

# **World War II Infantry Tactics: Squad and Platoon**

Osprey Elite series No. 105 (2004)

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## **Contents:**

Introduction  
The Soldier's Experience  
Training: Fieldcraft & Battlecraft  
The Squad Ethos  
Squad Organization & Weapons  
Squad Tactics ó Offensive  
Squad Tactics ó Defensive  
Field Works  
The Platoon

## **Colour Plates:**

German defensive position, Normandy 1944  
German 5cm light mortar team 1940-43  
German infantry battlefield positions 1939-45  
US rifle platoon in defence, Ardennes 1944-5  
British section flank attack 1944-5  
British weapon slits  
US infantry squad and platoon weapons  
British army house defence tactics

## **Comments:**

This book is essential for anyone wanting to use realistic tactics for WWII games on the tabletop. The emphasis is on combat at the lowest level ó that of the individual soldier or a squad (section in the British army) of not more than 10 men. The focus is squarely on fighting techniques, weapons used (and how they were used) and how small units or individuals used terrain and fieldcraft for both attack and defence.

The plates illustrating German and US defensive positions are excellent in showing you exactly how such positions were set up, fields of fire, cover and so on. The plate showing a British squad launching a flank attack is also very useful and reminded me of a demonstration game I had seen of Chain of Command by Too Fat Lardies (check out their You-Tube videos for this). It is very easy to see how the tactics laid out in this book would be transposed to the wargames table and indeed you could set up small scenarios based on the information here that would give you a short but interesting game with only a few figures on the table using authentic tactics. It will also show you whether the rules you are using are good enough ó they should, after all, accommodate authentic tactics.

The section on platoons is thinner, with much of the space taken up by a discussion about snipers (interesting in its own right). But essentially the platoon is simply an agglomeration of squads, so the tactics remain the same, just on a slightly larger canvas.

If you play WWII wargames you should read this book.

**--Paul Le Long**

