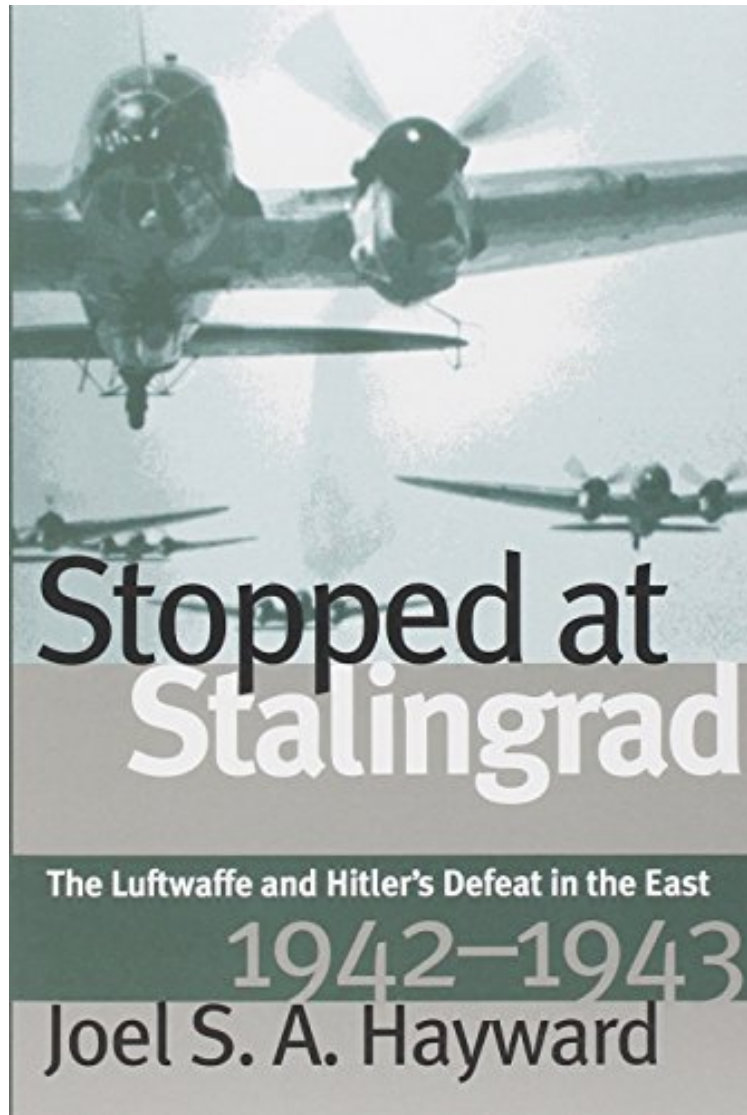


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Stopped at Stalingrad: The Luftwaffe and Hitler's Defeat in the East, 1942-1943 (Modern War Studies (Paperback))

Joel S. A. Hayward

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#620062 in Books University Press of Kansas 1998-04-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.20 x .94 x 5.921, 1.40 #File Name: 0700611460412 pages | File size: 73.Mb

Joel S. A. Hayward : Stopped at Stalingrad: The Luftwaffe and Hitler's Defeat in the East, 1942-1943 (Modern War Studies (Paperback)) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stopped at Stalingrad: The Luftwaffe and Hitler's Defeat in the East, 1942-1943 (Modern War Studies (Paperback)):

48 of 50 people found the following review helpful. AN EXCEPTIONAL WORK By RED BARON This volume is a major contribution to the history of the Luftwaffe during the Russo-Germano war. "Stopped at Stalingrad" is also a richly drawn study of the most important air campaigns in the Eastern Front. Written in an accessible style this volume will be welcomed by anyone with an interest in the WWII. I was very pleasantly surprised by the book and also the quality of its contents. The author did a masterful job of research. Joel Hayward draws on diaries of both key commanders and regular airmen. He also shows that the poorly conceived strategies of Hitler and his buffoon, Goering, doomed the efforts of men such as von Manstein, Milch and Wolfram von Richthofen (an outstanding soldier) to come to grips with an impossible situation. I heartily recommended this book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding. By Max Prendergast If this book has a weakness it is only that the title does not fully convey what a sweeping account this is. In fact, though written from an air war perspective, this book gives an excellent overview of the entire "Case Blue" German summer offensive of 1942 in the USSR, including the land war. An opening chapter sets the stage with a highly useful recap which is not just a rehash of the usual Barbarossa facts, and instead offers an insightful analysis of the strategic imperatives from Germany's point of view, with emphasis on the crucial question of oil reserves (backed up with detailed statistics). This book makes abundantly clear why by 1942 Germany was no longer able to wage offensive operations along the entire length of the Russian front as it had been the previous year. The text is copiously footnoted and dense with facts, yet it remains a pleasure to read; clear and swift moving. Even those who are well read about the Eastern Front will find nuggets here (how about a footnote detailing the composition of the Soviet Black Sea Fleet?). Hardcover edition includes photographs on glossy paper. Only quibble is that the text could have used a few more maps --- a common observation about books covering this vast theater. Unreservedly recommended for anyone interested in the WWII Russian campaign. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The Stalingrad Air Power Story By William A. Thayer This is an excellent book because it focuses on the truly important part of the Stalingrad battle-- the airlift. What is great about this book is that it integrates what is happening on the ground with what happened in the air. I've read many books on Stalingrad, Milch, Richthofen, and the author has done his research (see the German Reports from the USAF Air University). Why did the airlift fail? Probably weather and operational readiness were the main reasons. For example, in the Conclusion of the book, the author notes that with better weather a couple of months later, the German Air Force was able to resupply the German Armies in the Caucasus with the 500 tons/day that Stalingrad never received. The Germans were not prepared to operate well at 0 degF and low visibility conditions. By contrast the USAF was able to operate the Berlin Airlift with 5000 tons/day (about 20 times the German tonnage) because of better aircraft (DC-4), better all weather landing systems, and better operational readiness (and no 0 degF weather). What would have been a good additional chapter would have been a comparison of the Stalingrad airlift with Demyansk airlift, Kuban airlift and Berlin airlift. Also some charts showing the tons carried, total planes, operational planes, plane losses per week would have been informative. Nevertheless, this book is a 5 star.

