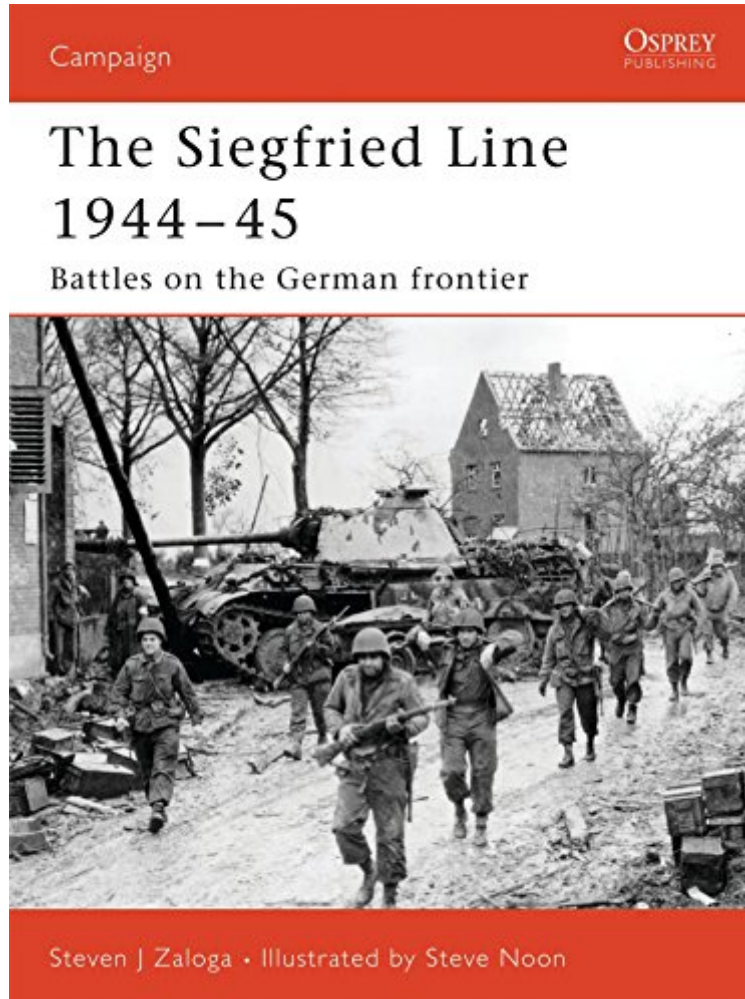


(Get free) Siegfried Line 1944–45: Battles on the German frontier (Campaign)

## Siegfried Line 1944–45: Battles on the German frontier (Campaign)

*Steven J. Zaloga*

*audiobook / \*ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#1157489 in Books Osprey Publishing 2007-03-27 2007-03-27 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.88 x .23 x 7.221, #File Name: 184603121496 pages9781846031212 | File size: 57.Mb

**Steven J. Zaloga : Siegfried Line 1944–45: Battles on the German frontier (Campaign)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Siegfried Line 1944–45: Battles on the German frontier (Campaign):

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Great Quick Notes for the U.S. Army CampaignBy George T. MacknightAs the U.S. Army defines the Siegfried Line, Zaloga and Osprey have done an excellent job of boiling down the essence into less than 100 pages. I consider it a good addition to the Osprey Library and to my own. Certainly the 600+ page official Army history of this campaign, "United States Army in World War II: The European Theater of Operations - The Siegfried Line Campaign" by Charles B. MacDonald, is a more in-depth and definitive study (available used and new from the U.S. Government Printing Office). However, that said, Zaloga has produced an excellent Cliff Notes version of the official history. In typical Osprey Fashion, the book has excellent illustrations,

