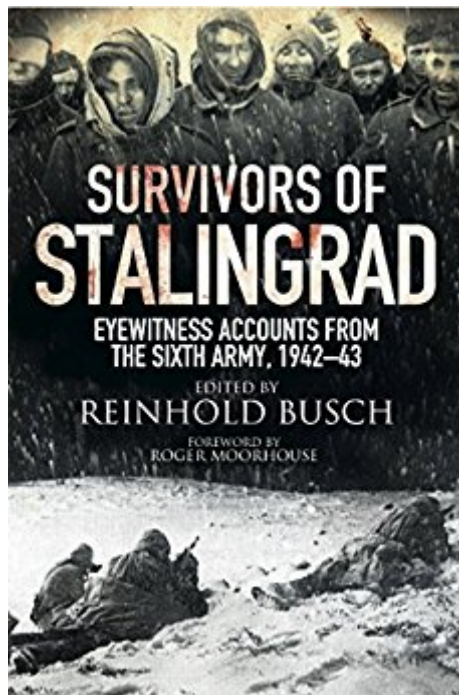




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Survivors Of Stalingrad: Eyewitness Accounts From The 6th Army, 1942-43



Synopsis

In November 1942 – in a devastating counter-attack from outside the city – Soviet forces smashed the German siege and encircled Stalingrad, trapping some 290,000 soldiers of the 6th Army inside. For almost three months, during the harshest part of the Russian winter, the German troops endured atrocious conditions. Freezing cold and reliant on dwindling food supplies from Luftwaffe air drops, thousands died from starvation, frostbite or infection if not from the fighting itself.

“This important work reconstructs the grim fate of the 6th Army in full for the first time by examining the little-known story of the field hospitals and central dressing stations. The author has trawled through hundreds of previously unpublished reports, interviews, diaries and newspaper accounts to reveal the experiences of soldiers of all ranks, from simple soldiers to generals.

“The book includes first-hand accounts of soldiers who were wounded or fell ill and were flown out of the encirclement; as well as those who fought to the bitter end and were taken prisoner by the Soviets. They reflect on the severity of the fighting, and reveal the slowly ebbing hopes for survival. Together they provide an illuminating and tragic portrait of the appalling events at Stalingrad.

Book Information

File Size: 4739 KB

Print Length: 256 pages

Publisher: Frontline Books (September 3, 2014)

Publication Date: October 28, 2014

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00OZ3I186

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #20,641 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #17 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Russia & Former Soviet Republics #27 in Books > History > Asia > Russia #30 in Books > History > Europe > Germany

Customer Reviews

I’ve been waiting for a book that compiled individual accounts of the German experience in

Stalingrad and finally, with *SURVIVORS OF STALINGRAD*, there is one. Editor, Reinhold Busch, has compiled 39 individual and diverse accounts of German soldiers and airmen who either escaped the Stalingrad "Kessel" /pocket or became prisoners and lived to tell about it. Busch, who has previously published his research of German surgeons in the battle of Stalingrad, provides an interesting and unique visage of the depravity experienced by an entire army left to fend for themselves after being surrounded by a motivated and vindictive Red Army. With temperatures falling to sub-zero levels and still wearing uniforms suited for spring and summer, each soldier/airman's account echoes a recurring theme of futility and misery. The stories provide a broad perspective of the epic battle's final days, giving readers a better understanding of the chaos and downright fear that blanketed those trapped inside the pocket – from the frontline infantryman lacking ammunition and support to airmen dealing with the flood of terrified and wounded soldiers swarming their planes in a desperate attempt to flee captivity and certain death. Each chapter represents an individual's account and while they are all different, most all manage to touch on the same points: personal filth, extreme hunger, the unbearable cold, unburied dead, the soon-to-be-dead wounded and the Red Army bearing down. With the exception of a few, the stories range from two to six pages in length. Some of the accounts are more interesting than others, but they all combine to provide a better overall picture of the entire situation facing Germans before von Paulus's surrender (one account even included that moment).

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