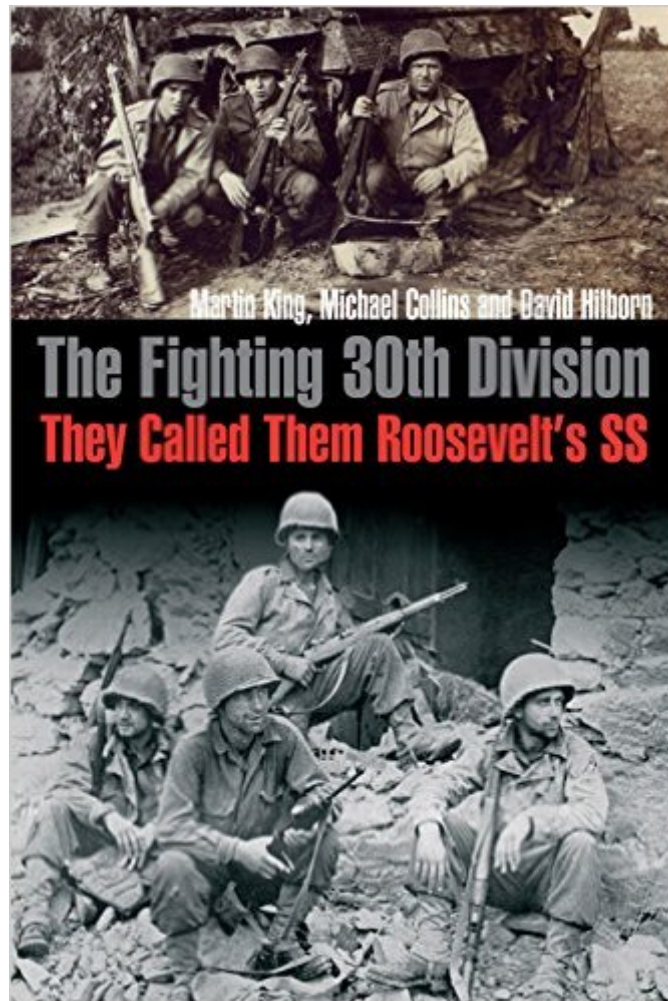


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# The Fighting 30th Division: They Called Them Roosevelt's SS



## Synopsis

In World War I the 30th Infantry Division earned more Medals of Honor than any other American division. In World War II it spent more consecutive days in combat than almost any other outfit. Recruited mainly from the Carolinas and Georgia and Tennessee, they were one of the hardest-fighting units the U.S. ever fielded in Europe. What was it about these men that made them so indomitable? They were tough and resilient for a start, but this division had something else. They possessed intrinsic zeal to engage the enemy that often left their adversaries in awe. Their U.S. Army nickname was the "Old Hickory" Division. But after encountering them on the battlefield, the Germans themselves came to call them "Roosevelt's SS." This book is a combat chronicle of this illustrious division that takes the reader right to the heart of the fighting through the eyes of those who were actually there. It goes from the hedgerows of Normandy to the 30th's gallant stand against panzers at Mortain, to the brutal slugs around Aachen and the Westwall, and then to the Battle of the Bulge. Each chapter is meticulously researched and assembled with accurate timelines and after-action reports. The last remaining veterans of the 30th Division and attached units who saw the action firsthand relate their remarkable experiences here for the first, and probably the last time. This is precisely what military historians mean when they write about "fighting spirit." There have been only a few books written about the 30th Division and none contained direct interviews with the veterans. This work follows their story from Normandy to the final victory in Germany, packed with previously untold accounts from the survivors. These are the men whose incredible stories epitomize what it was to be a GI in one of the toughest divisions in WWII. REVIEWS Another fantastic true story that will fascinate historians and fans of McNab - Boys Own Paper stuff. BOOKS MONTHLY UK...read this book mainly for the perspective of the GIs who fought and bled to give the Old hickory Division its well earned reputation. In the words of former infantryman Jim Nolan "The 30th was topnotch". Journal of America's Military Past, Winter 2016

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## Customer Reviews

The Fighting 30th Division tells the story of Old Hickory, a National Guard division that fought their way across Europe in WW2. The book covers all of the 30th's campaigns including their fight through the Normandy hedgerows, their famous stand at Mortain, the meat grinder at Aachen, their repulse of Kampfgruppe Peiper during the Battle of the Bulge and their final battles in Germany. Each chapter chronicles a different stage of their advance in detail with supporting maps. The veteran accounts are fantastic and really bring the story line to life. I enjoyed the book and recommend it.

