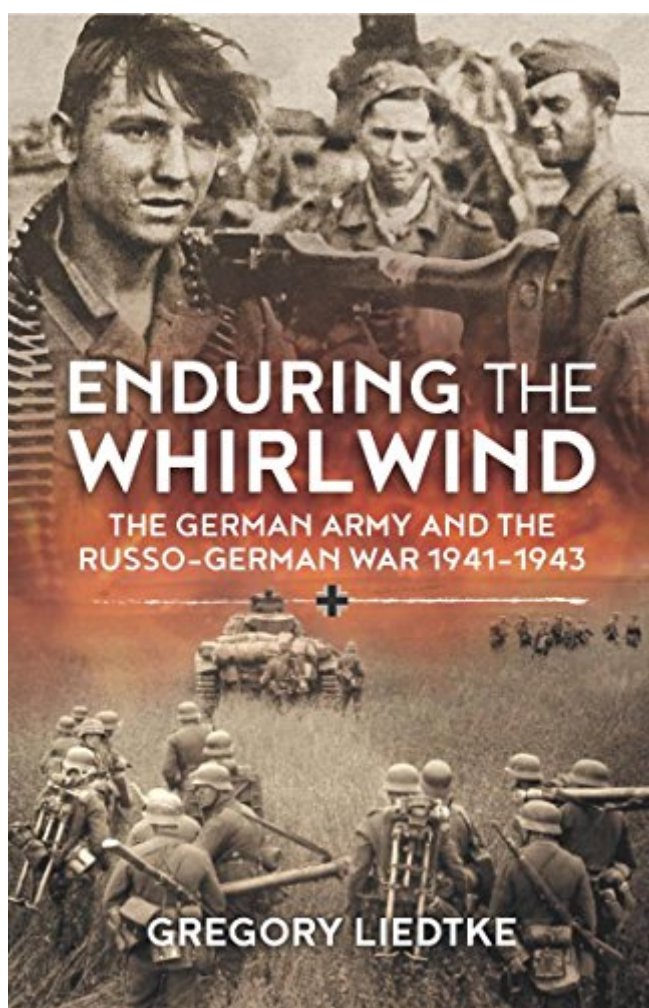


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Enduring The Whirlwind: The German Army And The Russo-German War 1941-1943 (Wolverhampton Military Studies)



Synopsis

Despite the best efforts of a number of historians, many aspects of the ferocious struggle between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union during the Second World War remain obscure or shrouded in myth. One of the most persistent of these is the notion - largely created by many former members of its own officer corps in the immediate postwar period - that the German Army was a paragon of military professionalism and operational proficiency whose defeat on the Eastern Front was solely attributable to the amateurish meddling of a crazed former Corporal and the overwhelming numerical superiority of the Red Army. A key pillar upon which the argument of German numerical-weakness vis-à-vis the Red Army has been constructed is the assertion that Germany was simply incapable of providing its army with the necessary quantities of men and equipment needed to replace its losses. In consequence, as their losses outstripped the availability of replacements, German field formations became progressively weaker until they were incapable of securing their objectives or, eventually, of holding back the swelling might of the Red Army. This work seeks to address the notion of German numerical-weakness in terms of Germany's ability to replace its losses and regenerate its military strength, and assess just how accurate this argument was during the crucial first half of the Russo-German War (June 1941-June 1943). Employing a host of primary documents and secondary literature, it traces the development and many challenges of the German Army from the prewar period until the invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941. It continues on to chart the first two years of the struggle between Germany and the Soviet Union, with a particular emphasis upon the scale of German personnel and equipment losses, and how well these were replaced. It also includes extensive examinations into the host of mitigating factors that both dictated the course of Germany's campaign in the East and its replacement and regeneration capabilities. In contrast to most accounts of the conflict, this study finds that numerical-weakness being the primary factor in the defeat of the Ostheer - specifically as it relates to the strength and condition of the German units involved - has been overemphasized and frequently exaggerated. In fact, Germany was actually able to regenerate its forces to a remarkable degree with a steady flow of fresh men and equipment, and German field divisions on the Eastern Front were usually far stronger than the accepted narratives of the war would have one believe.

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Customer Reviews

This is one of those rare moments when the book description fully informs the reader of what they can expect. This is an excellent work that, refreshingly, presents a question and then answers it in a thorough and intelligible manner. The question being "Did the German war effort in the East fail due to the numerical inferiority of German forces and an inability to replace losses?"Gregory Liedtke's answer is an emphatic no. He very carefully makes the case that an examination of the existing data shows that Germany was able to fully replace it's manpower and material losses both after the failure of Barbarossa and once again after the failure of Case Blue. The data is well presented and the documentation of sources is first rate.Warnings to a potential buyer. This is not a general history of the conflict on the Eastern Front and it focuses intensely on the question at hand. It would be helpful to have a general understanding of the major events and operations on the Eastern Front prior to starting this book. Also the book simply answers the question mentioned above. It does not provide any lengthy alternative explanation for the failure of the German war in the East. I am actually quite satisfied with that result given what the intent of the author in writing this book.

I have read a lot on the Eastern Front over the years, but this book was great not only for how well the author laid out his argument, but also for how he weaved it into a general telling of the War in the East. His opening chapter on the historiography of the East Front was also terrific.His basic argument addressed the key issue of the replacement of men and material on the Eastern Front

from June 1941 to July 1943. He supports his argument with a ton of charts and tables. His sources are thorough and I have added about 8 new books to my wishlist on as a result. I would highly recommend this book to anyone who has a major interest in the East Front. You won't be disappointed.

Easy to read and follow book has many charts with some pictures. This book is different because it covers the war from a production and logistic perspective with meeting the demand of the German army on the eastern front. Portion of the book that I found interesting was the replacement of losses and some solutions that could have been implemented to help.

a waste of time

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