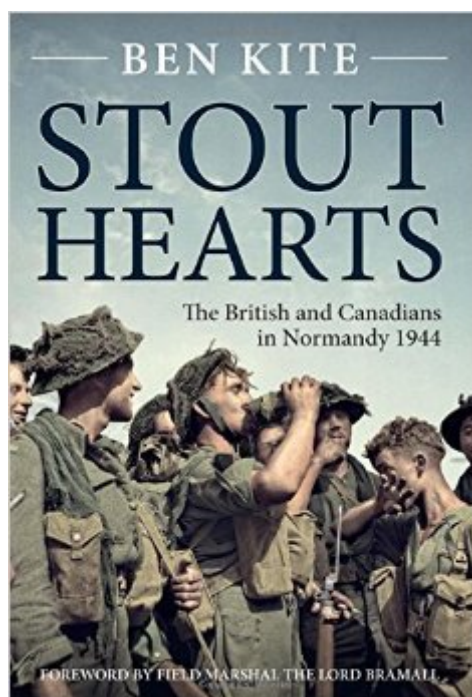


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Stout Hearts: The British And Canadians In Normandy 1944



Synopsis

Stout Hearts is a book which offers an entirely new perspective on the British Army in Normandy. This fresh study explores the anatomy of war through the Army's operations in the summer of 1944, informing and entertaining the general non-fiction reader as well as students of military history. There have been so many books written on Normandy that the publication of another one might appear superfluous. However most books have focused on narrating the conduct of the battle, describing the factors that influenced its outcome, or debating the relative merits of the armies and their generals. What was missing from the existing body of work on Normandy specifically and the Second World War generally is a book that explains how an army actually operates in war and what it was like for those involved, Stout Hearts fills this gap. Stout Hearts is essential reading for those who wish to understand the 'mechanics' of battle. How does an Army care for its wounded? How do combat engineers cross obstacles? How do tanks fight? How do Air and Naval Forces support the Army? But to understand what makes an Army 'tick' you must also understand its people. Therefore explanations of tactics and techniques are not only well illustrated with excellent photographs and high quality maps but also effectively combined with relevant accounts from the combatants themselves. These dramatic stories of ordinary people doing extraordinary things are the strength of the book, bringing the campaign to life and entertaining the reader.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Serving British Army officer Ben Kite has written a deeply engrossing book about how the various

components of the British and Canadian forces in the 1944 Normandy campaign (eventually to become 21st Army Group) functioned and worked together as an integrated whole, and exactly how and why they so comprehensively defeated the Wehrmacht and Waffen SS formations ranged against them. The chapters forensically examine different components of the British and Canadian armies and the other forces (RN & RAF) directly supporting them:

1. Introduction & Campaign Overview
2. Closing with the Enemy – Infantry
3. Neptune – The Navy's Trident – Naval Support
4. First in, Last out – Engineers
5. Queen of the Battlefield – Artillery
6. By Air to Battle – Air Power & Air Support
7. Knowledge Gives Strength to Arms – Intelligence & Reconnaissance
8. Penetrating the Fog – Command & Control
9. Faithful in Adversity – Medical Services
10. Grim Summer – Life in Normandy 1944
11. From Mud through Blood to the Green Fields Beyond – Armour
12. Our Greatest Generation (a short, 2-page concluding piece)

Each chapter describes in detail how its subject-force functioned. Chapter 3 examines the different Naval vessels deployed and what role each played in relation to the others; Chapter 5 how the range of artillery pieces of differing calibres were crewed, moved about and sited, co-ordinated and used in conjunction with the other components of the allied forces (with testimonies from several veteran Wehrmacht officers that in their experience British artillery was the most accurate and effective of any enemy they faced).

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