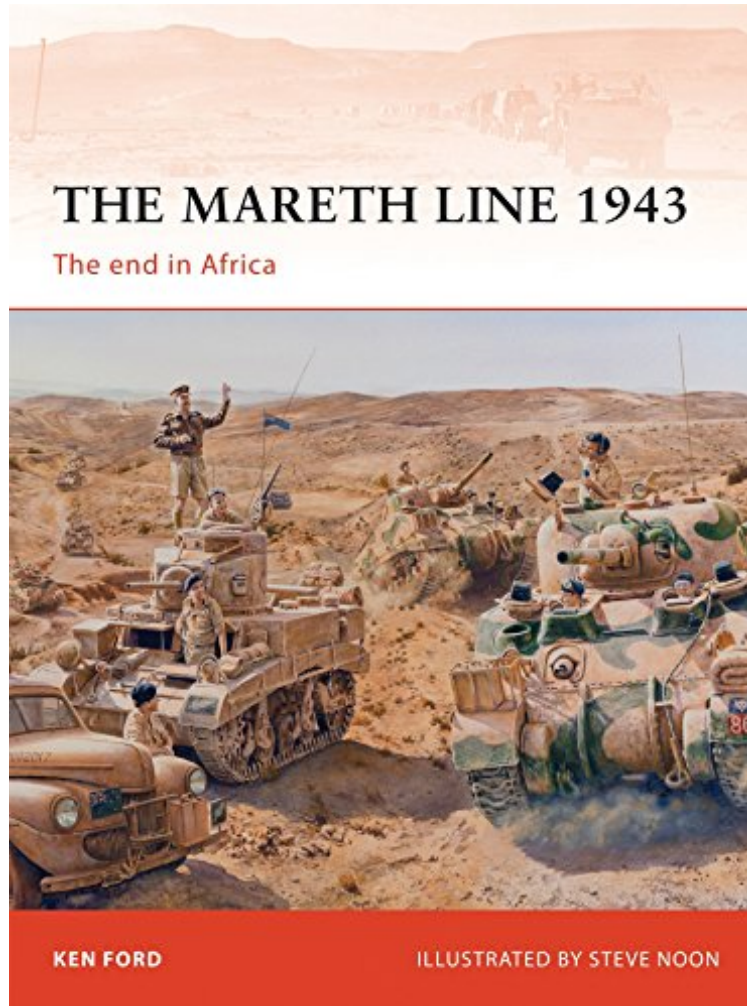


(Download ebook) The Mareth Line 1943: The end in Africa (Campaign)

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Ken Ford

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#719089 in Books Osprey Publishing 2012-10-23 2012-10-23 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.57 x .28 x 6.971, 1.00 #File Name: 178096093X96 pages9781780960937 | File size: 48.Mb

Ken Ford : The Mareth Line 1943: The end in Africa (Campaign) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Mareth Line 1943: The end in Africa (Campaign):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. End game in North Africa...By HMS Warspite "The Mareth Line 1943" picks up World War Two's North African campaign at the conclusion of the Second Battle of El Alamein. Rommel's battered Panzerarmee Afrika began a difficult retreat back across the Libyan desert, just ahead of the victorious British Eighth Army led by General Bernard Montgomery. The long retreat would finally end at the Mareth Line along the Libyan border with Tunisia, as Rommel's German and Italian troops turned to face their pursuers from the cover of pre-war French fortifications, augmented by minefields, wire, and the desert itself. "The Mareth Line 1943" follows the standard Osprey Campaign format. It includes an introduction to the North African theater of war; descriptions of the opposing commanders, their armies, and their plans; and a narrative of the fight for the Mareth

Line. A well-written text is nicely supplemented by an outstanding collection of photographs, illustrations, maps and diagrams of the various battlefields. Author Ken Ford offers much of interest in this concise account. He narrates the growing disenchantment of an exhausted Rommel with a doomed campaign, which attitude led to his removal from the theater after he had somehow shepherded his forces to the relative safety of the Mareth Line. Ford is quite critical of General Montgomery, whose mastery of the set-piece battle did not extend to the fluid conditions of the pursuit across Libya and the initial attempts to "break-in" the Mareth Line. The much-maligned Italian leadership shows surprisingly well at the end of the campaign. "The Mareth Line 1943" is highly recommended to the interested general reader and to the student looking for a quick version of the end of the North African campaign. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Leonard Trerotola Great item and service! A+++++++ 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Useful Detailed Description By Mikebish This is a narrow topic that gets brief mention in most overall histories of the North African campaigns. The book is clear and easy to read with adequate but not too much detail. The maps and illustrations are especially helpful to a military novice like me. The Mareth Line battles are given enough before and after context to place them in the flow of the North African campaigns but not so much as to detract from the specialized narrative.

The battle of El Alamein in World War II saw the shattering of Germany's hopes for victory in North Africa. From this point on the end was inevitable, as Rommel's forces began the long retreat that was to end in Tunisia in May 1943 when, hemmed in by British and American forces on all sides, over 250,000 Axis soldiers filed into prisoner of war camps, a number comparable to those captured at Stalingrad. In the six months that passed between Alamein and the final surrender there was much hard fighting, as the defeated German and Italian Panzer Army sought to hold off the encroaching Eighth Army in a series of defensive positions across the Western Desert. Rommel, his health suffering from the strains of command, fought a number of major actions during this campaign - at El Agheila, Mersa el Brega, Buerat and Medenine - before his forces settled into the pre-war French defensive position the Mareth Line. All the way he was pursued by an increasingly confident Eighth Army under the command of General Montgomery, but never was Montgomery able to outflank the retreating German and Italian forces decisively, and Rommel was even able to divert forces to inflict a sharp defeat on the newly arrived US forces at Kasserine Pass in February 1943. This was one of Rommel's last acts in the Desert War as his health problems forced his return to Germany shortly afterwards. The stage was now set for the last great battle of the Desert War as the veteran formations of the British Eighth Army took on their foes in the Afrikakorps for one last time in the major set-piece battle for the Mareth Line.

"Packed with color battle scenes and illustrations plus maps and vintage black and white photos, this is a fine pick for any World War II collection strong in battle analysis." ?The Midwest Book (February 2013) About the Author Ken Ford was born in Hampshire in 1943. He trained as an engineer and spent almost 30 years in the telecommunications industry before a change in career led him to become a full-time military historian. He is the author of over 20 books on various aspects of World War II. Ken now lives in Southampton.