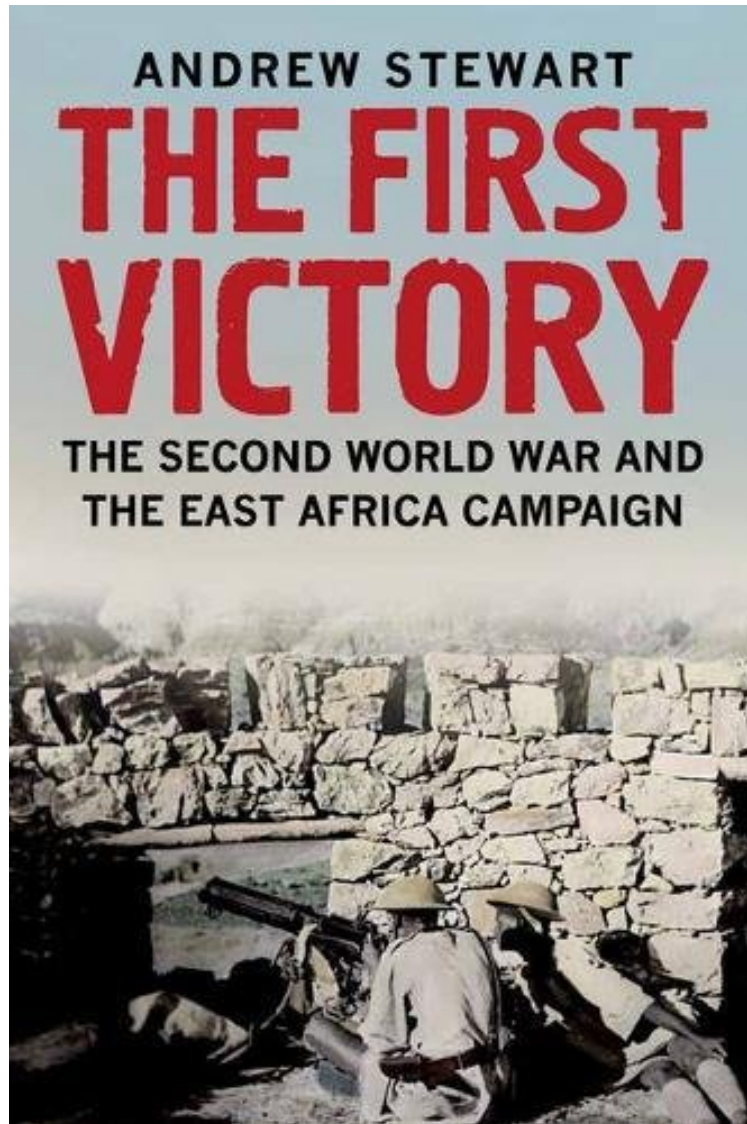


(Read now) The First Victory: The Second World War and the East Africa Campaign

The First Victory: The Second World War and the East Africa Campaign

Andrew Stewart

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Andrew Stewart : The First Victory: The Second World War and the East Africa Campaign before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The First Victory: The Second World War and the East Africa Campaign:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A victory that was forgotten - now read thisBy davidbfpoA good,

well written book on the forgotten campaign to end Italian occupation of Abyssinia (now Ethiopia), Eritrea and Somaliland (a British colony held for a short time). The victory, with Italian surrender was over-shadowed by the defeats in Greece and Crete. Interesting to note 'Bill' Slim was an Indian Infantry Brigadier, who was to learn about being forgotten again in Burma. The immense logistical aspects are included and the strategic to operational issues. The lack of theatre maps is annoying, unless you are familiar with the regional geography. For example 18k trucks came overland from Broken Hill, now Kabwe in Zambia; the half-way point from the factory in South Africa, in the 2,900 mile journey to Nairobi. It was not an easy victory, notably with the bitter fighting @ Keren, a mountainous fortified position (a problem to be faced again in Italy itself). Enigma helped, but the Italians consistently located Allied formations using SIGINT, not that it appeared to help in their retreat! 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Neglected Campaign By PAUL V. WALSH The East African Campaign is certainly a neglected chapter in the global conflict that was World War II. Therefore, any book covering this subject is welcome. Andrew Stewart's study provides a detailed account of, first, the Italian conquest of British Somaliland, second, the initial skirmishes on the borders between British colonies and Italian occupied Ethiopia, and, last, the Commonwealth-Ethiopian campaign to liberate Ethiopia. The author explains that his focus on the British Imperial forces was due to a combination of the lack of surviving Italian documents and his inability to utilize works written in Italian. As such, the perspective from one of the two sides in this conflict is only lightly covered. Given its limitations, this is still a worthwhile book on an under studied corner of the Second World War.

A riveting new account of the long-overlooked achievement of British-led forces who, against all odds, scored the first major Allied victory of the Second World War Surprisingly neglected in accounts of Allied wartime triumphs, in 1941 British and Commonwealth forces completed a stunning and important victory in East Africa against an overwhelmingly superior Italian opponent. A hastily formed British-led force, never larger than 70,000 strong, advanced along two fronts to defeat nearly 300,000 Italian and colonial troops. This compelling book draws on an array of previously unseen documents to provide both a detailed campaign history and a fresh appreciation of the first significant Allied success of the war. Andrew Stewart investigates such topics as Britain's African wartime strategy; how the fighting forces were assembled (most from British colonies, none from the U.S.); General Archibald Wavell's command abilities and his difficult relationship with Winston Churchill; the resolute Italian defense at Keren, one of the most bitterly fought battles of the entire war; the legacy of the campaign in East Africa; and much more.

'Exciting and multilayered, this is a comprehensive account of an overlooked campaign in which an outnumbered imperial army destroyed Mussolini's dream of a new Roman Empire. Fighting over vast distances and inhospitable terrain, forces from the Congo, Ethiopia and across the British Empire recorded the Allies' first major triumph. With its mastery of archival sources, *The First Victory* displays Andrew Stewart's skill as an historian of Second World War campaigns and their political and strategic context. An exhilarating read.'—Ashley Jackson, author of *Churchill*