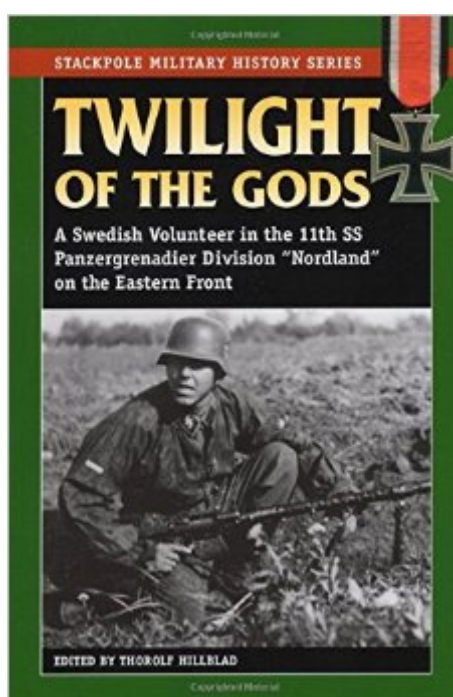


The book was found

Twilight Of The Gods: A Swedish Volunteer In The 11th SS Panzergrenadier Division "Nordland" On The Eastern Front (Stackpole Military History Series)



Synopsis

Rare account of a non-German who fought in the elite Waffen-SS New information on the 11th SS Panzergrenadier Division No-holds-barred narrative of the Eastern Front This is the story of Erik Wallin, a Swede who volunteered for the Waffen-SS, serving in the panzer reconnaissance battalion of the 11th SS Panzergrenadier Division, a unit composed mainly of volunteers from Scandinavia. The division saw combat in the Courland Pocket, along the Oder River, and in Berlin.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Twilight of Gods is a memoir any serious WWII buff should have in his library. Erik Wallin is a Swede volunteered to join the SS. He started fighting the Soviets in Finland, and then soon after joined the SS. However, the book covers only the last three months of the war. It starts out in the Courland pocket but soon his unit is transferred to Germany. He is involved in trying to prevent the Soviets from crossing the Oder, and then of course eventually trying to prevent the Soviets from taking Berlin. The following items were covered in this book that I found very interesting and not covered in any of the many German Army memoirs I have read: Wallin was in a mortar platoon with halftracks. They always had ammo for their machine guns, mortars, machine-pistols, and for those people that have read a bit about the German side of the war, often you come across the troops having shortage of ammo. Was it because they were SS that they were better supplied? Also, they did not have a fuel shortage problem, which is again interesting for the same reason as the

abundance of ammo. Remember this is the last 3 months of the war. He covered some of the operational side of a mortar platoon. Sometimes he had to be the forward observer - which was definitely a very dangerous job to have. Other times he was one of the mortar crew, or other times he was in a foxhole with a machine gun. He wrote briefly about his motivation to fighting the "Bolsheviks", which is to be appreciated because so many German memoirs, the author does not even give the reader a crumb on what are his personal views. The author also covered how it was possible for the soldiers to keep fighting with GOOD morale, despite not having slept, eaten or drunk water for days.

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