By the time Hitler declared war on the Soviet Union in 1941, he knew that his military machine was running out of fuel. In response, he launched Operation Blau, a campaign designed to protect Nazi oilfields in Rumania while securing new ones in the Caucasus. All that stood in the way was Stalingrad. Most accounts of the Battle of Stalingrad have focused on the dismal fate of the German Army. Joel Hayward now chronicles Luftwaffe operations during that campaign, focusing on Hitler's use of the air force as a tactical rather than strategic weapon in close support of ground forces. He vividly details the Luftwaffe's key role as "flying artillery," showing that the army relied on Luftwaffe support to a far greater degree than has been previously revealed and that its successes in the East occurred largely because of the effectiveness of that support. Hayward analyzes this major German offensive from the standpoint of cooperation between ground and air forces to attain mutually agreed objectives. He draws on diaries of both key commanders and regular airmen to recreate crucial battles and convey the drama of Hitler's frustrations and reckless leadership. Ultimately, Hayward shows, the poorly conceived strategies of Hitler, Goering, and others in Berlin doomed the efforts of air commander Wolfram von Richthofen, a courageous and resolute leader attempting to come to grips with an increasingly impossible situation. Stopped at Stalingrad is a dynamic case study in combined arms warfare that fills in many of the gaps left by other studies of the eastern war. By reconsidering the campaign in the light of a wider body of documentary sources and analyzing many previously ignored events, Hayward provides military historians and general readers a much deeper and more complete understanding of the Battle of Stalingrad and its impact on World War II.

"... an original and formidably researched study ... Stopped at Stalingrad is an absolutely indispensable work not only for its revelations about Stalingrad, but equally for a more complete understanding of the nature of Soviet-German operations in a critical year." -- Professor John Erickson, RUSI Journal "This is excellent account ... Hayward has used a remarkably wide range of sources, which he handles with exceptional deftness and critical detachment. He writes clearly and interestingly. ... This is a model of its kind, which ought to set an agenda for the reconstruction of the air narrative" - Professor Richard Overy, War in History "Hayward, in a magnificently researched study, provides us with

what is probably the best look at how the Luftwaffe operated in the context of the 1942-1943 Stalingrad campaign. ... He also provides the best available account of the disastrous Stalingrad airlift." -- Richard Muller, in C. Messenger, ed, Reader's Guide to Military History "This is a superb piece of work. It is an absolute must for anyone with an interest in the war on the eastern front, and on the Stalingrad campaign in particular. ... The book is splendidly researched and well written." -- Professor Richard L. DiNardo New York Military Affairs Symposium Newsletter "[In] this highly acclaimed work ... Hayward draws on diaries of many German and Russian key commanders and regular airmen to recreate crucial battles and to convey the drama of Hitler's frustrations and reckless leadership. The book is a major contribution to understanding of the Stalingrad Battle." -- CollectRussia.com sFrom the Back Cover "A comprehensive view of one of the most important air campaigns of World War II and an insightful study of the Luftwaffe's leaders and its way of war. A 'must read' for anyone interested in the airpower history of World War II."-- James S. Corum, author of *The Luftwaffe: Creating the Operational Air War, 1918-1940* "An outstanding and long-overdue campaign history that puts a human face on the military decision-making process."--Richard Muller, author of *The German Air War in Russia* "A major contribution to the history of the Russo-German War."--Dennis Showalter, author of *Tannenberg: Clash of Empires* About the Author Dr Joel Hayward is a New Zealand-born scholar, author and poet. As of 1 January 2012, he is a Senior Fellow at the Markfield Institute of Higher Education. His career highlights include having been the Dean of the Royal Air Force College for five years, a Director of the Royal Air Force Centre for Air Power Studies for four years, and the Head of King's College London's Air Power Studies Division for six years. He is the author or editor of nine books as well as many book chapters and journal articles, some of which have appeared in German, Russian, Portuguese, Spanish and Serbian translations. He is currently writing a new book for Kube Publishers to be titled *Prophet and Warrior: The Conduct and Justice of Muhammad's Military Campaigns*. Unusually for a social scientist, he is also very active in the literary arts. He has had much poetry and fiction published, including a book of short stories and two collections of poetry. They have garnered strong reviews. His poems have appeared in many literary and community journals and magazines. His second major poetry collection, *Splitting the Moon: A Collection of Islamic Poetry*, has just been published by Kube Publishers.