

# Stormtroop Tactics: Innovation in the German Army, 1914-1918

*Bruce I. Gudmundsson*  
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INNOVATION IN THE  
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BRUCE I. GUDMUNDSSON

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**Bruce I. Gudmundsson : Stormtroop Tactics: Innovation in the German Army, 1914-1918** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stormtroop Tactics: Innovation in the German Army, 1914-1918:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent and concise examination of the evolution of tactics By BasinBictory This book is a great examination of how the German Army in WW1 evolved its tactics in response to the realities of trench warfare in the Great War. At the beginning of the war, the formations and methods of fighting were formations and methods that would have been familiar to Napoleon a century earlier. By the end of the war, tactics and

organization, as well as the employment of specialist-type units in highly coordinated operations were methods that would be familiar to the special operations community today, a century later. The only reason I didn't give a fifth star is that the book only concentrated upon the evolution of the German Army, and gave almost no consideration to similar (but interestingly different) innovations that were happening concurrently in the British and French armies.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent military history  
By Ryan  
Despite the poor maps, I believe this is the best \$25.00 I've ever spent. Most histories claim that Stosstruppen tactics were first used at Riga in 1916. Actually, the a number of Germans first started working on the Stosstruppen concept independently of each other shortly after First Ypres in late 1914. By March of 1918 they had refined it to the point where it was a dangerous weapon in the hands of those skilled to use it. Gudmundsson knows his subject. He has done a masterful job in showing and explaining the development of Stosstruppen tactics and some of the soldiers who had the biggest hand in their development and adoption by the Kaiser Heer. All soldiers serving in combat arms, particularly those in the armored cavalry and infantry MOS should read this book. Modern maneuver warfare is built around the Stosstruppen concept. Gudmundsson has done a great service with this combination manual of tactics and military history.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars  
By Whisper In the Pine  
Very informative book. I couldn't put it down. Reading the history and evolution of stormtrooper tactics was fascinating.

Describing the radical transformation in German Infantry tactics that took place during World War I, this book presents the first detailed account of the evolution of stormtroop tactics available in English. It covers areas previously left unexplored: the German Infantry's tactical heritage, the squad's evolution as a tactical unit, the use of new weapons for close combat, the role of the elite assault units in the development of new tactics, and detailed descriptions of offensive battles that provided the inspiration and testing ground for this new way of fighting. Both a historical investigation and a standard of excellence in infantry tactics, Stormtroop Tactics is required reading for professional military officers and historians as well as enthusiasts. Contrary to previous studies, Stormtroop Tactics proposes that the German Infantry adaption to modern warfare was not a straightforward process resulting from the top down intervention of reformers but instead a bottom up phenomenon. It was an accumulation of improvisations and ways of dealing with pressing situations that were later sewn together to form what we now call Blitzkrieg. Focusing on action at the company, platoon, and squad level, Stormtroop Tactics provides a detailed description of the evolution of German defensive tactics during World War I? tactics that were the direct forbears of those used in World War II.

"For too long, a curious mystery has enveloped the origin of German stormtroop tactics in World War I. Like Topsy they just grew. But as Bruce Gudmundsson demonstrates in this admirable contribution to the literature of military history, the principles of open-order tactics, which were at the heart of infiltration, go back to the Boer War; even by the end of 1914, German commanders were experimenting with the rudiments of new attack forms. That conventional trench warfare was bound to end, and did so on March 21, 1918, should no longer puzzle us. What Colonel G. C. Wynne once did for the evolution of German defensive tactics in the Great War, Captain Gudmundsson has now done, and remarkably, for their offensive equivalent." -The Quarterly Journal of Military History "[Stormtroop Tactics] is recommended reading for all military professionals." -INFANTRY MAGAZINE "Very useful for modern soldiers who must consider how their own doctrine... must be adapted to meet the changes technology and circumstance will impose on their own future battlefield." -ARMY "Bruce Gudmundsson has written a useful book on the development of tactics in the German army in World War I, with the emphasis on the evolution of stormtroop tactics.... Gudmundsson's book is a good one: well-researched, to the point, and logical in its presentation. It is essential reading for those interested both in tactical innovation and in the German army in World War I." -The Journal of Military History "Stormtroop Tactics" is recommended reading for all military professionals." -INFANTRY MAGAZINE "[Stormtroop Tactics] is recommended reading for all military professionals." -INFANTRY MAGAZINE "Very useful for modern soldiers who must consider how their own doctrine... must be adapted to meet the changes technology and circumstance will impose on their own future battlefield." -ARMY "Bruce Gudmundsson has written a useful book on the development of tactics in the German army in World War I, with the emphasis on the evolution of stormtroop tactics.... Gudmundsson's book is a good one: well-researched, to the point, and logical in its presentation. It is essential reading for those interested both in tactical innovation and in the German army in World War I." -The Journal of Military History "For too long, a curious mystery has enveloped the origin of German stormtroop tactics in World War I. Like Topsy they just grew. But as Bruce Gudmundsson demonstrates in this admirable contribution to the literature of military history, the principles of open-order tactics, which were at the heart of infiltration, go back to the Boer War; even by the end of 1914, German commanders were experimenting with the rudiments of new attack forms. That conventional trench warfare was bound to end, and did so on March 21, 1918, should no longer puzzle us. What Colonel G. C. Wynne once did for the evolution of German defensive tactics in the Great War, Captain Gudmundsson has now done, and remarkably, for their offensive equivalent." -The Quarterly Journal of Military History

About the Author  
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