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Johan Ewald, Robert A. Selig, David Curtis Skaggs
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TREATISE ON PARTISAN WARFARE

JOHANN EWALD

Translation, Introduction, and Annotation by
ROBERT A. SELIG and DAVID CURTIS SKAGGS

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Johan Ewald, Robert A. Selig, David Curtis Skaggs : Treatise on Partisan Warfare (Contributions to the Study of Religion,) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Treatise on Partisan Warfare (Contributions to the Study of Religion.):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. For students of counterinsurgency, light infantry tactics, and the American Revolution By E. M. Van Court Every student of American history (at least those who stayed awake) knows the story of George Washington attacking the Hessians on Christmas Eve. The author of this work was an officer of those Hessians. Ewald articulates the needs of a conventional force using unconventional tactics to oppose an insurgency. Just like the Marine Corps' 1940 Small Wars Manual, many books about the US-Vietnam war, a plethora of current articles about Iraq and Afghanistan, and a host of other works. For the contemporary counterinsurgent, Ewald provides a sense of continuity, a sense that you are not alone, and others have shared the challenges you face. To be fair, there is little said that hasn't been said elsewhere, but that someone described an experience you share in in 1785, 230 years ago, is proof that you are not alone, that others have shared in the trials through the ages. On the other hand, sometimes historical perspective can offer insights that did not emerge from more recent works, like the 1940 Small Wars Manual. For a student of light infantry tactics, Ewald provides two things. First, he provides examples of early dispersed tactics using precision small arms, tactics that required initiative, discipline, and dynamic leadership while breaking with Napoleonic tactics in every way. Second, he commiserates with the junior officer who sees a need for change while facing senior leaders who cannot see beyond their comfort zone in obsolescent concepts. The struggle is real, and goes back centuries, brother. Don't surrender, and don't back down. For students of the American Revolution, Ewald provides a perspective seldom voiced, that of neither the Colonials nor the British, but a British 'military contractor'. We hear the voices of American patriots, and occasionally our French allies (since the war conveniently served their interests), and once in a while we hear the thoughts of Brits who were defeated by a pack of Colonials, but the German mercenaries are seldom, if ever heard from. The bitterness at defeat by a bunch of untrained and poorly equipped peasants stung, and stung hard. This is a voice who deserve to be heard. For a wide range of historians and theorists, this is a valuable work. I can't recommend it highly enough. Edward M. Van Court

This translation of Johann Ewald's classic essay, *Abhandlung Uber den kleinen Krieg*, published in 1785, describes light infantry tactics in an era of heavy infantry formations. Robert Selig and David Skaggs comment on Ewald's treatise on partisan warfare and its relevance to current military doctrine. They also provide extensive scholarly notations with the text, explaining people, places, and events during the Seven Years' War and the American Revolution, where Ewald had extensive experience as a company commander in the Hessian Field Jaeger Corps. This first English translation should be of real interest to historians of American Revolution and pre-Napoleonic warfare and of special use to military professionals today in the Army and Marine Corps. Captain Ewald, eventually a Major General in the Danish Army, describes the recruiting and training of light infantry troops, and discusses their use both in the Seven Years' War and the American Revolution at length. He provides illuminating insights into light infantry tactics and doctrine.

"It is a well-written and enlightening work, and the editors have produced a translation that is highly readable and impressive for its scholarship. ...a welcome addition to the body of literature concerning light infantry and its employment. ...The editors have done a masterful job of bringing to life the historical figure and the ideas of Johann Ewald." -Special Warfare? It is a well-written and enlightening work, and the editors have produced a translation that is highly readable and impressive for its scholarship. ...a welcome addition to the body of literature concerning light infantry and its employment. ...The editors have done a masterful job of bringing to life the historical figure and the ideas of Johann Ewald.?-Special Warfare About the Author ROBERT A. SELIG is Visiting Assistant Professor of History at Hope College. He has published a number of scholarly articles dealing with eighteenth-century German-American history. German is his first language. DAVID CURTIS SKAGGS is Professor of Military History and Strategy at the Air War College. He has written a number of publications on the history of the American Revolutionary era and on military history. He also served as Command Historian, U.S. European Command, Stuttgart, Germany. His books include *Roots of Maryland Democracy, 1753-1776* (Greenwood, 1973), and he is co-editor of *In Defense of the Republic: Readings in American Military History*.