maps, and photographs. There is even a photo of Kesternich that others and I have tried to pry from the hands of NARA and have failed ...so, once again, many kudos on the photos! I take exception to the comment that the book is all about Aachen. It is not. It covers the "official" designation of the campaign quite well. Perhaps others will be disappointed that it does not spend more time on the German Westwall fortifications. (See Osprey's "Germany's West Wall - The Siegfried Line" for details on the construction of the fortifications themselves.) Or, perhaps it is felt by some that all the combat along the Siegfried Line, which stretched from Nijmegen in the Netherlands to Basel in Switzerland, was not portrayed. However, Zaloga has stayed within the bounds of the "official" U.S. Army History and has written a very creditable account. Perhaps Osprey's "The Rhineland" by Ken Ford would satisfy those with a desire for a greater scope of the fighting along the German Western Frontier. Or, Osprey's "Arnhem 1944" by Badsey in the north or "Lorraine 1944" by Zaloga in the south would fulfill those wishing a broader scope. Maybe I'm sounding like an Osprey salesman, I'm not, but I do have to admit that what they have done with military history is one of the great publishing feats of our time. My one wish is that this book would have one of those Great Osprey illustrated aerial perspective maps of the Hurtgen like the one in "The Rhineland." 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Summary of a Costly, Hard Fought Campaign By Dave Schranck The book begins with a one page introduction that will suffice for most people. Additional information is given in the "Strategic Situation" that could be considered an introduction as well. The following Chronology is good with coverage starting Sept 11th when the recon patrol of 5th AD crossed into Germany and ends on Dec 16th when the Ardennes Offensive begins. In the Strategic section, the author describes the setbacks starting in late July that helped cause the poor condition the German 7th, 15th and 19th Armies were currently in. The setbacks include the Roncey pocket, Falaise pocket, the Seine crossing and the Mons pocket. The Allies thought the Germans were finished and Eisenhower permitted Montgomery to launch Market-Garden. The operation failed miserably, costing thousands of lives but it also impacted supplies to US 1st Army at a time when it was trying to breach the West Wall. Opposing Commanders was very good; the coverage of General Schwerin on the German side and General Corlett on the American side was particularly welcomed. In Opposing Armies, the author explains how the German 7th Army was rebuilt and includes a list of divisions now included in the 7th Army. On the US side, the US 1st Army made up of V, VII and XIX Corps. In Opposing Plans, the major Allied objective was to capture the Ruhr industrial area but first had to capture Aachen and its corridor to the Roer River. On the German side the only plan was to keep the enemy out of Germany but that became doubly important with the upcoming Ardennes Offensive. Aachen was fiercely defended and the author does a good job of covering the two step process in encircling and then capturing the historical city. The city was captured on Oct 21st and the Allies will then launch their next operation to reach the Roer River and its important dams. Operation Queen is a multi Corps advance through the Hurtgen Forest in order to capture several important towns and to build bridgeheads on the east bank of the river. Even with limited space, Mr Zaloga covers Operation Queen very well, showing the different divisions advancing on Hurtgen, Grosshau and Schmidt in the south, Duren in the center and Julich and Brachelen in the north. The fighting in the dense forest that the Germans had years to fortify was horrific. The Americans had 48000 casualties and by mid December still hadn't captured the Roer River. The author clearly shows the US command structure was aware of the high casualties but did little to change tactics and reduce casualties. Both Hodges and Collins were veterans of the Argonne Forest debacle of 1918; you would think avoidance of that happening again would be high on their list but it wasn't. Once again, Hodges employs a wide front assault throughout the huge forest and the thin line was not enough to quickly turn the enemy. It has been suggested that a narrow overwhelming force would have done much better. There are five 2-D maps and my initial impression was very good. Upon further study, most of the maps could be improved a little by showing troop movements in greater detail. I also consider a map is missing; it could have replaced the first map showing the entire front. The map would cover the West Wall east to the Roer River and from just south of Schmidt to Brachelen in the north. Showing the entire battle field on one map would ease the learning process of the many different engagements that occurred and prevent the reader from flipping from one map to another. The coordination of all eight maps could have been a little better. The three 3-D maps were OK. This criticism is really trivial, just wishful thinking for these 2-D maps are also used as a guideline when reading other books of the campaign. The three battle scenes were excellent. In "Retrospect", the author quotes the German, General Gersdorf, as saying the battle for the Hurtgen Forest was the primary reason why they lost the Ardennes Offensive. If this is true, it lessens to a small extent, the guilt and pain of losing so many men in Hurtgen. The author provides an excellent reading list. The books by MacDonald, Rush and Yeide are especially relevant. This summary is highly recommended. 8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Where's the Siegfried Line in here? By N. Trachten I picked up this book because I have a great interest in the battles that took place in the Hurtgenwald and along the Siegfried Line. This time though I was a little disappointed in the work. Why you ask. Well, Mr. Zaloga did a little deception on us. Rather than telling us about the battles for the Siegfried Line (I was hoping for the battles all along the front honestly), Mr. Zaloga focused on the battles for Aachen and the towns surrounding Aachen. The chapters follow the traditional Osprey Campaign format. What I should have looked at though was the section titled The Campaign. In there, Mr. Zaloga tells us what his focus was; The First Battle of Aachen, North of Aachen, Encircling Aachen, the Second Battle of Aachen, Prelude to Operation Queen (really this

