



## The Rommel Papers

*Erwin Rommel , B.H. Liddell Hart*

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**The Rommel Papers** Erwin Rommel , B.H. Liddell Hart

**An essential collection of the wartime writings and diary of World War II German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, edited with commentary by one of the great military theorists of our time**

When Erwin Rommel died-by forced suicide at Hitler's command-he left behind in various ingenious hiding places the papers that recorded the story of his dramatic career and the exact details of his masterly campaigns. It was his custom to dictate each evening a running narrative of the day's events and, after each battle, to summarize its course and the lessons to be learned from it. He wrote, almost daily, intimate and outspoken letters to his wife in which his private feelings and-after the tide had turned-forebodings found expression. To this is added by Rommel's son Manfred the story of the field marshall's last weeks and the final day when he was given the choice of an honorable suicide or an ignominious trial for treason. An engrossing human document and a rare look at the mind of the "Desert Fox," *The Rommel Papers* throws an interesting light on the Axis alliance and on the inner workings of Hitler's high command.

## The Rommel Papers Details

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Author : Erwin Rommel , B.H. Liddell Hart

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took each loss as a learning opportunity.

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### **Liam says**

Predictably, this book did not even come close to equaling Generalfeldmarschall Rommel's account of his service during WWI, *Attacks*, which is deservedly considered a classic work in the field of military art & science, in addition to being an eminently readable combat narrative/memoir. This was predictable because the present book was assembled from his surviving papers, after both his life and the Second World War had come to an end, in the first instance by his widow Frau Lucie Rommel and their son Manfred (who also wrote two fairly lengthy sections of the book) but later with the help of B.H. Liddell Hart. Generalfeldmarschall Rommel's former Chief-of-Staff Generalleutnant Fritz Bayerlein also contributed to the book, both in terms of writing a fairly long section to cover a gap in the narrative and also general assistance.

Although it was not a particularly easy book to read, parts of the narrative were interesting, and the opportunity to even partially get an idea of what was going through the head of this extraordinarily talented officer was well worth the time and effort. This is not a good book to attempt as an introduction to military history, but for more experienced readers who don't need to look-up military terminology etc. it should be a worthwhile read.

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### **Tin Wee says**

A long book but well worth the time. Field Marshall Erwin Rommel took the time off between battles to reflect on the leadership, strategy and tactics of the wars he was conducting. His human side comes out strongly in the letters to his family that are interspersed chronologically between his account of the various battles. His accounts provide insights on how he managed to win a series of spectacular victories despite an inferiority in tanks and personnel, and how he ultimately lost the war because of a cursed supply line and subsequent micro management by the political leadership. He also provides insights to how technology will shape the direction of modern war. Strongly recommended if you are a military history buff.

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### **TXGAL1 says**

THE ROMMEL PAPERS is a definite read for those who have interest in World War II. Rommel, The Desert Fox, was the ultimate military tactician as well as consummate leader of men.

Had the powers that be thoughtfully listened to and followed the input of Rommel, it is quite possible that WW II may have ended with a different winner. It's hard to justify the loss of ground and troops due to constant lack of fuel, food, and sufficient supplies.

Germany's failure in Africa and Normandy was due to the interference of political objectives and a madman versus sound military planning and implementation. Cue the scapegoats when it finally became clear that Germany was losing the war.

It is tragic that a Rommel, revered by his troops and officers, was tagged as said scapegoat. Of course, it could never get out that he had continually advised the Reich of tenuous situations that were not addressed.

Cowards demanded their pound of flesh.

Rommel was presented with a choice: take your own life or don't and we will take the lives of your family and staff. What a choice to have to make.

The input by Manfred Rommel, the 14-yr old son of Erwin & Lu Rommel at the time of the Papers, is especially enlightening and touching.

I definitely recommend this book, but know that it is heavy on military tactics used by both Rommel and his opponents on the battlefield.

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### **Jefferson Costa says**

Splendid reading - if you like tactics and strategy this is for you

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### **BJ Haun says**

An interesting read, though a dense one. I'm usually a speedy reader and can get through a 500-page book in about a week , but this one took me almost a month to grind through.

This book is mostly comprised of notes taken by Rommel himself during WWII, with a heavy focus on tactics and strategy (Rommel was apparently planning write a book after the war, much like he did in WWI with "Infantry Attacks"), interspersed with letters to his wife and son, and the occasional journal entry. In places where the relevant documents were either lost (the Rommel family hid many of these documents after the Field Marshal's death) or destroyed (Rommel destroyed parts to avoid implicating himself and others) the narrative is picked up by General Bayerlein, whom served with Rommel in both Africa and Europe, and Manfred Rommel, Erwin's son whom was with his father in the final days.

If you are looking for a biographical piece (like I more or less was), you might be better off looking somewhere else. This text focuses highly on Rommel's own view of the war as it happened, and less of the man himself, though you do get a feel for him. Still, I found it to be a interesting look at "the other side of the hill", as the book phrases it.

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### **Zhang Tao says**

1 of 3 books I read this month of 3 most famous Germany's generals in WWII.

Rommel was considered as Germany's greatest fighting general, respected even by the British, who gave him the nickname of "Desert Fox". A few things stand out in this book: 1) He is always at the front with all other soldiers in battle. It was a miracle that he was not killed (only injured) in battle before Hilter killed him. This not only shows his courage as a general, also his way of knowing whatever happens real time in war, to make fast decisions whenever needed. 2) The fact that each night he will summarize what happened and what lesson he can learn from that date. This way he can always stay ahead of everyone else in term of new insights/tactics etc. Interestingly Rommel also talked about the negative from his fame: everyone will believe he can produce miracles, no matter how difficult the situation is, so eventually he cannot live up to that kind

of expectations.

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### Sumit says

marvelous book mainly on account of following following points

- 1) Incredible insight into much famed and little known Blitzkrieg by master himself
- 2) Unparalleled account of Axis PoV of African campaign.
- 3) Intricate details of desert warfare
- 4) Most important of all, timely pointers explaining how conduct of war (both strategically and tactically) is changing because of advancement in technology
- 5) An amazing example of how a leader should lead his/ her followers from the front and set up an example for them to follow when going gets tough.

Book as I have mentioned above is an extremely well written account of North African campaign in 1941-42. It becomes a little drag towards the end when author shifts his focus to topics of Italian and Invasion battles. But that can possibly be because little Rommel written material for that period was available.

A must book for not only people who are interested in WW II, but also a suggested reading for someone who wants to have a deep insight into working of one of the greatest modern time army leader.

rating:- \*\*\*\*

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