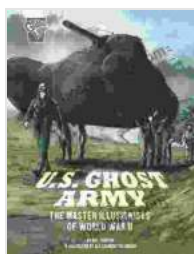


Ghost Army: The Unbelievable True Story of the Secret Soldiers Who Fooled the Nazis

By Rick Atkinson

Published by Henry Holt and Company (2019)



U.S. Ghost Army: The Master Illusionists of World War II (Amazing World War II Stories)

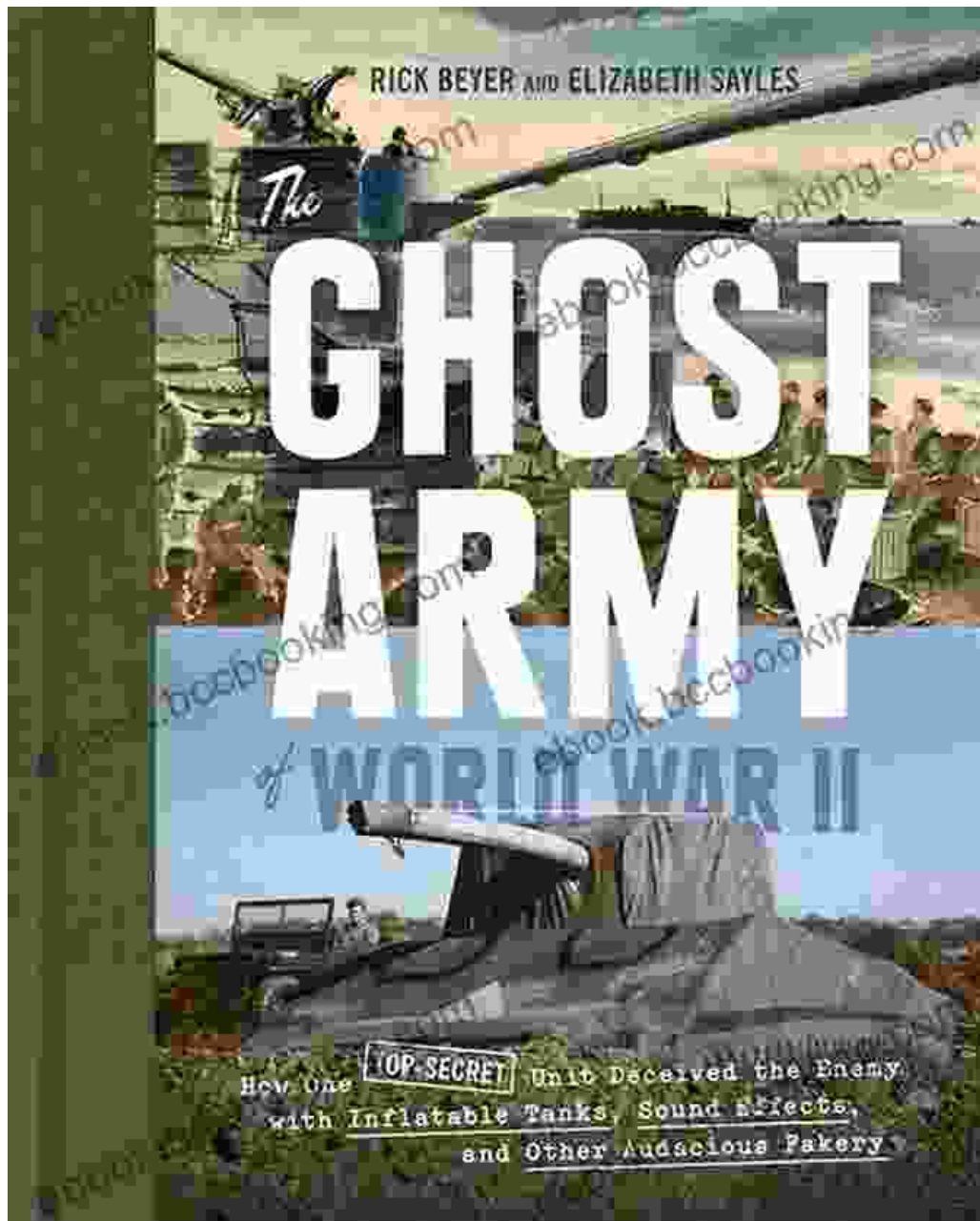
★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

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Print length : 32 pages





In the annals of military history, the Ghost Army stands as a remarkable story of deception and strategic ingenuity. During World War II, a top-secret unit of American soldiers was tasked with creating a phantom army to confound the Nazis and protect the Allied invasion of Normandy.

Codenamed Operation Fortitude, the Ghost Army's mission was to deceive German intelligence into believing that the Allies were planning to attack in

Calais, France, instead of Normandy. Using inflatable tanks, trucks, and artillery, the Ghost Division created a shadow force that moved around the countryside, casting doubt on the Allies' true intentions.

Soldiers of Deception

The men of the Ghost Army were an eclectic group of artists, engineers, and illusionists. They included a sculptor who designed inflatable tanks, a sound effects expert who created realistic recordings of military activities, and a magician who mastered the art of misdirection.

Under the cover of darkness, the Ghost Army would set up their inflatable weaponry near German observation posts. They would simulate tank movements, artillery fire, and even foot soldiers. The Germans, believing that a large Allied force was massing near Calais, diverted their resources and troops away from Normandy.

The Invisible Army

The Ghost Army operated in near complete secrecy. The soldiers were forbidden from discussing their mission with anyone outside the unit. They adopted false identities and wore special uniforms that concealed their true affiliation. Their camp was hidden in the woods and patrolled by guards to prevent any unauthorized visitors.

Despite their meticulous precautions, the Ghost Army's deception was almost exposed on several occasions. German spies infiltrated their camp, and enemy aircraft flew overhead. However, through quick thinking and sheer luck, they managed to maintain their charade until the Allied invasion on D-Day.

Impact on D-Day

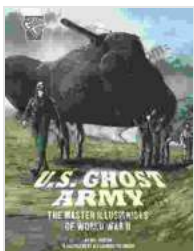
The Ghost Army's success had a significant impact on the outcome of the Battle of Normandy. By convincing the Germans that the attack was coming at Calais, they diverted attention and resources away from the real invasion at Utah Beach. This allowed the Allies to establish a foothold in France and paved the way for the eventual liberation of Europe.

Legacy of Deception

The story of the Ghost Army remained classified for decades after the war. Only in recent years has the full extent of their deception been revealed. Their legacy as masters of military deception continues to inspire and intrigue military strategists and historians alike.

Rick Atkinson's gripping account of the Ghost Army provides a fascinating glimpse into this secret world of illusion and deception. Through vivid storytelling and meticulous research, he brings to life the extraordinary soldiers who outwitted the Nazis and played a crucial role in the Allied victory.

For those interested in military history, World War II espionage, or simply captivating stories of human ingenuity, Ghost Army is an essential read. It is a testament to the power of deception and the resilience of those who fought against tyranny.



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