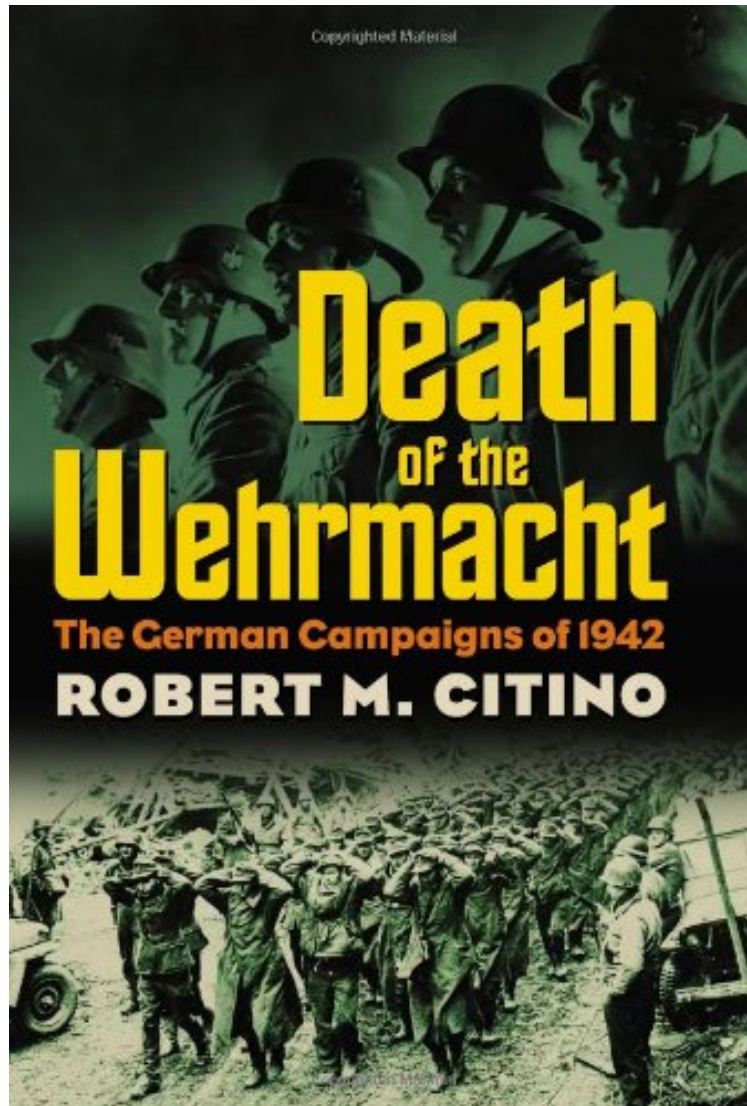


[Free read ebook] Death of the Wehrmacht: The German Campaigns of 1942 (Modern War Studies)

Death of the Wehrmacht: The German Campaigns of 1942 (Modern War Studies)

Robert M. Citino

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Robert M. Citino : Death of the Wehrmacht: The German Campaigns of 1942 (Modern War Studies) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Death of the Wehrmacht: The German Campaigns of 1942 (Modern War Studies):

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Simply OutstandingBy MilitarybooksI am going to be short and sweet. The editorial review offered by the publisher is accurate. If you want to read about 1942 in the East and in

