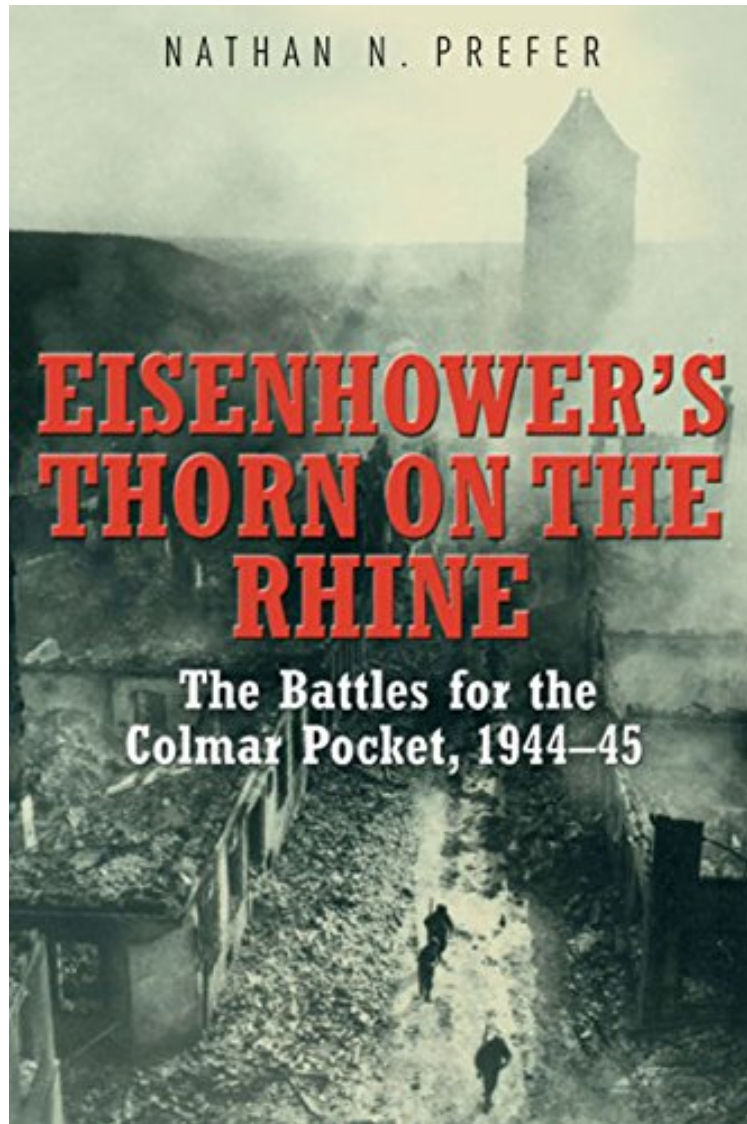


[Free read ebook] Eisenhower's Thorn on the Rhine: The Battles for the Colmar Pocket, 1944–45

## Eisenhower's Thorn on the Rhine: The Battles for the Colmar Pocket, 1944–45

*Nathan N. Prefer*

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**Nathan N. Prefer : Eisenhower's Thorn on the Rhine: The Battles for the Colmar Pocket, 1944–45** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Eisenhower's Thorn on the Rhine: The Battles for the Colmar Pocket, 1944–45:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great book but not enough maps By William Erickson Excellent, but it would have been even better with a few more maps. The author throughout provides the amazing stories of many

Medal of Honor winners, including Audie Murphy. My Dad served as a Forward Observer in the 6th Army Group, 7th Army, VI Corps, 103rd Division, 409th Infantry Regiment, 382nd Field Artillery Battalion, so I appreciate the veritas that books such as this one provides. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By S. Newbold Mace Very interesting and detailed account of the struggle to the Rhine 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Jeff Tolman A good book about an interesting, under-reported battle zone. Glad I read it.

By the fall of 1944 the Western Allies appeared to be having it all their own way. The summer's Normandy invasion had finally succeeded and the Germans had been driven out of northern France and most of the Low Countries. In September the invasion of France's southern coast had met less opposition and Allied divisions had begun lining up along the Rhine. But while the Americans were about to meet a nasty surprise in the Ardennes, the Germans never did let go of the province of Alsace, and in a hard pocket around the city of Colmar continued to resist. On New Year's Eve they launched a counteroffensive, Operation Northwind, that nearly put Allied forces back on their heels. While the Allies were eventually able to take care of their Ardennes problem the Colmar one still remained. On January 12, 1945, Eisenhower could only tell George Marshall, "It is a very bad thorn in our side today." This is the story of the Sixth Army Group (7th US 1st French Armies) which fought on the southern flank of the SHAEF front. The French had multiple problems during this campaign so that increasing number of US divisions needed to take part. In the process the 3rd and 28th Infantry Divisions, and 10th and 14th Armored, among others were able to cover themselves with heroism, though hardly less than the threadbare German 19th Army, which bravely resisted against enormous odds until finally the west bank of the Rhine was cleared. Amidst a horrific winter and rough terrain, interspersed by demolished towns, both sides traded blows in a ferocious campaign often neglected in histories of the war. This book informs us fully of the tremendous and costly struggle waged on that often-neglected sector of the front.

"...scrutinizes a lesser-known campaign from the closing days of World War II. After the success of the Normandy invasion, as well as the expulsion of German forces from northern France and most of the Low Countries, a fierce pocket of German resistance around the city of Colmar continued to frustrate Allied forces. This last-ditch holdout was so fierce that in January of 1945, President Eisenhower said to George Marshall, It is a very bad thorn in our side today." Eisenhower's Thorn on the Rhine examines this military juncture from all perspectives; chapters describe in detail the military strategies utilized and their repercussions, as well as the hardships and bravery of troops pressed to their limit on both sides. Extensive notes, a bibliography, and an index round out this scholarly military history, highly recommended especially for public and college library World War II collections." (Midwest Book )"Nathan N. Prefer has a reputation for re-examining World War II battles that history, for whatever reason, has overlooked, and in Eisenhower's Thorn On The Rhine, he's uncovered a humdinger" (History of War)"A brutal winter, rugged terrain and devastated towns are the backdrop for the writer's factual but dramatic chronicle of how Allied and Axis forces traded blows in this costly but relatively overlooked clash of arms." (Toy Soldier and Model Figure Magazine)"The difficult fighting in the Colmar Pocket is brought to vivid life in this new work. Details of many small actions are woven into the overall narrative, enabling the reader to get a sense of the hardship and cost the fighting in this region brought for the soldiers of both sides. Clear maps and good appendices provide added detail." (WWII History)"Prefer provides a compelling and lucid account of the combat operations of the 6th Army Group... Overall, Prefer provides a welcome addition to the history of the Allied campaign in Western Europe. This book is highly recommended because it fills a gap in the historiography of the Allied effort in the European theater and provides long overdue recognition to the noteworthy combat record of the 6th Army Group." (Army History)About the AuthorNathan N. Prefer is retired with graduate degrees in Military History. His life long study of the Second World War has resulted in three prior Military studies including MacArthur 's New Guinea Campaign, March-August 1944; Patton's Ghost Corps, Cracking the Siegfried Line and Vinegar Joe 's War, Stilwell 's Campaigns in Burma. He resides in Fort Myers, Florida. His interest in the Tinian Campaign began when he served in the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve as a part of the 4th Marine Division. Researching that unit's history he discovered that almost nothing had been written about one of it's World War II campaigns. The resulting research became Tinian; The Perfect Campaign. He is currently working on a book covering the U. S. Army's campaign on Leyte in the Philippines.