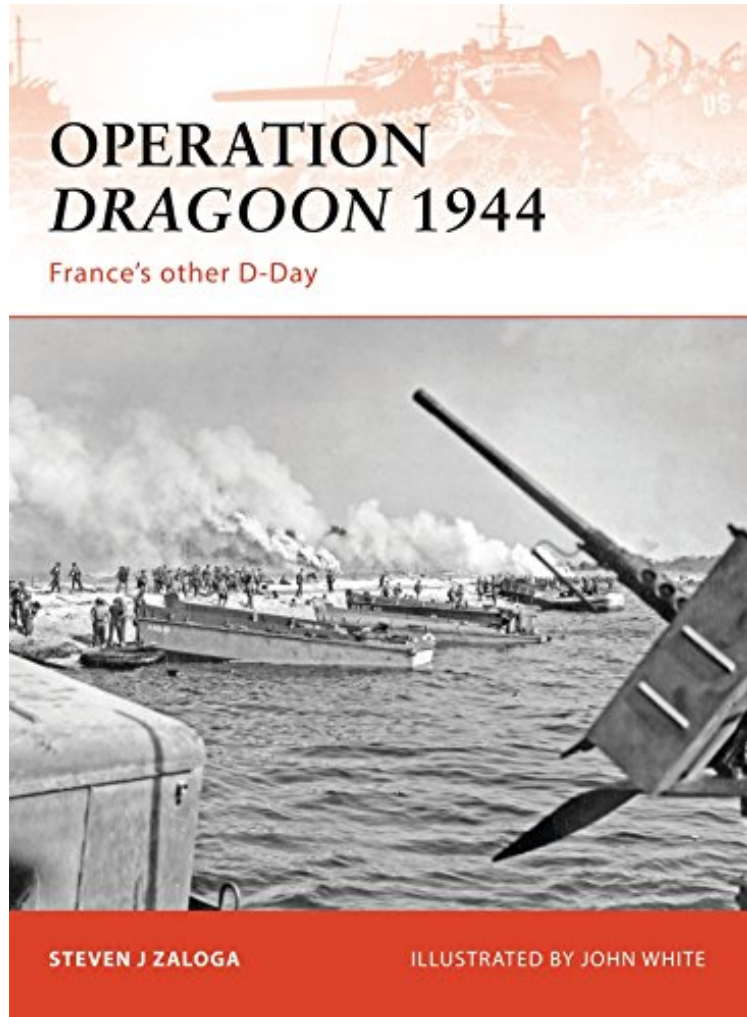


(Download ebook) Operation Dragoon 1944: France's other D-Day (Campaign)

Operation Dragoon 1944: France's other D-Day (Campaign)

Steven Zaloga

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Steven Zaloga : Operation Dragoon 1944: France's other D-Day (Campaign) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Operation Dragoon 1944: France's other D-Day (Campaign):

17 of 17 people found the following review helpful. One of the Best Covered Campaigns in the Osprey Series By Dave Schranck Mr Zaloga has taken this assignment seriously and has done his homework and developed a 5 star book on a campaign that has been overshadowed by Normandy since the war ended. In the introduction, the author explains the German history of southern France and the Vichy government since 1940. The Allies receive a little more coverage with the describing of the friction and controversy over Dragoon at the expense of the Italian campaign. He also describes the advantages the Allies will have over the Germans with the southern landings. The Chronology comes

