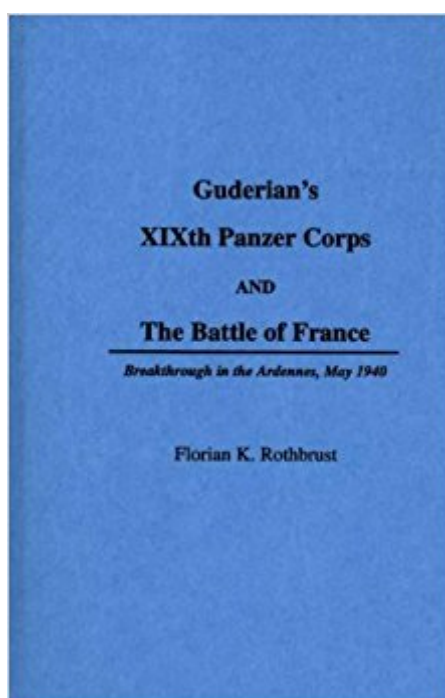


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Guderian's XIXth Panzer Corps And The Battle Of France: Breakthrough In The Ardennes, May 1940



Synopsis

Certain to become the definitive work in English on the Battle of France, this volume is a long overdue and much needed correction to all previous English accounts. With extensive use of primary sources and strong secondary sources, it places us closer to the actual operational planning, preparation, and deployment of one of the most successful military operations in recent history. It covers major changes made by the German Army after the Polish Campaign; and the infighting surrounding these changes; the reorganization and preparation of the Army for the Battle of France. It also provides the only detailed day-by-day breakdown of German action during the battle's first five critical days. According to S. J. Lewis, it provides a totally new perspective to these battles and a unique view of the German Army. This volume covers extensive ground and uses numerous appendices and detailed biographical sketches to set the stage for its primary focus--a five day period during the Battle of France. Similar to the Allied Invasion of Normandy, the campaign plan for the Battle of France required six months to develop and elaborate. As a result, this reading provides an ideal opportunity to observe the World War II German Army performing its military work and an insightful look at the friction inherent in campaign planning and on the battlefield.

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Customer Reviews

FLORIAN K. ROTHBRUST is a major in the United States Army, and is presently assigned as the Executive Officer, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 325th Airborne Infantry, Fort Bragg, NC.

I rate this as one of the top 3 works for those wishing to understand the XIX Corps advance to and breakthrough at Sedan. MAJ Rothburst gets down to the details of how the actual soldiers on the ground executed tasks necessary to achieve this thunderbolt of maneuver warfare. It is not at the level of The Blitzkrieg Legend (Frieser) or The Breaking Point (Doughty), but it adds perspectives that these other accounts lack. Kudos.

Reads extremely well and is accessible for someone who is not an expert (like myself). Read it from a college library and wish it was available for a reasonable price.

This is a nice operational history of Guderian's armored thrust through the Ardennes to the Channel, but I would expect from the author to be more precise when choosing the military terminology: Guderian's force was NOT a Panzer Corps but a Motorized Corps in 1940 and later was named Panzer Group Guderian, Panzer Group 2 and 2nd Panzer Army. Germany did not have ANY Panzer Corps until the middle of 1942, when most of the existing Motorized Corps were renamed so.

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