was the 28th ID's battle for Schmidt, covered very nicely in Follow Me And Die), Operation Queen, Operation Clipper, and Operation Queen: the December Cleanup. In case you couldn't tell, focus was on the taking of Aachen rather than on the Siegfried Line. Ok, I've complained enough about how this book should have been labeled the Aachen Campaign. As always, Osprey has great photographs and drawings. I've questioned several of the labels on the pictures (I've seen them labeled differently in other books), specifically the tank destroyers on page 68, but who knows, I can't make out the markings and I wasn't there. For the different sections, Mr. Zagola's strongest were dealing with Operations Queen and Clipper. I was highly disappointed in his section on the 28th ID. He failed to mention Lt. Fleig, the conditions labored under, or how 5th Corp directed the attack to occur. I also found his description on the battles for Aachen to be weak. Sorry. Rating wise, this book is a 3 star book. My reasons for this includes; limited mentioning of how units breached the Siegfried Line (I wanted to read about the change in tactics), not identifying that the book focused on operations around Aachen, and minor inaccuracies.

The Siegfried Line campaign was one of the most frustrating and bloody series of battles fought by the US Army in Northwest Europe during World War II (1939-1945). In order to break through the German-Belgian border north of the Ardennes and eventually reach the Rhine, the First and Ninth divisions of the US Army dispersed themselves along the German Siegfried Line. The campaign kicked off in earnest in late September with the encirclement and eventual capture of Aachen, the first major German city to fall to the Allies. The paths to the Roer included not only the heavily urbanized area northeast of this city, but also the Hurtgen Forest along its southeastern flank. While a costly battle to seize the city continued throughout October, fighting also began in the forested area with initial attacks towards Schmidt. The German offensive to the south in the Ardennes derailed the Siegfried campaign for nearly two months and proved to be extremely costly. However, with Operation Grenade in February 1945, Ninth Army were finally propelled over the Roer River and were able to seize the vital Roer dams. Providing extensive coverage of the battle for Aachen and the fighting that ensued in the Hurtgen Forest, this title brings to life the Siegfried Line campaign which witnessed the US Army's most bitter fighting and set the stage for the final assault on the Rhine, leading the way into the heart of Germany.

“Steven J. Zaloga is well known by both historians and modelers alike for his well-researched books and articles. This is one of his better books; his writing style well-honed and quite readable. The book is further enhanced by quality period photos and the superb illustrations and maps of Steve Noon. His portrayals of action events really shows what it was like to be fighting in this portion of the conflict. It is another superb Osprey title of an important WWII campaign. Like all Osprey titles, it is one that you can buy with confidence that you are getting the best.” ?Scott Van Aken, modelingmadness.com “A specific, important title military collections will relish.” ?California Bookwatch (July 2007) “...is well written and quite thought-provoking for those interested in the potential of a fortified line.” ?Coastal Defense Journal About the Author Steven J. Zaloga was born in 1952, received his BA in history from Union College, and his MA from Columbia University. He has published numerous books and articles dealing with modern military technology, especially armoured vehicle development. His main area of interest is military affairs in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe in World War II, and he has also written extensively on American armoured forces. The author lives in Maryland, USA.