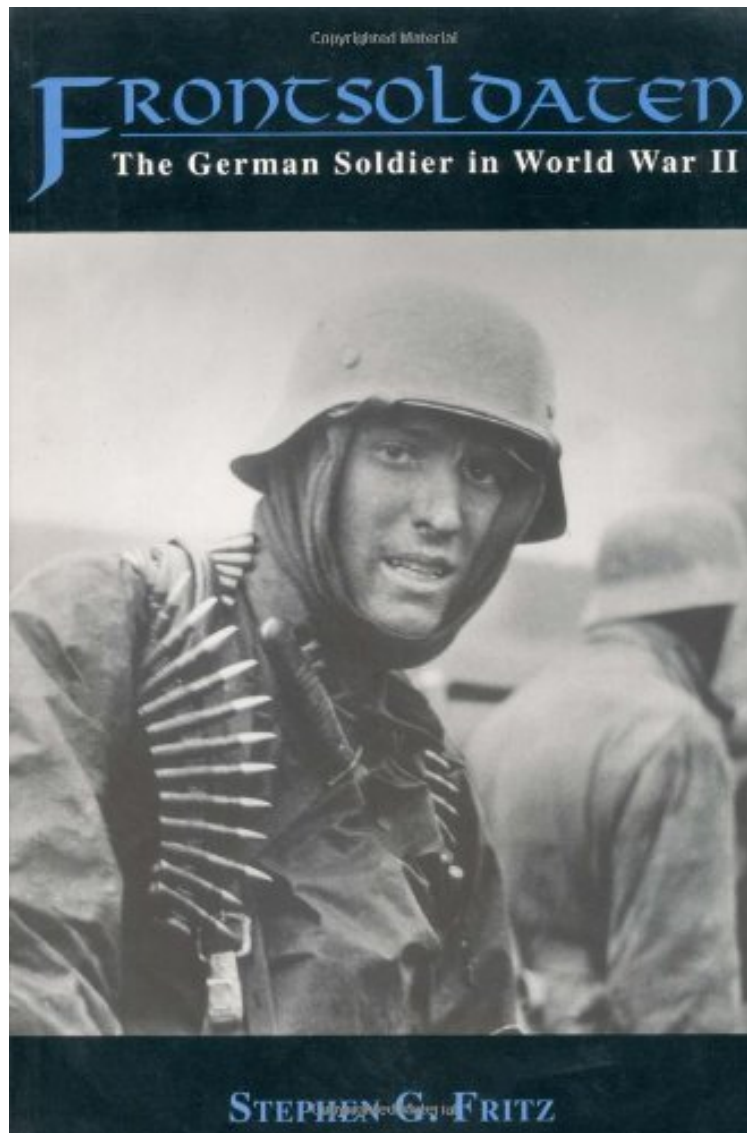


[E-BOOK] Frontsoldaten: The German Soldier in World War II

Frontsoldaten: The German Soldier in World War II

Von Stephen G. Fritz

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Von Stephen G. Fritz : Frontsoldaten: The German Soldier in World War II before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Frontsoldaten: The German Soldier in World War II:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A masterpiece of historical writing!Von Ein KundeFritz takes the reader into the heart and mind of the German infantryman. He presents them as individuals, not merely mindless cogs in the German war machine. The reader comes to realize the incredible suffering that was life on the Eastern front. These men were little more than children placed in circumstances that made them monsters, indifferent to society's conventions or their own human conscience.

