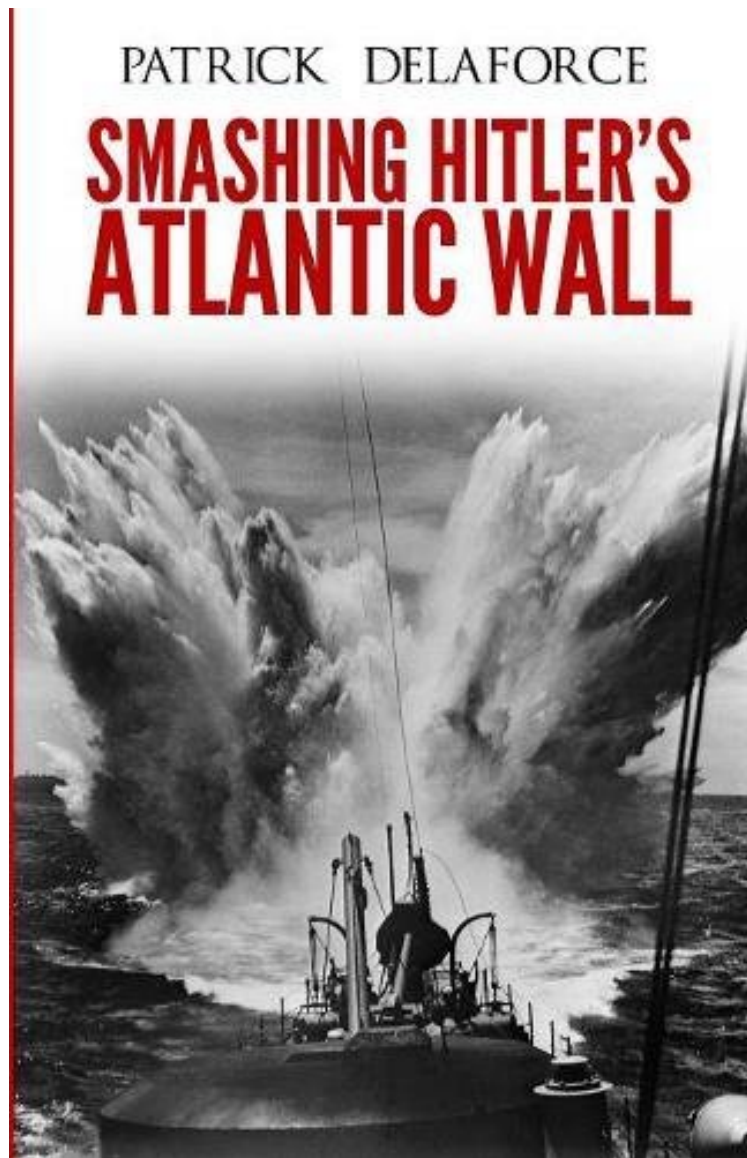


(Pdf free) Smashing Hitler's Atlantic Wall: The Destruction of the Nazi Coastal Fortresses

# Smashing Hitler's Atlantic Wall: The Destruction of the Nazi Coastal Fortresses

*Patrick Delaforce*

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**Patrick Delaforce : Smashing Hitler's Atlantic Wall: The Destruction of the Nazi Coastal Fortresses** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Smashing Hitler's Atlantic Wall: The Destruction of the Nazi Coastal Fortresses:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Many ports in a stormBy John PlowrightAlthough the 1942 Dieppe

