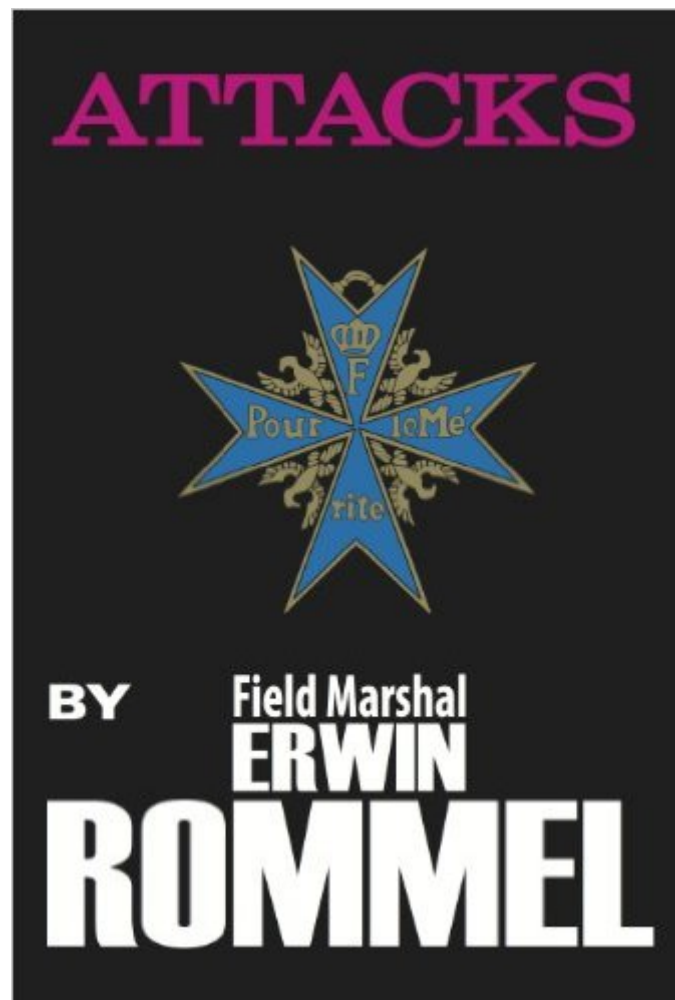


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Attacks



Synopsis

Attacks is the most accurate English translation available today of Erwin Rommel's World War I military classic, *Infanterie Greift An*. Other publishers continue to reprint the 1944 US Army translation that was published under the title, *Infantry Attacks*, but those abridged editions are missing passages as well as a number of important drawings and sketch maps. The Army translation also suffered from a hurried wartime effort and contains numerous errors. Athena Press's *Attacks* is the only unabridged English edition that corrects these flaws with a revised translation and an improved collection of battle illustrations that are much easier to understand than the originals. As the autobiographical record of a Great Captain, *Attacks* is a book of historical interest and importance. In tracing Rommel's development from a green lieutenant to a confident, seasoned and singularly successful commander, it provides keen insight into his mind and character. It is, as well, an important treatise on combat leadership and psychology, and contains many valuable lessons for those who would raise and train armies. Prime among these lessons is the reminder that men are the key element in combat; that it is the will, spirit and skill of men, led by competent and courageous officers that win battles; that high morale is developed by the accomplishment of difficult tasks.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The principal players of the Second World War paid their dues in the First, and Erwin Rommel was no exception. The man who would later become "the Desert Fox" and win worldwide acclaim as one of the greatest generals of all time began his combat career as a young lieutenant in the army of

Wilhelm II, indistinguishable from thousands of others who crossed the French or Belgian frontier in 1914. Four years later he was one of the most decorated soldiers in the Imperial Army, holder of the "Pour le Merite" (the highest Prussian award for bravery) and a firm believer that "positional [i.e. trench] warfare" was for fools. His credo could be summed up in the old Prussian maxim: "Never ask how strong the enemy is, only where he is -- and march to the sound of guns." Rommel published *ATTACKS* in 1937, when he was a lieutenant-colonel in the Reichsheer and commandant of the military academy in Wiener Neustadt. At the time he was already famous in the German army for his 1914 - 1918 exploits, but *ATTACKS* brought him international acclaim, at least in military circles. In Germany the book made him quite wealthy, and in a sense one can see why: compared to the turgid, half-mystical reminiscences of some of his contemporaries, *ATTACKS* is entirely without introspection. It is simply a recounting of the innumerable small-unit actions in which Rommel participated in during the Great War. The book's methodical, matter-of-fact style reflects the personality of its author, who was not inclined to philosophizing. The "whys" and "wherefores" of war mattered to him not at all. Unlike Ernst Juenger, who also won the Pour le Merite and wrote postwar accounts of his exploits (*THE STORM OF STEEL*, *COPSE 125*, *WAR AS AN INWARD EXPERIENCE*) Rommel wasn't interested in the "inward experience", just the fighting.

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