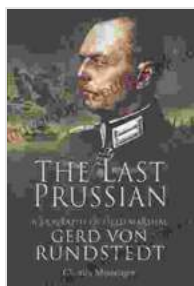


Biography Of Field Marshal Gerd Von Rundstedt

Early Life and Military Beginnings

Gerd von Rundstedt was born on December 12, 1875, in Aschersleben, Germany, to an aristocratic military family. His lineage instilled in him a deep sense of duty and honor. Rundstedt pursued a military career, graduating from the Prussian War Academy in 1902.



The Last Prussian: A Biography of Field Marshal Gerd Von Rundstedt by Charles Messenger

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 5187 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 601 pages
Lending : Enabled



World War I and Interwar Years

During World War I, Rundstedt served as a staff officer and later commanded a regiment. His strategic insights and leadership abilities earned him recognition and promotion. After the war, he remained in the army, serving in various staff positions and commanding the German 3rd Military District.

World War II: Early Conquests

As World War II erupted, Rundstedt was appointed commander of Army Group South. He played a pivotal role in the invasion of Poland in 1939 and the subsequent conquest of France in 1940. His lightning-fast maneuvers and innovative tactics outmaneuvered Allied defenses, earning him the nickname "The Fox of Ardennes."

Operation Barbarossa and Eastern Front

In June 1941, Operation Barbarossa launched the German invasion of the Soviet Union. Rundstedt commanded Army Group South, responsible for advancing through Ukraine and capturing Kiev. While initially successful, the campaign bogged down in the face of stiff Soviet resistance and harsh winter conditions.

Normandy Landings and the Fall of Germany

In 1944, Rundstedt was appointed Commander-in-Chief West, tasked with repulsing the Allied D-Day landings in Normandy. Despite his best efforts, the Allies secured a foothold in France, leading to the eventual collapse of German defenses. Rundstedt was relieved of his command in July 1944.

Controversies and Legacy

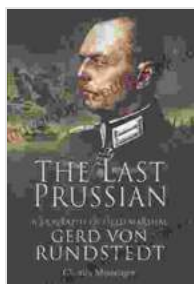
Gerd von Rundstedt remains a controversial figure in military history. His brilliance as a commander is undeniable, yet he has been accused of complicity in Nazi war crimes. Some historians argue that he knew of or even participated in the atrocities committed by his troops, while others maintain that he was a reluctant follower of Hitler's orders.

Despite the controversies, Rundstedt's military genius cannot be dismissed. He was a master strategist, renowned for his ability to outsmart opponents and adapt to changing battlefield conditions. His campaigns in France and Poland showcased his tactical prowess, while his leadership during the early stages of Barbarossa demonstrated his resilience and determination.

Personal Life and Later Years

Rundstedt was married to Luise von Bibra, with whom he had two children. After the war, he was captured by the Americans and interned for three years. Freed in 1949, he retired to West Germany, where he authored his memoirs. Gerd von Rundstedt died in Hanover on February 24, 1953, at the age of 77.

Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt was a complex and enigmatic figure who left an indelible mark on military history. His brilliance as a commander and his controversial legacy continue to fascinate and inspire historians and military strategists to this day. Rundstedt's life and career offer valuable lessons in leadership, strategy, and the complexities of war.



The Last Prussian: A Biography of Field Marshal Gerd

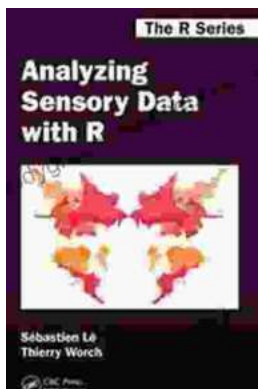
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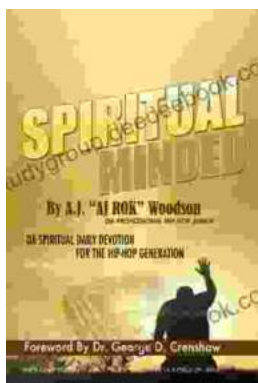
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