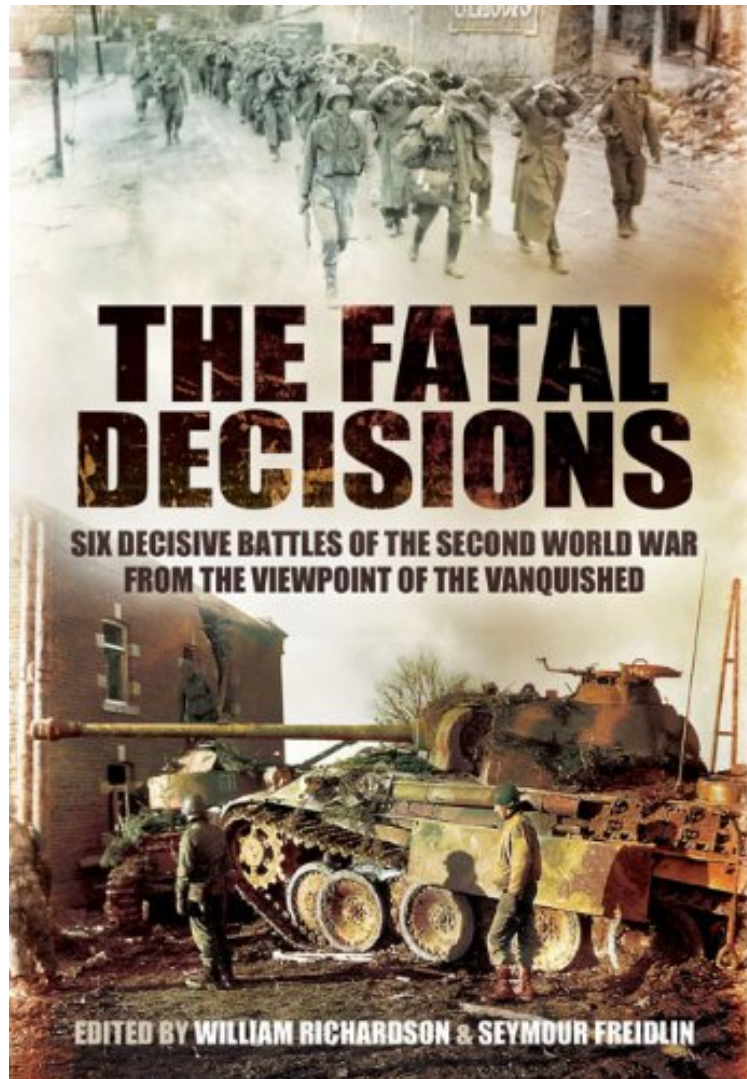


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The Fatal Decisions: Six Decisive Battles of the Second World War from the Viewpoint of the Vanquished

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version of this book some 30 years ago. I was very fond of it. Unfortunately somehow it got lost. Then I decided that I should put a search on and found out that it was out of print and only old copies were available, however I grabbed one. I am not a military man let alone an expert. Nevertheless it gave me the same thrill as I felt when I had read the book. There still is a great interest in WW2, in movies, in books, talks etc.. However, when you read a book with accounts of people who have been in responsible positions at the time, that is a different thing. The accounts, related to the maps provided are exciting to say the least. What if Hitler did not decide to go on with the Russian campaign and tried to invade England using the full force available to him? What at Dunkirk German army group had not hesitated? Could not commanders assume direct responsibility without waiting orders from the Fuhrer? Finally, the brilliant preparation for the Ardenne's offensive and the initial success? Questions like this are many... Answers can be few. But when I read the book, I started asking more to myself with nobody to answer. I enjoyed it throughly and wish it were possible to get it printed anew. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Happy Customer By James P. Duffy Very happy with purchase. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. good update on an old book, a must have By ANNETTE I really liked the new narrative with the generals who were there and took part in those losing campaigns, and why they lost!

Six key Second World War conflicts where decisions of the Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler contributed to his eventual downfall. Each theater of operations written up by a German general who was on the spot and involved in carrying out the uncompromising orders of the Fuhrer. This is an 'other side of the hill' collection of accounts which gives valuable insight into the machinations of a sycophantic hierarchy immediately surrounding Hitler. Instead, had the dictator paid heed to his highly competent commanders rather than his toadies the outcome would have been very different for every one of us. Happily for the world, he thought he knew best, selecting counselors closest to his uncompromising heart. 1. Battle of Britain is told by Werner Kreipe, Chief Operations Officer, Third Air Fleet, December 1939 - June 1940. 2. Battle for Moscow Gnther Blumentritt, Chief of Staff in 1940. Later Chief of Staff of Army Group D. In 1944 he command of 12th SS Korps and in 1945 Commander of First Parachute Army. 3. Battle of Alamein Fritz Bayerlein, 1941 Chief of Staff Afrika Korps. Commander of 3rd Panzer Division and finally Panzer Lehr in 1944. 4. Battle of Stalingrad Kurt Zeitzler, Chief of Staff XXII Korps, 1940 to 1941; Chief of Staff Army Group D, April 1942; Chief of the Army General Staff, 1942 to July 1944. 5. Normandy Bodo Zimmerman General Staff in 1939 and Chief Operations Officer to Commander-in-Chief West from 1940 to 1942; also to Army Group D from 1942 to 1945. 6. Battle of the Ardennes (Bulge) Hasso-Eccard von Manteuffel Commander of the Fifth Panzer Army. Siegfried Westphal with his narrative connects the six accounts. During the war Westphal served as Operations Officer under General Erwin Rommel in North Africa, Chief of Staff under General Albrecht Kesselring in Italy and Chief of Staff to General Gerd von Rundstedt in 1944-45, therefore admirably qualified to draw the accounts of his once fellow serving officers together to give a vivid picture of military life under, arguably, the most vicious dictator the world has ever known.