

US World War II Amphibious Tactics: Mediterranean & European Theaters

Osprey Elite series No. 144 (2006)

Text by Gordon L. Rottman; illustrated by Peter Dennis

Contents:

Introduction
Amphibious Doctrine
Amphibious Forces
Landing Forces
Landing Ships & Landing Craft
Command, Control & Organization
The Amphibious Assault

Colour Plates:

Landing Craft (illustrations of 11 craft)
Assault Boat Team
Landing Craft, Infantry (Large)
Gap-clearing
M4A1 Sherman Duplex-Drive Tank
LCM & Sherman Rigged for Fording
Cross-the-beach Trackways
The Assault Waves

Comments:

Like its companion volume (Elite 117, dealing with the Pacific Theatre), this book provides an excellent overview of amphibious doctrine, equipment and organisation. The focus is squarely on how you get a force ashore ó an incredibly complicated procedure, well explained here -- rather than on what that force does when it gets ashore. For wargamers who want to start a scenario with the troops hitting the beach, you perhaps don't need this level of detail ó though it is an interesting read in its own right. But for gamers who want to plan an amphibious assault from first principles ó how many men are being landed, how many ships, landing craft and other vehicles do you need, how many men or tanks will fit in a particular boat, how will they be transported, when and with what support í well, then this is essential reading.

--Paul Le Long

Elite

Operational Manual

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Operational Manual