My Father who has since past was in the 30th Division in WWII and I wanted to read any books in reference to the famous fighting group. As I was growing up he told me numerous stories of his experiences from the Normandy landing to the Battle of the Bulge. This book is very well written and the soldiers stories that consist of most of the book makes me more aware of the horrors of war that my father and these men experience. It describes how the 30th Division saved the Normandy landings when they stopped the German Panzer counterattack at Mortain. This is a great reading of the 30th Division and basically all the Divisions that started at Normandy and continuously fought their way to Belgium, Holland & Germany. As you read the book the author will give you some history facts and information to better understand the soldiers situation and personal accounts of the ground fighting. The Malmedy Massacre is covered just as my father described to me of finding the GI bodies laying in the snow from being killed by the SS Division of Jochen Peiper after they were captured. This is a must read for any individual who reads WWII history or had a family member who fought for the 30th Division.

The fighting 30th Division describes this formation in WW2 in Europe. Book has some black and white pictures and some maps of the division movement. Book describes the action by the soldiers themselves in first person then follows it with the author's voice with the big overall pictures. One of the only books I have seen on this formation. Book also describes the units and formation of this

unit. Easy read and enjoyable

This is another critical hidden history of WWII. The book is about a National Guard Division during WWII from North Carolina and Tenn. I was astonished at what I read. This division deserves to go down in history as one of the premier units of the US Army during that time along with the 1st, 101st, 82nd, and others. I am not sure why history has forgotten them. Their contribution in various battles was the thing that separated victory and defeat. This unit was at the right place several times in the European theater. The authors combine a mix of standard narrative and veteran accounts to paint the picture. It really makes for a unique way to look at the history. Now more onto why this unit is immortal. They were called "Roosevelt's SS" by the Germans and the name struck. The name was a way of honor. This division helped punch a hole in the German line in July 44 during Operation Cobra. Then they held two critical hills in Mortain during the German Counter Offensive. If the 30th would have broke then Patton would have been cut off in the Middle of France. Then the war would have been a different event. Their grit and determination secured victory. The division held out for six days. This was done at a cost. At times the fighting was hand to hand. One of the critical hills was hill 314. The defending Bn suffered 50% casualties in the fight. The unit wasn't finished after that. They continued across the European front. They were one of the units that captured the German City of Aachen. That was the first major city to be captured by any allied army. The fighting was house to house. After that the division fought in the battle of the Bulge. They went up against the lead unit of the Germans during the offensive, and succeeded. Their hard innovative work in constructing a defense went a long way to thwarting the German offensive. I think everyone needs to read this to realize that many heros of WWII have their stories yet to be told.

High time the 30th "Old Hickory" Division got some attention for massive accomplishments of those citizen soldiers during World War 2. It's a good book and well worth the price. It gives a lot of information and background on the unit that was chosen as THE best US Division in the ETO, along with the reasons that even Axis Sally referred to them as "Roosevelt's SS."

I haven't personally read this yet since I gave it to my dad as a gift, but he couldn't stop gushing about how good it was. So I'm giving it 5 stars on his behalf. I'm going to borrow it from him next time I see him and if I think any differently of it, I'll edit my review. I bought it because his father was in the M.P. platoon of the 30th Infantry in 1944-45. My grandfather was wounded twice at the Battle of the Bulge and earned a Bronze Star for valor in combat.

A very good first person account by those who served with the division in combat roles during the fighting in Europe. It provided many different views of the same engagements as the regiments moved through their designated fronts.

The book gave an infantryman's personal view of the fighting with many first person account of their experiences in combat in Europe. More unit histories should take this approach when writing their story.

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