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David M. Glantz

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David M. Glantz : Companion to Endgame at Stalingrad (Modern War Studies (Hardcover)) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Companion to Endgame at Stalingrad (Modern War Studies (Hardcover)):

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Detailed, informative and clarifying
By F. Carol Sabin
As expected, this book, based on a wide range and rarely available Soviet and rediscovered German operational documents, contains the archival supplemental documentary evidence for the volume III - Endgame at Stalingrad, thus achieving an unprecedented degree of precision and clarification in describing the historical reality of this major battle. No doubt, this last tome of GlantzHouse "Trilogy" can be used as a reference manual for searchers, as well as a guide for those who want to know the basics of this titanic battle. At the heart of the book are, in my mind, 20 appendices. The term appendix is somehow deceiving; actually these are genuine chapters of operational history, combining archival documents with skillful analysis, ranging between 12-81 pages. All appendices and other documentary materials support the narrative books of the third volume and authors' conclusions and judgments. I'll try a brief analysis of all appendices below. Appendix (App.) 1 (81 pages) focuses on "Opposing Orders of Battle" at six key dates throughout period 19.11.1942-01.02.1943. App. 2 (23 pages) is a nice detailing of the Soviet strategic planning and the genesis of plan Uranus. Based on eight extensive excerpts from Stavka's directives, reports or orders, the authors revealed the chronology of Soviet decision making. "The Uranus Force and Plan" and "The balance of opposing forces" are presented in the next two appendices (3 with 21 pages and 4 with 12 pages). App. 3 contains eight Stavka combat directives or orders. In my opinion, app.4 is one of the most interesting. No less than 9 tables are showing the evolution of "The Soviet view on the Correlation of Opposing Forces in Operation Uranus", at different moments between 1956 and 2008. This speaks a lot about Soviet-style in history-manufacturing! These are followed by app. 5 (50 pages), which is dedicated to "The Penetration battle and Encirclement, 19-23 Nov. 1942". "Reducing the Stalingrad Pocket and Forming the Outer Encirclement Front", 24-27.11.1942 and "Reducing the Stalingrad Pocket and Forming the Outer Encirclement Front", 28-30.11.1942, are detailed in Appendix 6 and 7. App. 8 speaks about "Competing German and Soviet Dilemmas" (28 pages), while app. 9 is detailing "The Southwestern Front's battles along Krivaia and Chir rivers, 1-15 Dec 1942" (20 pages). App. 10 is devoted to "The Stalingrad's Front's Defense against Operation Wintergewitter, 1-19 December 1942" (44 pages), while the next one speaks about "The Don and Stalingrad's Fronts' battle for the Stalingrad Pocket, 1-15 Dec. 1942" (36 pages). "Operation Little Saturn and the Soviet Tormosin Offensive" are both detailed in the next 38 pages of app. 12, while app. 13 provides interesting details about "The end of Wintergewitter and Donnerschlag and the Stalingrad Front's Kotelnikovo Offensive, 16-31 Dec. 1942" (45 pages). The situation in "The Stalingrad Pocket, 16-31 Dec 1942" is the subject of app. 14 (29 pages), while "Sixth's Army's Situation, preliminaries and the Don's Front's Plan, 1-9 Jan. 1943" is debated in app. 15 (13 pages). The destruction of the Sixth Army is fully detailed in the next 3 appendices (113 pages) and, finally, app.19 speaks about "62nd Army's Struggle in Stalingrad City, 19.11.1942-2.02.1943", no doubt, inspired completely from combat journal of this army. This chapter maintains a continuity with volume's two account of the fighting in Stalingrad. The "Conclusions" is the last appendix containing just 14 pages. Inside you can discover a chronology of significant actions between 28 June 1942 and 2 February 1943, Red Army's operations conducted within the context of operation Ring (8 offensives), plus 5 tables with both sides' losses and German operational tanks at key moments. Compared with previous books, this one has a very different dedication: "To my lord and savior, Jesus Christ..." Companion has 54 tactical/operational-level situation maps/sketches; concerning the quality, some are difficult to read, some are sketchy, simple, but few are good (8-10). Another major pillar of this book is represented by its 50 tables. They provide useful statistical info about casualty rates in selected divisions, Soviet assessments, reports, losses, tonnage delivered in the aerial supply of Sixth Army, reorganizations, etc. A pleasant surprise it was to see, apart the classic part dedicated to Soviet commanders (8 photos), a very nice collection of 33 bw photos taken by Stephen Duncan in Stalingrad (Volgograd today), showing current state of different locations/places of the battle (grain elevator, Pavlov's house, Railroad Station no.1, the entrance to Paulus's HQs in the basement of the Univermag, etc). The book concludes with an Index to orders of battle, documents and tables. Finally, don't bother about the book's missing jacket: it's just a minor minus of a grand masterpiece that you won't see soon in the near future. The book is recommended mainly for serious students who want more details, careful analysis or clarifications about this titanic battle and are accustomed with authors' style.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Purely for research
By Thomas Reiter
This volume is obviously intended for research purposes and I strongly recommend not to buy this work for your reading pleasure--you'll be sorely disappointed! I'm OK with the absence of a dust-jacket, which I consider purely cosmetic, but was very disappointed to find that there is not a complete, detailed, listing of the contents of this volume. The book consists of 20 appendices, which are listed in the table of contents; each appendix covers a specific topic (eg, Appendix 3: The Uranus Force and Plan; Appendix 4: the Balance of Opposing Forces, Appendix 10: The Stalingrad Front's Defense against Operation Wintergewitter, etc.). The problem is that each appendix includes many, generally dozens, of individual documents, reports, orders, etc., and there is no complete listing of these specific documents. While there is an index at the back of the book which provides such a detailed list, it only continues through the first few documents in Appendix 13, so almost 8 (out of 20) appendices are not covered. Presumably this was some sort of printing error, I'd be rather disappointed if the publishers simply decided that the page count was already too high... This kind of volume is very welcome and useful, but its utility is much reduced by the lack of a complete document index, so I would hope that the publisher and/or author would at least provide a link to a complete

