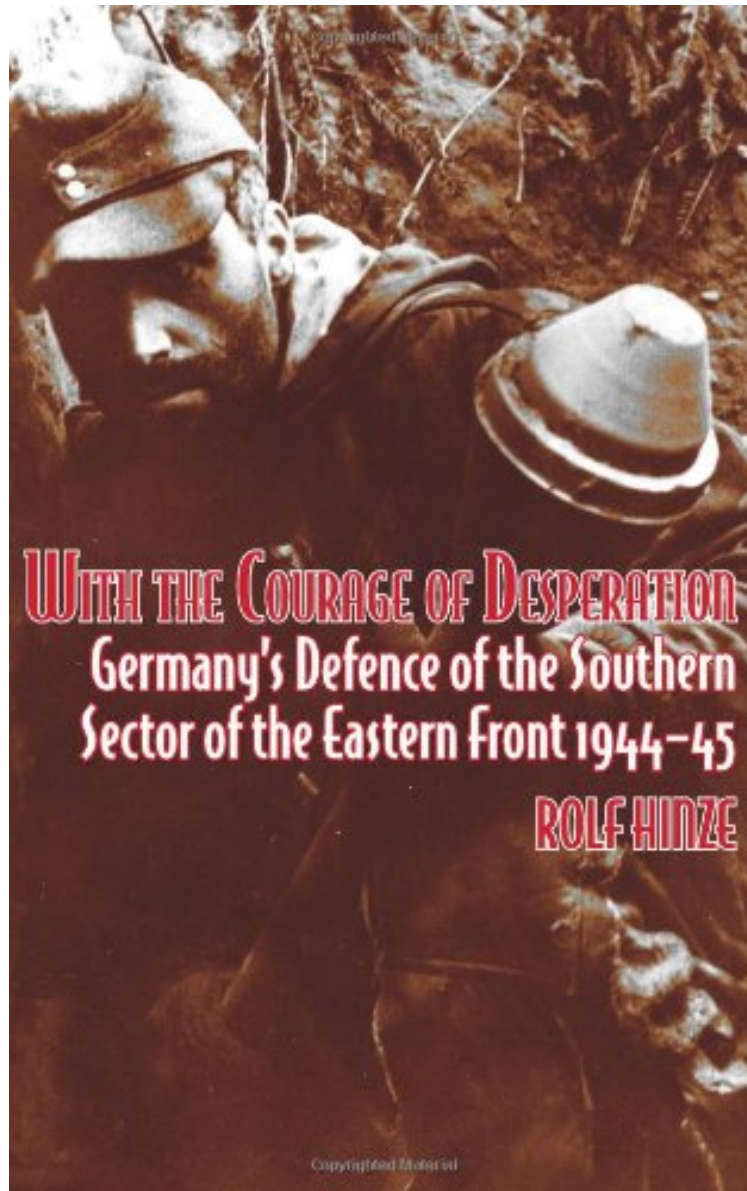


(Free pdf) With the Courage of Desperation: Germany's Defence of the Southern Sector of the Eastern Front 1944-45

With the Courage of Desperation: Germany's Defence of the Southern Sector of the Eastern Front 1944-45

Rolf Hinze

*DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#1630658 in Books 2013-05-19Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.30 x 1.50 x 6.10l, 2.08 #File Name: 1906033862448 pages | File size: 71.Mb

Rolf Hinze : With the Courage of Desperation: Germany's Defence of the Southern Sector of the Eastern Front 1944-45 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised With the Courage of Desperation: Germany's Defence of the Southern Sector of the Eastern Front 1944-45:

