

**World War II Desert Tactics**  
Osprey Elite series No. 162 (2008)  
Text by Paddy Griffith; illustrated by Adam Hook

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**Colour Plates:**

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German infantry in defence, Alamein, October 1942

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British armour in pursuit, 5 November 1942

US tank destroyers in defence, El Guettar, 23 March 1943

**Comments:**

We start with an overview of the terrain and conditions before moving on to look at how the three main combatants in the desert – British, Germans and Italians – adapted to those conditions, their initial tactical concepts and how those concepts changed as the war progressed. Yes, there is discussion about hardware, but this book is not for rivet-counters; hardware is discussed only in relation to tactical concepts; we are concerned here with the different uses to which cruiser and infantry tanks were put or whether anti-tank guns were used in the offence or defence, not with the calibre of those guns or whether the Matilda had thicker armour than the PZIII.

As with other titles in this series on tactics, some of the plates could be used as inspiration for tabletop scenarios using authentic tactics.

Also, as you would expect from this particular author, the book is extremely well-written and informative. Some of the later chapters look like they will be just a narrative of various operations but in Griffith's hands they serve to provide examples of tactical doctrine in practice.

This is a superb book which you absolutely must read if you want to wargame the desert war and which you should probably read even if you don't!

**--Paul Le Long**

