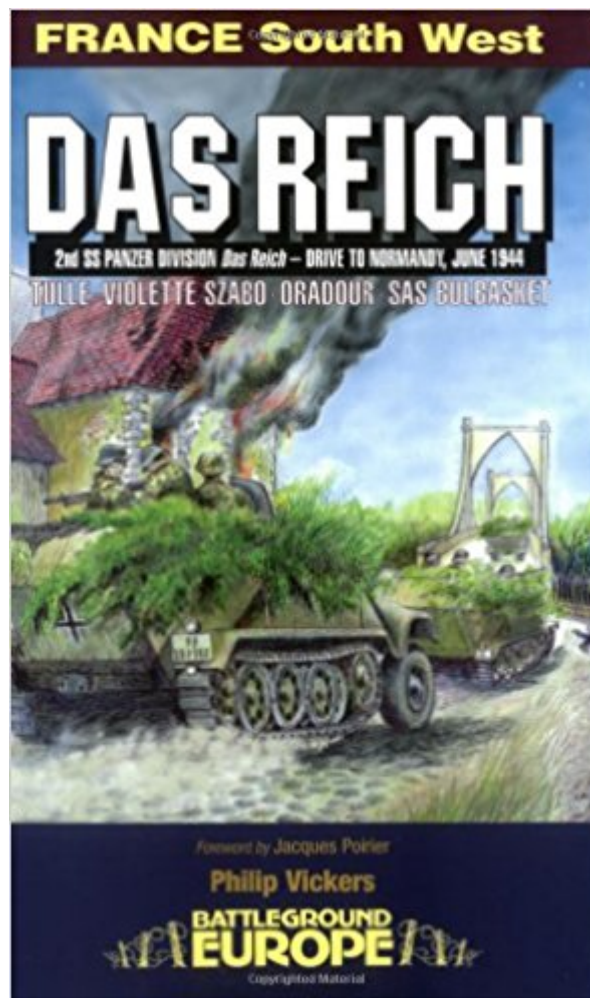




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# Das Reich: 2nd SS Panzer Division 'Das Reich' - Drive To Normandy, June 1944 (Battleground Europe)



## Synopsis

The regiments of the 2nd SS Panzer Division "Das Reich" were, along with the "Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler," the senior units of the Waffen-SS. While not as closely linked to atrocities as some other branches of the SS, they were a hard lot, and spent much of the war on the Eastern Front, where the fighting was especially merciless. June 6, 1944 found the division refitting at Montauban in southwestern France. Ordered to proceed to Normandy to contain the Allied landings, the division's journey turned into a nightmare of ambushes and reprisals, as the column was attacked by the French Resistance and some British special forces units. SS reprisals culminated in the massacre at Oradour, probably the largest killing of civilians on the Western Front. The complete story of the SS juggernaut across France is covered here in all the detail associated with the Battleground Europe series, with numerous illustrations, maps and guides to the sites as they are today.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ian Daglish is a well respected military historian, battlefield guide and lecturer. His other books include Operation Bluecoat and Goodwood (Over the Battlefield).

I was fully aware of the exploits of the elite Das Reich Division at Kursk 1943 but lost track of them after being transferred after the offensive was called off. I was not expecting the ending that I got. The book should have been entitled "The French Resistance against the Germans in Southern France". If you're expecting the division to go out in a blaze of glory, defending the line against US fighters at Roncey, forget it. This book covers Das Reich in a superficial way and focuses on the

heroic resistance of the French underground and Allied agents helping them against the brutal ways of the Germans. There is much more discussion of the resistance movement and there are many more photos of French freedom fighters and Allied agents than there are of the German Division. There are a few black and white maps. This brief review will give you a better idea of what you're getting. If you are looking for material on the French underground then this book will help you.

fantastic read

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