North Africa from a fresh well-written (and very easy to read) book, buy this. I know a lot about WWII in general and the East in particular, but this book really explained a LOT I never quite grasped or understood (like Operation Blue, for example). 1942 really did mark the end of "a very old and traditional pattern of war-making," with the classic 'German way of war'--which Citino explains brilliantly--unable to continue as it once had. Who could have known the effect of the radio on The German way of war? A couple other reviews complained about repetition or typos. On the former, the author is simply reinforcing key points like any good writer, teacher, professor, etc. would and should do. On the latter, so what? I ran across a dozen or more typos or missed words. But I frankly don't care because they never detract from the substance. And by the way, the end notes--deep, long, rich, and detailed--are worth the price of the book alone. The only very minor complaint is that the maps, while satisfactory, were not as plentiful as they should have been. Buy it. Enjoy it. Put it on your bookshelf. And be proud you own it.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. *Death of the Wehrmacht* is a microhistorical operational account of the Nazi War Machine. By C. M. Mills. Five stars with an *! *Death of the Wehrmacht* is an extremely detailed account of the battles waged by the German Army in the pivotal year of 1942. The Germans had already captured most of Europe crushing British and French forces. Most of Western Europe was occupied. The Nazis seemed invincible as their legions (over 3 million troops) invaded Stalin's Soviet Union; continued to advance in North Africa and quickly conquered Yugoslavia, Greece and the Balkans. What happened to crush this behemoth of Nazi might? That is the theme of Robert M. Citino's outstanding book. It is short but well written containing good battle maps, detailed footnotes and an extensive bibliography. The Germans started off the year in fine fettle. Quick victories were won over large and ineptly led Soviet armies. The Germans won big battles at Kerch and Kharkov. Sevastopol and the Crimea fell to their legions. In North Africa they were successful against the British 8th Army at Gazala and Tobruk. The house of cards then began to tumble. The Germans were encircled at Stalingrad as General Von Paulus and his 6th Army were encircled and defeated. General Viscount Bernard Law Montgomery defeated Rommel and the Afrika Korps at El Alamein. The Germans were on the run. Defeat became inevitable as the ability of the Allies to produce weapons and equipment defeated the Third Reich. Robert M. Citino the author of "*Death of the Wehrmacht*" is an expert on Prussian-German military history from the days of Frederick the Great to the snows and sands of World War II. The Germans believed in striking quickly and encircling the enemy by flank attacks in an overwhelming initial attack. They favored the "kessel" maneuver in which the enemy army was surrounded and crushed. Strategy was influenced by the works of Germany military theorists such as Clausewitz. The strategy unravelled as the war continued. Hitler took over strategic decisions and the independence of military commanders on the ground was hampered as a result. Overwhelming forces in men and material defeated the Germans in Russia and in North Africa. The industrial might of the United States arsenal of democracy was decisive in Nazi defeat. The book contains a number of quotable quotes including: "Overall it is clearer and clearer that we have underestimated the Russian colossus, which has prepared itself for war with an utter lack of restraint..." p. 40 (quotation by German General Franz Halder.) "The Crimean campaign was one of the most interesting and unusual in the history of modern war." -p. 53 "There are few lessons to be learned from the attack on Sevastopol "Operation Strofang" other than the obvious one: concentrating the firepower of an entire modern air force and artillery park against a relatively small target like Sevastopol." -pp. 78-79. "At El Alamein the German way of war found itself trapped in the grip of the Machine." -p. 288 "German defeat...looked far less like an art than an exercise in an industrial shop class; helpless raw materials being torn to shred in a drill press." -p. 304 This kind of book will appeal to military history buffs and military professionals. It can be hard going as the author details troop movements but for those who enjoy this kind of detailed study it is an excellent resource.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. *Well Written WWII Key German Battle History When The War Turned* By Douglas Cameron. Interesting. Informative history of WWII key year from German viewpoint. Removes rosy glasses from description of many key generals that have previously received only the gentle treatment from most books. Good explanation of German logic and viewpoint on several key points. Description of battles is good with mostly strategic view with some on the ground stories mixed in. I have added this to my library and will read it again.

For Hitler and the German military, 1942 was a key turning point of World War II, as an overstretched but still lethal Wehrmacht replaced brilliant victories and huge territorial gains with stalemates and strategic retreats. In this major reevaluation of that crucial year, Robert Citino shows that the German army's emerging woes were rooted as much in its addiction to the "war of movement"--attempts to smash the enemy in "short and lively" campaigns--as they were in Hitler's deeply flawed management of the war. From the overwhelming operational victories at Kerch and Kharkov in May to the catastrophic defeats at El Alamein and Stalingrad, *Death of the Wehrmacht* offers an eye-opening new view of that decisive year. Building upon his widely respected critique in *The German Way of War*, Citino shows how the campaigns of 1942 fit within the centuries-old patterns of Prussian/German warmaking and ultimately doomed Hitler's expansionist ambitions. He examines every major campaign and battle in the Russian and North African theaters throughout the year to assess how a military geared to quick and decisive victories coped when the tide turned against it. Citino also reconstructs the German generals' view of the war and illuminates the multiple contingencies that might have produced more favorable results. In addition, he cites the fatal extreme aggressiveness of German

commanders like Erwin Rommel and assesses how the German system of command and its commitment to the "independence of subordinate commanders" suffered under the thumb of Hitler and chief of staff General Franz Halder. More than the turning point of a war, 1942 marked the death of a very old and traditional pattern of warmaking, with the classic "German way of war" unable to meet the challenges of the twentieth century. Blending masterly research with a gripping narrative, Citino's remarkable work provides a fresh and revealing look at how one of history's most powerful armies began to founder in its quest for world domination.

"A winner across the board by one of the masters of operational history. The capstone to a four-volume study on modern mobile warfare, it solidifies Citino's position among the very best scholars who have written on the 'German way of war.' In particular, his treatment of the 1942 Russian campaigns is fully level with the best of David Glantz's work from the Soviet perspective and restores both Stalingrad and El Alamein to their rightful status as major turning points in the war." Dennis Showalter, author of *Patton and Rommel* "There is no better examination of German operations during the crisis year of 1942." Geoffrey P. Megargee, author of *Inside Hitler's High Command*"From the Back Cover" A winner across the board by one of the masters of operational history. The capstone to a four-volume study on modern mobile warfare, it solidifies Citino's position among the very best scholars who have written on the 'German way of war.' In particular, his treatment of the 1942 Russian campaigns is fully level with the best of David Glantz's work from the Soviet perspective and restores both Stalingrad and El Alamein to their rightful status as major turning points in the war."--Dennis Showalter, author of *Patton and Rommel* "There is no better examination of German operations during the crisis year of 1942."--Geoffrey P. Megargee, author of *Inside Hitler's High Command*About the Author Robert M. Citino is professor of European history at Eastern Michigan University and author of seven other books, including most recently *The German Way of War: From the Thirty Years' War to the Third Reich* (see page 30).