von Luck (World War II Library)



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Synopsis

A stunning look at World War II from the other side...From the turret of a German tank, Colonel Hans von Luck commanded Rommel's 7th and then 21st Panzer Division. El Alamein, Kasserine Pass, Poland, Belgium, Normandy on D-Day, the disastrous Russian front--von Luck fought there with some of the best soldiers in the world. German soldiers.Awarded the German Cross in Gold and the Knight's Cross, von Luck writes as an officer and a gentleman. Told with the vivid detail of an impassioned eyewitness, his rare and moving memoir has become a classic in the literature of World War II, a first-person chronicle of the glory--and the inevitable tragedy--of a superb soldier fighting Hitler's war.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This unique memoir tells the story of one of the field-grade officers whose martial skills sustained the Third Reich against a world in arms. Von Luck fought in the Wehrmacht's armored forces for six years in Europe, Russia, and North Africa; then spent five years in a Russian labor camp. His narrative is as free from cant as it is from braggadocio and false modesty. It presents a soldier, a warrior, and a leader who never failed his men, and whose courage never faltered. It also portrays someone whose comprehensive lack of insight into the nature of the regime he served will be difficult for many readers to credit. Yet von Luck's sincerity is apparent; and his was a mind-set too widespread in Germany to be dismissed as mere self-exculpation. Failure to understand it leaves

the Nazi years a mystery. Recommended for collections in this area, especially as a counterpoint to Sieg Heil!: War Letters of Tank Gunner Karl Fuchs, 1937-1941 (LJ 9/1/87), whose narrator served in the same division as von Luck on the Russian front.- Dennis Showalter, Colorado Coll., Colorado SpringsCopyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"For sheer breadth of recorded experience, no soldier's memoir can match it."--Military History Quarterly"One of the more valuable World War II memoirs...an exceptional volume."--Booklist"A soldier, a warrior, and a leader who never failed his men, and whose courage never faltered."--LibraryJournal"The ultimate professional soldier...a personal history that may provide guideposts for the future."--Topeka Capital-Journal

Colonel Van Luck's book is equally good as the companion book I bought at the same time. I read them both back-to-back. This man also tried to not let the political situation in Germany not deter him from performing his duty to the utmost. His five years as a POW of the Soviets is worthy of a separate book also, and how he survived. Reading this gives you the feeling of being there and experiencing all the problems and successes the armored forces experienced. Triumphs and failures. I loved the examples of chivalry that were displayed between his and the British Forces in North Africa. Unusual, and I had never heard of this before. I was particularly impressed with the camaraderie of the Colonel and his men. The loyalty they had to their Commanding Officer. His communications with Marshall Rommel were excellent. He experienced a fruitful career after his military and POW experiences also. I am happy for him.

Lack of maps was disappointing & consequently a 4.5 star would be appropriate; however it is otherwise a compelling 5 star story. Von Luck provides an excellent view from the prospective of a midlevel command officer who experienced combat on all but the Italian fronts. Although I am a military history buff, this book provides a must read for anyone interested in understanding the war from the prospective of a professional soldier along with some why & where analogy. Good early panzer development from the prospective of leadership & tactics. Helps in inproving one's appreciation for its roll in early victory's and later ability to compete agains superior manpower as well as improved battlefield equipment & supply. It also adds much to RommelÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s mystic as a leader who was torn between his professional duty & tactical brilliance Vs the politics & reality. Both Luck & Rommel display an enormous ability to overcome adversity in manpower &

supply.This book is important in understanding how training, quality, leadership & superior tactics overcomes numerical inferiority. Also, how political interference can diminish outcomes. LuckÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s eventual capture by the Russians, 5 years in prison camps & life after release add much to a greater understanding of who this professional was.I found this book not only very educational, but also a well written and riveting read.

Amazing read, this book shows the life of one of the most gifted German battalion commanders of WWII who saw action almost everywere (Poland, France, Russia, Africa, D-Day, Germany 1945, etc.), was among the Rommel's favourites and ended his combat experience in a daunting Russian captivity.Hans Von Luck is a cosmopolite Prussian gentleman well aware of the excesses of the Nazi regime, before being a highly talented and respected Wehrmacht frontline officer and his memories truly convey the feeling of those times on the "other side of the hill".I read for decades books on WWII written by "Allied" authors (historians and militaries) and I very much appreciated reading something from a German authoritative and "balanced" point of view. It was refreshing and gave me perspective. WWII is a topic which has been "rinsed to death", books like this succeed in giving new reading stimulus to it. Not much description of combat action, although it is not lacking, the book focuses on the people, culture and feelings of those who crossed Von Luck's path.Anyways, epic descriptions of intimate and combat Rommel personality, of Afrika Corps operations 1942/1943, Operation Goodwood in Normandy 1944 (Von Luck cunningly placed those famous 88 batteries at Cagny that eventually mauled the British tank advance) and of ferocious Alsace fighting in February 1945.Read it.

I agree with another reviewer that this book's font is SO tiny, but absolutely worth digging out a magnifying glass. Hans von Luck has written a riveting account of his military career, full of rich detail. His story moves along at good pace, doesn't bog down in minutiae, & I liked the author's accepting attitude & benevolent treatment of the men in his command.

A lot of soldiers in WW II did their duty for a variety of reasons. Some in vacuums as to the political and humanitarian reality that we all know. Colonel Hans Van Luck was one of these men. Loyal to his country and his men, yet understanding of the futility of war and it effects on soldiers and non soldiers alike. In PANZER COMMANDER von Luck gives not only a narrative of the tactics and struggles of war, but his observations on the stupidity and humanity of others. A good read if you've ever wondered what went in in the heads "on the other side".

Although it has been said many times before in previous reviews, there is hardly another piece of WW2 literature that can cover as much as this book is able. The book outlines the great war from a German tank commander's perspective, a true statesman, gentleman, and privileged individual that was part of the German army when its ranks were filled with privileged and aristocrat types. From the glory of riding through Europe in an American car accompanied by pretty girls, to drinking cheap curacao in beautiful 1940s Paris, to the sobering experience that is defeat and being imprisoned by an inferior enemy. The book is an authentic recounting of it all, the good and the sour. It gives you nostalgia for a time you didn't even live in which should say it all. On the other hand, according to Von Luck, him and his tank unit are welcomed in every country they conquer. This last part is difficult to believe though all the rest is solid gold. Am currently reading it again.

WWII buffs, or true military history buffs and/or historians don't just about the war from the United States side, but read it from the other side.I'm bias towards aviation as a retired army aviator, but this book peeked my interest due to the view of fighting from the German side and from the ground side.The book is a great read as Von Luck fought on all fronts and under one of the greatest tank generals ever.It's worth the buy and read.

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