Raid was a massive failure it did teach the Allies some valuable lessons, foremost of which was that attempting to capturing a Channel port on D-Day was best avoided, if at all possible. Necessity being the mother of invention, Churchill came up with the inspired idea of building a port rather than capturing one. Hence supplies and reinforcements for the Normandy operation were primarily delivered at two Mulberries: a Mulberry being an artificial harbour made up of 600-ton prefabricated concrete caissons, which were towed into place and sunk as breakwaters. More than 500,000 troops and 80,000 vehicles were landed at the two Mulberry harbours before a storm destroyed the Omaha Beach one and severely damaged the other at Gold Beach. This development, and the exponential increase in men and supplies as the Normandy bridgehead expanded, meant that it became increasingly urgent for ground troops to capture one or more working ports and this is the interesting story examined in Patrick Delaforce's 'Smashing Hitler's Atlantic Wall', a book first published in 2001, which has now been reprinted by Thistle Publishing. Bizarrely the front cover is illustrated by a picture of a depth charge exploding, which bears no obvious relation to the book's contents but then neither, really, does the title, as Hitler's Atlantic Wall had already been breached on D-Day. The book's subtitle – 'The Destruction of the Nazi Coastal Fortresses' – is a bit better, although the Allied ideal was actually to persuade garrisons to surrender so that port facilities could be captured intact and put into Allied service as quickly as possible. The next problem is the book's first sentence – "The five years of global warfare during World War Two can be likened to a three-dimensional deadly game of chess" – although I guess that most people approaching this book will be aware that the Second World War actually ran for six years. The author is on much firmer ground as the book proceeds and has the advantage of having been a participant of some of the events he chronicles, insofar as he was part of the armoured division that captured Antwerp. He therefore has a personal stake in highlighting this important series of operations which tend to be downplayed in relation to D-Day or the breakout from Normandy. Delaforce's bibliography has no place for more recent publications, such as Mark Zuehlke's 'Terrible Victory' or 'Attack on the Scheldt' by Graham A. Thomas but is not a completely reliable guide even to earlier publications ('Battle of the Scheldt' by W. Denis Whitaker and Shelagh Whitaker is represented as Denis Whitaker's 'Battle for the Scheldt'). Nevertheless, for all its not inconsiderable faults this book, if only through lack of competition, still represents the best single volume for the non-specialist on this particular aspect of World War Two. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A good military history text book By Mr. PM Coxall A detailed and factual account of a number of key attacks on the German Atlantic fortifications, following the D-Day invasion, The author clearly understands the very complex and daunting prospect of attacking German defences-in-depth in the German held fortified ports. along the Atlantic coast Sadly the book could have been improved by including more eye witness accounts from both the defenders and attackers. Some of the combat must have been truly horrific, but it was glossed over by using statistics and dry facts. I fully understand the immense difficulty of locating surviving veterans. even in 2001. I would have loved to have had one of the battles described in a more personal manner, detailing the individual events that had taken place. From a military history reference perspective, the books ticks all the boxes.

"A detailed and factual account of a number of key attacks on the German Atlantic fortifications, following the D-Day invasion. The author clearly understands the very complex and daunting prospect of attacking German defences-in-depth in the German held fortified ports along the Atlantic coast. From a military history reference perspective, the books ticks all the boxes." PETER COXALL – Reviewer When, in September 1940, Adolf Hitler cancelled Operation SEALION, the proposed invasion of Britain by secret edict, he ordered the construction by the Todt Organisation of 1,500 miles of Atlantic Wall defences along the French, Belgian and Dutch coastlines. Every seaport was turned into a fortress. Hitler designed the layout and military defences of each one and specified the quality and quantity of cement and steel required. He personally appointed the commandants who swore an oath of allegiance and promised to fight to the finish. Winston Churchill and his generals meanwhile were planning how to break into the Atlantic Wall fortresses. After the stunning success of D-Day and Operation OVERLORD, Allied forces had to seize key fortress-ports to get supplies landed. The Mulberry harbours on the Normandy beaches were vulnerable to the weather and could supply only a fraction of the Allies' requirements. The Americans fought their way up the Cotentin Peninsula to try to capture Cherbourg, St Malo, Brest, Lorient and St Nazaire. At the same time the Canadian and British forces were hammering their way up the left flank, capturing Le Havre, Dieppe, Boulogne, Calais and surrounding Dunkirk. Every fortress commander fought his defensive battle hard and destroyed the port facilities. The author was a member of the armoured division that captured Antwerp in a daring day and night onslaught. Hitler reacted by reinforcing the fortresses at Flushing and on Walcheren, which guarded the Scheldt River entrance to Antwerp. Allied success was vital to avoid stalemate on the Western Front. All the glamour and news headlines concentrated on the Allied armies' obvious successes; the Americans' struggles in Brittany, and the Canadian and British campaigns in appalling conditions to open up Antwerp port were all too quickly forgotten. The forces fighting these horrible 'little battles' called it the Cinderella War. This book is the vivid record of their achievements, bravery and determination.

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depth in the German held fortified ports along the Atlantic coast. From a military history reference perspective, the books ticks all the boxes.”PETER COXALL – erAbout the AuthorPatrick Delaforce served with the Royal Horse Artillery of the 11th Armoured Division as a troop leader in Normandy and as Forward Observation Officer in Holland and Germany during the Second World War. He was awarded the Bronze Cross of Orange-Nassau and twice mentioned in dispatches during the campaign. He then joined the 7th Armoured Division at the end of 1945 and commanded Java Troop, 3rd Royal Horse Artillery. After leaving the Army he worked as a port wine shipper and then in advertising before becoming a professional writer. He has written over twenty military history books as well as a number of travel books and biographies.