next and it covers pertinent events that will impact Operation Dragoon as far back as Nov 1942. One minor complaint: This listing would have been better if the author had described the hourly events of Aug 15th instead of just saying the operation begins. The Opposing Commanders is also covered well for both sides. Descriptions of General Blaskowitz of AG G, Wiese and Bieringer are given. On the Allied side, General Patch, Truscott, O'Daniel and Dalhquist. The French generals Juin, Tassigny and LeClerc are also included. Photos of each person are also supplied. The Opposing Forces chapter is one of the most detailed I've seen in an Osprey book, taking up 16 pages. The author covers Orders of Battle for German, American and French as well as giving pertinent information on the individual armies and battlefield, including the number of fortifications and the number and type of obstacles planted at the landing site. The training to and assistance given by the French Resistance is also expressed. In the Opposing Plans, the author describes the four potential landing sites the Germans thought possible and had to plan the best they could with the resources available to cover them. The sites were Southern Brittany, the lower Bay of Biscay, near Marseilles in the Riviera and the Bay of Genoa in Italy. Genoa was their first choice with the Riviera their second choice. The author describes steps taken to defend those areas. The Allied section was surprisingly brief but adequate. The author mentions the experiences learned from the previous landings including Normandy to prepare a sophisticated assault by the Allies. For the Campaign chapter, the author spends 56 pages explaining in good detail the process of the landing and followup. It includes the inland bombing of rail and roads to hamper reinforcements from reaching the coast. It includes the airborne landings and assault to further hamper German movements. The commando raids to capture the islands off the Provence coast as well as at Negre were mentioned, describing the troubles the commandos had to overcome. The author describes in good detail the prior naval shelling and meticulous steps taken for the main landings. He gives special attention to the area at Camel Beach where the Allies met stiff resistance and troubles. The German resistance the airborne forces met up with are also described. The capture of the important ports of Marseille and Toulon and the good job the French forces did are also highlighted. The chapter ends with the Allies moving up the Rhone Valley to meet up with the Overlord forces near the German border. In the Aftermath section, the author was impressed with the operation and describes the importance of its success. I was hoping the author would speculate on a pet theory of mine but it wasn't meant to be. I submit that if General Marshall had insisted on the landing boats required plus downplaying the assault on Rome so that Operation Dragoon could have jumped off on June 6th that the history of Normandy would have been much different, much better than it was. The Italian Campaign as well as the first 6 weeks of Normandy were costly and if VI's Corps could have landed with Overlord, lives could have been saved with a quicker breakout of Normandy. The author includes five 2-D maps and three 3-D maps and all of them are very good and helpful in understanding the evolving story. There are also three 2 page wide illustrations that are good. There are many good photos, some are in color. If this book has peaked your interest in this campaign, Mr Zaloga has listed two pages of alternatives to read. This is an excellent book on the "Other French Landing" and is highly recommended. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Like all this series By History Nut Like all this series, it is well done and an easy to read presentation. This is the "forgotten" invasion of France very overshadowed by Normandie. It is also the story of how logistics dictates action. Because the invading forces expected heavy resistance and a long fight near the beaches, they loaded more ammo than fuel. When resistance was light and pursuit of the enemy called for, there wasn't enough fuel to move the armies. Another 'what if' of the European campaign that might have shortened the war in Europe. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Two Stars By J. White Not very well written. Hard to follow....

Osprey's study of Operation Dragoon, the Allied landings in southern France on August 15, 1944, which was one of the most controversial operations of World War II (1939-1945), leading to deep divides between United States and British planners. The US objective was to threaten the rear of the German armies occupying France by a landing on the eastern French coast and to push rapidly northward towards Lorraine to meet up with Allied forces bursting out of Normandy. Dragoon was a complex operation very similar to the Normandy landings, complete with a US and British airborne assault followed by a naval assault landing. The landings led to a precipitous German retreat from France, authorized by Hitler himself. In September 1944, the US Seventh Army and French First Army reached Lorraine, sealing off any remaining German troops and completing the liberation of the majority of French territory. Popular Osprey author Steve Zaloga tells the story of this operation, from the derisive debates between the Allied commanders to the men who hit the beaches and charged ashore to help liberate occupied France.

"Steven J. Zaloga tells the story of this operation, which was the largest amphibious operation in Europe outside of Normandy, including the personalities involved and the planning in addition to the events themselves. The book is further enhanced by a superb selection of photographs and the outstanding artwork and maps of illustrator John White. Like all Osprey titles, it is highly recommended and one that you will find as fascinating a read as did I." - Scott Van Aken, www.modelingmadness.com (August 2009) About the Author Steven J. Zaloga received his BA in history from Union College and his MA from Columbia University. He has worked as an analyst in the aerospace industry for over two decades, covering missile systems and the international arms trade, and has served with the

Institute for Defense Analyses, a federal think-tank. He is the author of numerous books on military technology and military history, with an accent on the US Army in World War II as well as Russia and the former Soviet Union.