

NORTH-WEST EUROPE CAMPAIGN LATE 1944/EARLY 1945

There are, interestingly, no single published histories of Operation VERITABLE and relatively few studies specific to Operations PLUNDER and VARSITY. In December 1947 the British Army of the Rhine conducted detailed battlefield tours of all three operations and each was accompanied by two supporting documents for directing staff and for spectators. Hard copies are available in certain libraries but digital copies can be found online and an excellent source is www.battlefieldhistorian.com

A number of useful books and links are shown below. Many out-of-print books can be found through www.abebooks.co.uk and those marked * are available through the Naval and Military Press as reprints or modern editions. There are numerous unit histories and personal accounts, most of them listed in Patrick Delaforce's books. Unit and regimental histories have not been included here but some recommended personal accounts are also shown below.

CAMPAIGN/GENERAL HISTORIES

Ellis, Major LF, *History of the Second World War United Kingdom Military Series, Victory in the West, Volume II – The Defeat of Germany*, London, HMSO, 1968. British Official History, together with Volume I, for the NW Europe Campaign.*

Montgomery of Alamein, Field Marshal the Viscount, *Normandy to the Baltic – The Personal Account of the Conquest of Germany*, London, Hutchinson, 1946.

Buckley, John, *Monty's Men – The British Army and the Liberation of Europe*, London and New Haven, Yale University Press, 2013. Excellent modern study of the British Army throughout the NW Europe Campaign

Kite, Ben, *Stout Hearts – The British and Canadians in Normandy 1944*, Solihull, Helion & Company, 2014. While specific to Normandy, useful collection of chapters on British Army organisation, tactics, techniques and equipment.

Fennell, Jonathan, *Fighting the People's War – The British and Commonwealth Armies and the Second World War*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2019. While covering the whole war, an invaluable and fresh insight on the British and Commonwealth military experience.

Allport, Alan, *Browned Off and Bloody-Minded – The British Soldier Goes to War 1939-1945*, London, Yale University Press, 2015. Illuminating social history of the British soldier in WW2.

VERITABLE/PLUNDER/VARSITY

Clark, Lloyd, *Crossing the Rhine – Breaking into Nazi Germany 1944 and 1945*, New York, Atlantic, 2008.

Delaforce, Patrick, *Onslaught on Hitler's Rhine – Operations Plunder and Varsity March 1945*, Fonthill, 2015.

Saunders, Tim, *Operation Plunder – The British and Canadian Operations*, Barnsley, Pen & Sword, 2006. Battleground Series.

Saunders, Tim, *Operation Varsity – The British and Canadian Airborne Assault*, Barnsley, Pen & Sword, 2008. Battleground Series.

Zuehlke, Mark, *Forgotten Victory – First Canadian Army and the Cruel Winter of 1944-45*, Madeira Park, Douglas & McIntyre, 2014.

DIVISIONAL HISTORIES

Rosse, The Earl of and Hill, Colonel E R, *The Story of the Guards Armoured Division*, Lonon, Geoffrey Bles Ltd, 1956. Reprinted by Pen & Sword 2017.

Delaforce, Patrick, *Monty's Ironsides – From the Normandy Beaches to Bremen with the 3rd Division*, Stroud, Alan Sutton, 1995.

Delaforce, Patrick, *Churchill's Desert Rats – From Normandy to the Baltic with the 7th Armoured Division*, Stroud, Alan Sutton, 1994.

Lindsay, Captain Martin and Johnston, Captain M E, *History of 7th Armoured Division*, Germany, 1945.

Delaforce, Patrick, *The Black Bull – From Normandy to the Baltic with the 11th Armoured Division*, Stroud, Alan Sutton, 1993.

Martin, Lieutenant General H G, *The 15th Scottish Division 1939-1945*, London, 1948.*

Delaforce, Patrick, *The Fighting Wessex Wyverns – From Normandy to the Baltic with the 43rd Wessex Division*, Stroud, Alan Sutton, 1994.

Essame, Major General H, *The 43rd Wessex Division at War 1944-1945*, London, William Clowes and Sons, 1952.

Delaforce, Patrick, *Monty's Northern Legions – 50th Northumbrian and 15th Scottish Divisions at War 1939-1945*, Stroud, Alan Sutton, 2004.

Delaforce, Patrick, *Monty's Highlanders – 51st Highland Division in World War Two*, Brighton, Tom Donovan Publishing, 1997.

Delaforce, Patrick, *Red Crown and Dragon – 53rd Welsh Division in North-West Europe 1944-1945*, Brighton, Tom Donovan Publishing, 1996.

Barclay, Brigadier C N, *The History of the 53rd (Welsh) Division in the Second World War*, London, William Clowes and Sons, 1956.

PERSONAL MEMOIRS

Borthwick, Alastair, *Battalion – A British Infantry Unit's Actions from El Alamein to the Elbe, 1942-1945*, London, Baton Wicks, 1994. 5th Seaforth Highlanders, first published as *Sans Peur* in 1946.

Boscawen, Robert, *Armoured Guardsmen – A War Diary June 1944-April 1945*, Barnsley, Pen & Sword, 2001. 1st (Armoured) Battalion Coldstream Guards.

Jary, Sidney, *18 Platoon*, Bristol, Sydney Jary Ltd, 1987. Platoon commander, 4th Battalion Somerset Light Infantry.

Proctor, Corporal Douglas, *Section Commander*, Department of War Studies, RMAS. Supporting account by one of Sydney Jary's section commanders.

Render, David, *Tank Action – An Armoured Troop Commander's War 1944-45*, London, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2016. Troop commander, Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry.

White, Peter, *With the Jocks – A Soldier's Struggle for Europe 1944-45*, Stroud, Sutton Publishing, 2001. Platoon commander, 4th Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers.

Whitehouse, Stanley and Bennett, George, *Fear is the Foe – A Footslogger from Normandy to the Rhine*, London, Robert Hale, 1995. Private soldier 1st Buckinghamshire Battalion and 1st Battalion Black Watch.

WEBSITES

www.51hd.co.uk

www.pegasusarchive.org