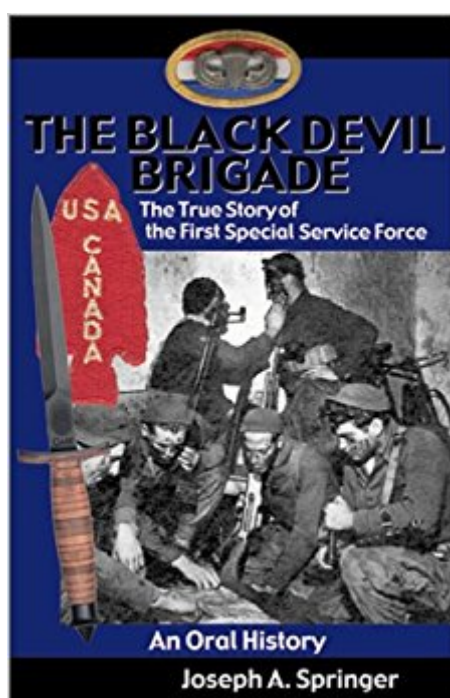


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The Black Devil Brigade: The True Story Of The First Special Service Force In World War II, An Oral History



Synopsis

This is a story told by heroes who, in context of their mission and performance in combat in World War II, lived and fought in an environment where conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in the face of enemy fire were the day-to-day norm. For many, the name First Special Service Force resonates like the clash of swords. To the Canadian and American soldiers who served under the Force's two flags, the name denotes a combat elite that they themselves created. To the enemy soldiers who knew well the Force's lethal audacity, the name evoked admiration, awe, and fear. Here for the first time the soldiers of the legendary First Special Service Force set the record straight, in their own words. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A terrific story of adventure, daring, and rough combat. It's essential reading for the history of special forces." --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I was very impressed with this book. It was put together extremely well and it flowed as you read it. The interviews were heartfelt and loaded with so much information about the life of the men and missions involved in the First Special Service Force.

This is a first rate account of this legendary group of men as told by the men themselves. You will find it hard to put this onedown. I have read it cover to cover (3) times since my purchase. There are no other groups with the possible exception of theBritish SAS in Africa who can rival the "Night

Fighting" skills and daring of this group. I highly recommend this book to anyone who is interested in the origins of our Special Operations Forces of today.

I obtained the book, because I have been doing informal research as related to the Black Devil Brigade. There are several books about this special forces brigade, but this book is rather unique, because it was written based upon the actual oral history which was taken from interviews with the soldiers of the brigade. I recommend this book for readers interested in World War II history, and more specifically for those who are interested in learning more about the famous Black Devil Brigade.

This book is possibly the finest oral history ever written. Springer has captured the true nature of brutal World War II combat as seen through the eyes of those who served in the multinational US and Canadian commando unit, the First Special Service Force, a little known commando unit which may have been the finest trained combat unit of WWII. The book's layout encompassed the lifespan of the unit but Springer focuses mostly on the day to day trials and tribulations of the mental and physical aspects of the men. It is obvious a unit history is not what Springer wanted but a personal narrative of men in combat. By writing in this unique style Springer was the catalyst for the vets who had a truly remarkable and extraordinary story to tell. And do these men have a story to tell. Consisting of Canadian and US army volunteers the men were hand selected for their various specialties, (which consisted of volunteers who were single, and with backgrounds in demolitions, skiing, hunting, gamewardens, backwoodsmen, mountaineering, and firearm specialist.) I have never read, heard, or witnessed anything like the men of this unusual unit. The US and Canadians alike hold NOTHING back in their personal narratives. And I mean quite literally. Springer connects the riveting material in a flowing narrative so what you read is the story of events as how the men themselves witnessed them. This narrative is just about as close as you can get without the men sitting in your living rooms telling you of their experiences. I found myself laughing on one page and shedding tears on the next. And the recall of the veterans is amazing. Anyone interested in small unit actions, or personal narratives of commando or infantry combat in World War II WILL LOVE THIS BOOK. I cannot say enough to explain the emotion and contribution this book represents to the US and Canadian fighting man of World War II.

First Special Service Force men share their personal experiences. These men were trained at Fort Harrison in Montana, and are the original green berets. All of the special forces are based on these

originals, the FSSF . These accounts are real and raw, tough men sharing, nothing held back.

This is an action packed story of the First Special Service Force, a unique blend of American and Canadian commandos who trained hard and fought even harder. What makes this book so unique is that every word is true. These men lived, fought and died together, forgetting that they were from two separate countries. To them, the FSSF was their home. A must read for any true patriot and those with a special interest in military history.

My wifes father served in The Force. It is amazing how similar these men spoke. It was as if he was sitting with us, talking of this time in his life. I remember him telling the donkey story and of them burying it, so the Germans would not find it. I read it straight thru. I could not put it down. Excellent book !

I had the privilege of seeing one, and only one, member of the Force while I was a teenager during World War II. He was home on leave prior to going overseas. His family lived two houses down the street from mine. I remember that he was the first person wearing jump boots with bloused trousers that I had seen. Later, word arrived of his death. Now I know where he died. The meat of this book is in the words of the men who were there. Their words are timeless and can be felt as keenly now as when the men were living their experiences. The author supplies the overview and background to keep the reader aware of what the men are describing. This a book that needs to be read by all.

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