

British Paratrooper versus German Fallschirmjäger: Mediterranean 1942-43

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Comments:

Essentially, what you get here is an overview of British and German paratroopers followed by three actions in which they fought each other in the Mediterranean, finished off with an analysis and lessons learned discussion. The point is to give the reader a soldier's eye view.

The book itself is entertaining enough but I felt that the format was a bit of a let-down. I didn't really get a good idea of what it was like to be in the ranks or for example, in one of the actions described, despite being full of eye-witness accounts, I had the impression of a fairly sedate affair so I was shocked to read at the end that there were 500 casualties. Maybe it was me rather than the way it was written, I'm not sure.

The colour plates didn't really impress either or they are computer generated and for me lacked the charm of similar plates that are drawn and coloured in more conventional style.

Overall, while I quite enjoyed the book, I would point the interested reader to Featherstone's "Wargaming Airborne Operations" instead or you get more detail on the things that are interesting and less of the narrative (which I find a bit dry). The best chapter in this book for example is the first, which deals with role and doctrine, leadership, communications, mobility, tactics and firepower.

--Paul Le Long



COMBAT

Mediterranean 1942-43

British Paratrooper

VERSUS

Fallschirmjäger

David Greentree