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Impressive, Well worth the wait
By Dave Schranck
This last book of Rolf Hinze is the sequel to and equal of "Crucible of Combat". There are many similar attributes between them: they both have extensive coverage of the German side, provide good descriptive operational coverage and analysis. There are many detailed maps between the two books. They have the same translator so that if you have read "Crucible" you'll know what to expect in this new book. There is a little overlap in coverage between the two books but the transition is smooth. Though this book has a little more Soviet detail, there could certainly be more; this might be an issue for some. If there had been more Soviet coverage as well as anecdotal experiences, I would have felt more comfortable giving five stars. The book begins in March 1944 for the battle to control the Kovel sector as well as the German attempt to close the gap at the boundary line between AGC and Army Group North Ukraine which was a short distance north of Kovel. After describing the key battles dealing in AGNU sector, the author transitions into AGSU sector as the Soviets build up forces for their next push into Europe. The action dramatically escalates in July as the Soviets begin their summer offensive and the German circumstances deteriorate dramatically. At this stage of the war, the Soviets have an overwhelming advantage in men, tanks and guns, morale and though the Germans put up a relatively stout defense there is no practical way of holding back the Red Tide for very long. The Germans do pull off a number of successful local counter-attacks that delay the Soviets but its too late in the war to reverse the retrograde movement or even stop the enemy's advance as the Soviets push the Germans beyond Rumania, Hungary and into Austria. Its also shown that Hitler's reluctance to react to actual battlefield conditions had detrimental effects on the Wehrmacht. As a veteran of the war, Mr Hinze clearly has empathy for the German cause, showing pride of German accomplishments and remorse for German defeats. He also reminds the reader the Germans performed well against the stiff odds but at least he doesn't distort the history. The operational history is very good with the author drilling down to the events incurring in each relevant division. This empathy can also be seen with brief coverage after the war with the inhuman treatment German POWs received in Russian Gulags. A small sample of battles covered include Tarnapol, Lemberg, Jassy, Debrecen, Bucharest, Ploesti, Budapest, along the Danube and ending with the battles in Austria. Key political events are covered as well, including the defection of Rumania to the Soviets as well as the attempt by Horthy to leave the Axis and sue for peace. Soviet's occupation of Bulgaria is also mention. There are 69 BW maps that have the same format as the maps in "Crucible". The maps have lots of detail but I found them hard to decipher at first. I had to invest a lot of time and make a lot of crib notes to make them useful. There are 60 fewer pages in this book than in "Crucible" but when you consider there are 36 fewer maps and no photo gallery in the new book, the level of operational details are comparable between the books with a slight advantage to "Desperation" in Soviet coverage. There is an abbreviated Order of Battle for the Germans, a good Bibliography, no notes and sorry to say no Index. While there is a lot of information presented on the many divisions and regiments, their movements, objectives captured or lost, there is a noticeable lack of personable content. There is little analysis on commanders or their command decisions and is also a dearth of first hand or anecdotal accounts. Some readers will see this book as dry and maybe even uninspiring. I found this book to be an informative tactical read that added much to my knowledge of the war in the south. The author provides important historiography that when added to the more popular history to the north, will give students a better overall understanding to the end of the war and if you have such an interest of this time and place, these books should be a part of your core library alongside books by Georg Maier and Rudolf Pencz which adds a more personable touch. Recommended to all interested students of the war.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Thomas P. Wollam
details of final battles of ww2
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars
By Don F.
Well researched and written.

In his historical series Hinze provides the only comprehensive account of events on the central and southern portions of the German Eastern Front during the years of German retreat. This volume covers events on the southern portion of the Eastern Front from July 1944, in the aftermath of the cataclysmic defeat of Heeresgruppe Mitte, through the Soviet drive to victory. Events covered include the retrograde fighting of 4th Panzer-Armee, the situation on the flanks of Heeresgruppe Nordukraine, operations around Lemberg, and the settling of positions along the line of the Vistula river. The Soviet drive through Rumania against Heeresgruppe Südukraine is described, leading to the fall of Bucharest before the panorama moves into the Hungarian Puszta. The German attempts to stem the Soviet drive on Budapest, the Gran bridgehead and the last great German offensive of the war, Operation 'Spring Awakening' are all recounted, as is the steady and now inevitable final withdrawal and defeat of the remaining Axis forces as the Soviets penetrate into Austria. The fall of both Budapest and Vienna are related, before Hinze completes his study with the final battles in Austria and the area north of the Danube. Hinze's accounts are indispensable to any study of the decline and collapse of the German Eastern Front, and are published by Helion across three volumes - the great retreats across the Ukraine to the borders of Hungary and Rumania, and the evacuation of the Crimean Peninsula (Crucible of Combat), the fate of Heeresgruppen Nordukraine, Sudukraine and Sud-/ Ostmark in 1945 (this volume) and the battles of Heeresgruppe Nordukraine/A/Mitte ('To the Bitter End'). There are no other detailed but comprehensive accounts in which the various individual narratives, unit histories and studies of individual battles may find their place in relation to the big picture. Hinze's maps, alone, would justify his works, for most of the unit histories, narratives and studies of

individual battles lack maps illustrating their place in the larger geography of the war. The study is complemented by orders of battle, the aforementioned maps (over 80 of them), plus photographs. Publication of *With the Courage of Desperation* completes Hinze's trilogy, and represents a keystone to our understanding of the Soviet-German War 1941-45.

About the Author Rolf Hinze, born in 1922 in eastern Germany, joined the 19th Artillery Regiment in Hanover in 1939. Following the Campaign in the West he joined military academy at Jutterborg. For the remainder of the war he served as a forward observation officer with the 19th Panzer Division. After the war he became a town magistrate before setting up in practise as a lawyer. He is deceased.