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# Hunters From The Sky: The German Parachute Corps, 1940-1945

CHARLES WHITING

## HUNTERS FROM THE SKY

THE GERMAN PARACHUTE CORPS,  
1940-1945



## Synopsis

Founded by Luftwaffe chief Hermann Goring and led by General Kurt Student, an officer of exceptional ability, the German airborne force was a crucial element of the new method of warfare it launched in WWII - blitzkreig. Referred to as "Hunters from the Sky", German paratroopers infiltrated Allied lines, fighting from the moment they hit the ground, seizing bridges, capturing airfields, and suffering losses of up to 50 percent. Here is the first full-scale history of the German Parachute Corps, from the terror and exhilaration of its first combat drop in 1940 to its bloody demise in 1945. Charles Whiting's brilliantly-researched book describes the important role of the parachute division in the attack on Belgium and Holland in 1940, the capture of Crete in 1941, the rescue of Mussolini in 1943, and its activities in Russia, Italy, and France trying to stop the advancing Allied armies during 1944 and 1945. Whiting recounts many stories of courage, including the tenacious defence of Monte Cassino and Brest in 1944, and the bold rescue of German POWs behind enemy lines in France.

"Fair, balanced, and exciting." Luftwaffe General Kurt Student, pioneering commander of the world's first airborne division

"As good an account as anyone will find."

"Soldier magazine" Whiting adds a rarely written-about dimension to the body of material available on World War II. He presents a vivid, factual account of Nazi airborne tactics that should fascinate any armchair military strategist, former paratrooper, weekend parachutist, or lover of adventure stories.

"Publishers Weekly" Charles Whiting is the author of numerous history books on the Second World War. Under the pen name of Leo Kessler he also wrote a series of bestselling military thrillers, including "Guns at Cassino" and "Valley of the Assassins".

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## **Customer Reviews**

This book captures the history of the German Parachute Corps from its inception until its final battles and demise. It captures the personalities of its command structure and elite nature of this fighting Corps. For me it added greatly to my further understanding of the Nazi war machine. It is well written and highly valuable to any student of WW II.

"Hunters from the Sky" by Charles Whiting is about the German parachute corps 1940-1945.

Written much from the perspective of the officers and men of the Luftwaffe, it does include Allied reactions. Starting out as an elite group early in the war, the group was reduced by irreplaceable loses by 1945. Very fascinating was the rescue of Mussolini from his mountain top detention.

This is a terrific book about the genesis of combat airborne forces. The techniques developed by the Germans during WWII are still used today as in airfield seizures and airborne assaults. But as always it is the leadership at the very top that determines final victory. The German paras are a perfect example of primo military forces being hamstrung and finally defeated by bad civilian leadership directing the generals as how they employ their forces and conduct warfare.

Interesting material on the early development of paratroopers. The book states that the Germans got the idea from the Russian military and then the Allies copied the operational concepts and the development of special light equipment from the Germans.

The Germans made excellent use of airborne assaults during the early years of World War II. They

were so successful that the Allies were forced to imitate them. This books tells of the tactics and the personalities of the German military men who made it happen.

Well researched and interesting account of the toughest fighting units in the German army. Pretty good balance between excess detail and actual actions of the paratroopers. Only Allied economic resources allowed them to defeat Axis Powers.

It is a good story with interesting background. Little ongoing unit history is organized well. No mention of unique airborne or para unique weapons was mentioned. While their work was a landmark in tactics, this book is somewhat incomplete. The author focused on the leaders and some inter German military politics. My THREE STAR is a gift. With some work, it could be a much better book. Also, it did not cover the subject in adequate detail and to some extent does the brave men a disservice.

Well written story of the Germany. Paras. I learned somethings about them that i wasn't aware of! Good read for the old silver back!

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