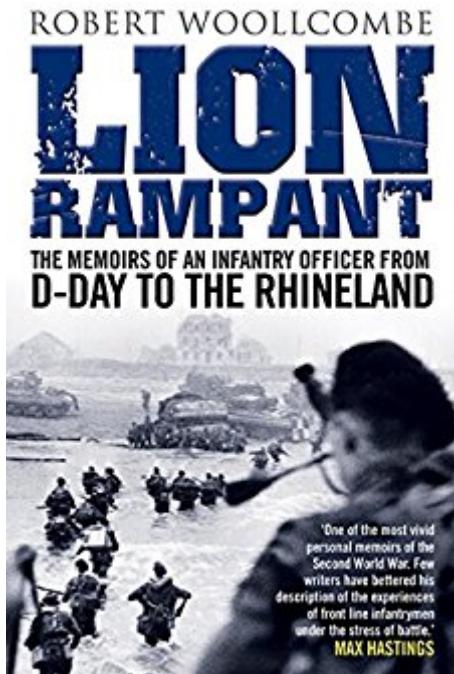


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Lion Rampant: The Memoirs Of An Infantry Officer From D-Day To The Rhineland



Synopsis

Lion Rampant is Robert Woollcombe's graphic account of his experiences as a front-line infantry officer with the King's Own Scottish Borderers during the desperate battle for Normandy and the Allied advance into Germany. Vividly evoking the confusion, horror and comradeship of war - from the killing fields of Normandy bocage, through house-to-house fighting in shattered Flemish towns, to the final Rhine crossing - Lion Rampant is a powerful, authentic and moving story, telling with extraordinary clarity how the author, his fellow officers and the men of his company lived through one of the most bitter campaigns in history.

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Customer Reviews

Woollcombe served with 6th Battalion KOSB, of the 52nd Lowland Division from Normandy until VE-Day. He started as a platoon commander but as casualties took their toll he also commanded the company at times too. It is an exceedingly literate look at the intense warfare that took place in this campaign. The author was fortunate to be with his unit for a considerable time before Normandy. He knew them and they knew him. This included the other officers and his commanders, who he idolised. The training and partying that took place served them well in making them an effective and

cohesive fighting formation. This was necessary as they arrived in France on D+8 and went into battle against the five SS Panzer divisions deployed against the British. After a few days being worked into the line, Woollcombe is in the hedges and corn fields that of the front. They are warned by the Canadians they believed, that the SS shot the wounded. He™s sees dead bodies for the first time and indeed, one of his first jobs is overseeing burials. He is astonished at the sights: pale faces, waxy skin, scattered personal effects. They face concerted attacks that are only broken by intense artillery fire. They also conduct attacks and Woollcombe writes of meeting the teenage SS boys. There are many casualties and Woollcombe writes, so “This was the war. Vicious. Bestial. Insensate.” Following Normandy, the division advances through France and into Holland. Again, there is tenacious resistance from the Germans, this time including Fallschirmjagers, who were very skillful. As with his Normandy section, there is strong detail on the battles but also observations on the Americans and civilians. There are some jarring moments and very close calls.

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