Unlike another reviewer, I did not find the book heavily padded. The author exhibits a clear and powerful style of writing, reading more like a good novel than a history book. The overwhelming bulk of the book consists of quotations from the Landser themselves translated from their letters and diaries. Fritz does give a fascinating comparison of the Landser to their American counterparts in the last chapter, but this is hardly padding. All in all, this is a moving account of life for the German infantryman, who has been often ignored in favor of the members of the SS. It is a must-read for any student of military history and World War II, but it is also valuable for those interested in the human soul and how it is altered by the horrors of war. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Excellent although a bit biased. Von Ramon Fonseca Molina This book offers a glimpse into the mind of the German soldier. How he thought, responded to certain exterior psychological factors and how the war at home affected him. Pity the author doesn't miss a chance to blame us for everything evil that came about during the war. I wished he'd been there with me. Otherwise it is an absolutely essential reading for students of German military history, for it explains how we managed to do the things we did against such overwhelming odds not only at home and at the front but also within ourselves. It might help people understand the true nature of the German combatant. The letters are extremely moving and it goes to show that all soldiers no matter their nationality are one and the same, with the same fears, anguish and hardships. Raymund Fonseca, Russian front veteran, Puerto Rico 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Revealing Insight into War: The German Perspective Von Ein Kunde Stephen Fritz' Frontsoldaten provides compelling reasons for the unrelenting determination of the WWII German Army soldier, or "Landser". (The SS is not discussed.) The overwhelming sense of creating a new order for Germany out of the ashes of defeat in the Great War provide the larger framework within which the "Landser" viewed his purpose in the war. "Kamaradschaft", or comradeship, provided an immediate means to endure the constant fear and difficult conditions on the front-line, as well as the will to fight. Quotes from front-line letters, post-war memoirs, and veterans' reflections from a distance of 50 or more years are exactly what make this book so compelling. Fritz focuses mainly on the Eastern Front, where the war took on extreme ideological, racial, and anti-Semitic dimensions. While I found his treatment of the Landser's opinion or role in the excesses of the war too light, he did not shy away from relating the general acceptance of National Socialism by the German Army soldier. This acceptance is related in the words of the front soldiers themselves as taken from their own letters. Frontsoldaten left me with a stark impression of the German soldier's front line experience--an experience filled with determination, fear, and fatigue, as well as a belief in a leader and an ideology that destroyed millions. Lastly, the haunting photograph on the cover sums up this book very well. The youthful face, filled with fear, exhaustion, and determination, stare out from under a helmet deeply associated with Nazism and German militarism.

Kurzbeschreibung The Landser, German soldiers in World War II, were feared for the efficiency and ruthlessness in battle. In his book Frontsoldaten, Stephen G. Fritz mines the letters, diaries, memoirs, and oral histories of these men to create the definitive account of soldiers' lives on the front lines. Frontsoldaten addresses the training, images of combat, living conditions, combat stress, bonds of comradeship, ideology, and motivation of the Landser. Frontsoldaten reveals the war through the eyes of these self-styled "little men" with a sense of immediacy and intimacy. Fritz contrasts these German soldiers with their American counterparts, showing how much soldiers everywhere have in common. But he also discusses significant differences in ideological intensity, group cohesiveness, ingenuity, discipline, and quality of equipment that will come as a surprise to many readers familiar with the history of World War II. From Publishers Weekly Drawn from letters, diaries and memoirs, this impressive study presents a rounded, detailed picture of the daily life of the Landser--the ordinary German infantryman of WWII--and takes an unblinking look at the stark realities of combat, particularly on the Russian front, where 80% of the German soldiers fought; the hardships endured; and the crushing anxiety of being surrounded by death and killing. The evidence that surfaces in these pages demonstrates that the remarkable unit cohesion and fighting performance of the Landser was due in large part to the bonds of military friendship inherited from Prussian tradition; Wehrmacht leaders "raised the concept of camaraderie almost to the level of strategic doctrine." The study also reveals ways in which the German soldier embraced ideological commitment to National Socialism and how, encouraged by Nazi propaganda, he was free to engage in virtually unlimited criminality if it was directed against the so-called enemies of the German people. Fritz, who teaches history at East Tennessee State, makes edifying comparisons between the Landser and his American, British and Russian counterparts. His book helps explain why the German army was so relentlessly efficient in battle. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist The experience of the British and American common soldier in World War II has been extensively studied. Not so, at least in English, that of his principal opponent, the German Landser (infantryman). Fritz draws on both published and unpublished material, little of it previously translated, to make up for the deficiency. The German soldier survived far more rigorous training than his Allied counterparts (which explains much of his superior proficiency), survived (on the eastern front, at least) indescribable conditions, and was more sympathetic to the objectives and attitudes of National Socialism than has

been admitted previously. He also feared death and wounds, mourned comrades overtaken by them, yearned for home, and took a dim view of mud, lice, brutal NCOs, inept or martinet officers, and hostile artillery. In short, he was a soldier doing his duty; the tragedy is that he did it so well in such an abominable cause. Roland Green