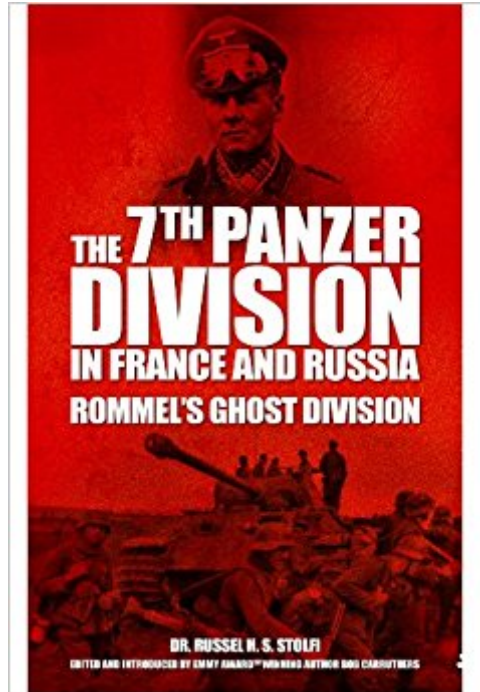


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# The 7th Panzer Division In France And Russia: Rommel's Ghost Division



## Synopsis

This excellent study was commissioned by the U.S. Marine Corps from the distinguished academic and military historian Russel Stolfi. This groundbreaking work is more than just a Divisional history. The whole basis of Rommel's exceptional handling is summed up in Stolfi's masterful conclusion - "Rommel had a bias for action." The book traces the actions of the 7th "Ghost" division in France during 1940 and the early part of the campaign in Russia during 1941. This powerful work brilliantly illustrates Stolfi's commanding insight into the genius of Rommel as a Divisional commander. Long out of print, this new edition brings back into circulation a classic piece of military history writing for a new audience.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Under a renowned commander of World War II (Rommel) 7.Pz.D. achieved extraordinary results fighting on the offensive in France in 1940. Under a commander unknown today (Funck) the division achieved even more extraordinary results in the opening stages of the surprise offensive against the Soviet Union in 1941. In both cases the division engaged first class opponents who had vast resources in men and materiel. In both cases the Germans advanced against opponents well prepared for war, but utterly surprised by the division's direction, timing, violence and above all, tempo. The Germans of 1940-41 accepted the uncertainty in war. They embraced the central reality of uncertainty in war and rode it to operations of unparalleled tempo and daring. The German army encouraged its men to act and accepted the fact that they would make mistakes. 7.Pz.D. exemplified this philosophy. It was always right to act. It was always wrong to wait for more

information, more troops, more fire support to clear up uncertainty. Rommel and Funck and the division exemplified this willingness to accept uncertainty, the determination to act, the preference of the oral order over the written. To fight as Rommel did is to do as the genius does. The genius and his division advanced at a high tempo, fought 24 hours a day, would suffer no tactical impasse, applied every weapon of the division to the fight and created stratagem after stratagem to keep things moving. The unique history and circumstances of the Germans made it necessary for them to excel in war. They grasped the essence of war: chaos, violence, uncertainty, chance and danger. They determined in a long process of more than two centuries to meet uncertainty with action. Rommel's genius was action.

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