index for readers' use. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. I am glad I purchased this final volume of the Stalingrad series. By Mr. T. This volume is not needed to understand what happened at Stalingrad but for someone who wants to be a true student of the battle, this book is invaluable. Additionally, the book shows the depth of Glantz's research. The only way to get any closer to the documents shown would be to travel to Russia and look at the originals! I am glad I purchased this final volume of the Stalingrad series, it helps to truly understand the battle.

In *Endgame at Stalingrad*, the final volume of his acclaimed Stalingrad Trilogy, David Glantz completes his definitive account of one of World War II's most infamous confrontations, the campaign that marked Germany's failure on the Eastern Front and proved to be a turning point in the war. In documenting the last days of the Stalingrad campaign, in particular the Red Army's counteroffensive known as Operation Uranus, Glantz takes on a plethora of myths and controversial questions surrounding these events, in particular, questions about why Operation Uranus succeeded and the German relief attempts failed, whether the Sixth Army could have escaped encirclement or been rescued, and who, finally, was most responsible for its ultimate defeat. In addition to a wide variety of traditional sources, this volume makes use of two major categories of documentary materials hitherto unavailable to researchers. The first consists of extensive records from the combat journal of the German Sixth Army, which had been largely missing since the war's end and were only recently rediscovered and published. The second is a vast amount of newly released Soviet and Russian archival material including excerpts from the Red Army General Staff's daily operational summaries; a wide variety of Stavka (High Command), People's Commissariat of Defense (NKO), and Red Army General Staff orders and directives; and the daily records of the Soviet 62nd Army and its subordinate divisions and brigades for most of the time fighting was underway in Stalingrad proper. Because of the persistent controversy and mythology characterizing this period, many of these documents are included verbatim in English translation in this companion volume, providing concrete evidence in support of the conclusions put forward in Volume Three. As such, the Companion contributes substantially to this final volume's unprecedented detail and fresh perspectives, interpretations, and evaluations of the later stages of the Stalingrad campaign.

"Glantz and House are writing the definitive history of the Stalingrad campaign. Their trilogy, backed by meticulous scholarship and refreshingly fair minded, significantly alters long-accepted views of several important aspects of the campaign. . . . A monumental work that is unlikely to be surpassed as an account of the most important single campaign of the Second World War."—Evan Mawdsley, author of *Thunder in the East: The Nazi-Soviet War, 1941–1945* "A magisterial study that draws on a wealth of previously inaccessible Red Army records and will be indispensable reading for all serious students of the battle."—Michael K. Jones, author of *Stalingrad: How the Red Army Triumphed* About the Author David M. Glantz and Jonathan M. House have collaborated on all three volumes of the Stalingrad Trilogy, as well as on the books *When Titans Clashed: How the Red Army Stopped Hitler* and *The Battle of Kursk*. A retired U. S. Army colonel fluent in Russian, Glantz is the author of numerous books, including *The Battle for Leningrad, 1941–1944*; *Colossus Reborn: The Red Army at War*, and *Red Storm over the Balkans: The Failed Soviet Invasion of Romania*. House is the author of *Combined Arms Warfare in the Twentieth Century*.