## 800 Days On The Eastern Front A Russian Soldier Remembers World War li

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litvin s stark candid memoir focuses on his more than two years of service in the red army during its war with germany originally written in 1962 and recently revised through extended interviews between author and translator the result is a gripping account in a straightforward matter of fact tone of the trials and tribulations of being a common soviet soldier on the eastern front during world war ii

growing up in a small college town in central mississippi in the 1930s leon c standifer knew little of the trauma of war but by the time

he was nineteen world war ii had made war a reality for him standifer volunteered for and was accepted by a special army program that would send him to college for technical training he sometimes hoped and some times feared that the war would end before the training did events turned out quite otherwise a serious shortage of trained riflemen needed for the invasion of normandy meant that standifer and more than one hundred thousand other young men were taken from the program and sent into battle as combat infantrymen not in vain a rifleman remembers world war ii looks at american involvement in the war from the firsthand perspective of this nineteen year old soldier as an infantryman in france and germany during the latter part of the war standifer experienced the numbing boredom of daily routine and the adrenaline pumping excitement of combat he re calls the anguish of losing friends in battle and the decisive moment when he slit the throat of an enemy soldier memories that haunt him still but not in vain is far more than a conventional soldier's memoir although he recounts in vivid detail his personal experiences standifer also makes a far broader inquiry into the forces that turned a sheltered young man from a religious small town back ground into an effective soldier growing up in the baptist church standifer thought he had learned the differences between good and evil right and wrong but after his days in battle moral distinctions were no longer as clear not in vain documents standifer s lifelong debate with himself over the justification for war by considering not only his reactions during combat but also the feelings that have remained with him for life he describes these intense emotions in his account of a trip taken to europe many years after the war and of his recent reunion with some of the former members of his rifle company written in an effort to come to terms with his involvement in the war not in vain is a probing and timely study of a citizen's dedication to his country

a junior officer in the red army provides one of the richest and most detailed memoirs of life and warfare on the eastern front from his combat training in early 1942 until the surrender and occupation of germany

some warriors are drawn to the thrill of combat and find it the defining moment of their lives others fall victim to fear exhaustion impaired reasoning and despair this book synthesizes the wartime experiences of american soldiers from the doughboys of world war i to the grunts of vietnam focusing on both soldiers and marines it draws on histories and memoirs oral histories psychological and sociological studies and even fiction to show that their experiences remain fundamentally the same regardless of the enemy terrain training or weaponry

bringing together an impressive cast of well respected scholars in the field of modern russian studies russian history through the

senses investigates life in russia from 1700 to the present day via the senses it examines past experiences of taste touch smell sight and sound to capture a vivid impression of what it was to have lived in the russian world so uniquely placed as it is between east and west during the last three hundred years the book discusses the significance of sensory history in relation to modern russia and covers a range of exciting case studies rich with primary source material that provide a stimulating way of understanding modern russia at a visceral level russian history through the senses is a novel text that is of great value to scholars and students interested in modern russian studies

a comprehensive analysis of wwii s greatest land battle and one of history s greatest armor engagements publishers weekly on july 5 1943 the greatest land battle in history began when nazi and red army forces clashed near the town of kursk on the western border of the soviet union code named operation citadel the german offensive would cut through the bulge in the eastern front that had been created following germany s retreat at the battle of stalingrad but the soviets well informed about germany s plans through their network of spies had months to prepare two million men supported by six thousand tanks thirty five thousand guns and five thousand aircrafts convened in kursk for an epic confrontation that was one of the most important military engagements in history the epitome of total war it was also one of the most bloody and despite suffering seven times more casualties the soviets won a decisive victory that became a turning point in the war with unprecedented access to the journals and testimonials of the officers soldiers political leaders and citizens who lived through it the battle of the tanks is the definitive account of an epic showdown that changed the course of history a stellar account of the battle of kursk in 1943 booklist

military professionals and theorists have long understood the relevance of morale in war montgomery the victor at el alamein said following the battle that the more fighting i see the more i am convinced that the big thing in war is morale jonathan fennell in examining the north african campaign through the lens of morale challenges conventional explanations for allied success in one of the most important and controversial campaigns in british and commonwealth history he introduces new sources notably censorship summaries of soldiers mail and an innovative methodology that assesses troop morale not only on the evidence of personal observations and official reports but also on contemporaneously recorded rates of psychological breakdown sickness desertion and surrender he shows for the first time that a major morale crisis and stunning recovery decisively affected eighth army s performance during the critical battles on the gazala and el alamein lines in 1942

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