



Commandos and Rangers of World War II

James Ladd

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'A steel hand from the sea' was Sir Winston Churchill's famous description of the Commandos.

They plucked the enemy from his seaboard defences in the early days of World War II, and later became — with their close allies, the American Rangers — the spearhead force in amphibious assaults.

Commandos and Rangers, names synonymous with daring and danger, developed special tactics and techniques to drive forward the Allied invasions.

During World War Two, these crack units were led by some of the most professional and experienced soldiers. The courage of these men, and their devotion to victory, is realistically portrayed, and details of methods and special equipment used, give an in-depth understanding of how their dramatic campaigns were fought — and won!

James Ladd, the renowned historian, introduces the concept of the Commando before documenting their role in all geographies of the conflict. They raid in the Pacific, in Burma and the Philippines, in the Balkan region of Europe and, famously, on Normandy Beach on D-Day in 1994.

The book also contains seven useful appendices with detailed notes on the Commandos' training programme, unit histories and the weapons and communication systems they used.

James Ladd was a Royal Marine before he became a journalist and naval historian.

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