



P. 34

**KGB  
SECRETS**



P. 54

**TITO'S  
PARTISAN  
WAR**



P. 30

**NAPOLEON'S  
OLD  
GUARD**



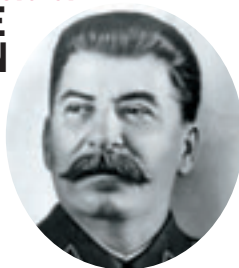
P. 68

**AUSSIE  
JUNGLE  
FIGHTERS**

**ARMCHAIR**

# GENERAL

**AUTHOR SUVOROV:  
BLAME  
STALIN  
FOR  
WWII!**  
P. 92



# PATTON

**TWO  
'MAGNIFICENT  
BASTARDS'**

**VS.**

**THEY WERE WWII'S  
GREATEST BATTLE  
MASTERS!**

# ROMMEL

**PLUS**

**Ike's Disaster  
at Kasserine**

**What Really Happened  
at Katyn Forest?**

\$5.95

NOVEMBER 2008  
DISPLAY UNTIL NOVEMBER 30



**GREAT HISTORY >>  
STRATEGY >>  
LEADERSHIP >>  
GAMES >>**

ARMCHAIRGENERAL.COM

## COVER STORY

- 46 Patton vs. Rommel: Battlefield Masters**  
A renowned historian and best-selling author reveals the secrets to the success of World War II's most famous combat commanders. *By Carlo D'Este*

## FEATURES

- HISTORY'S MYSTERIES**
- 42 Katyn Forest Massacre**  
The ghosts of Poland's murdered officer corps have haunted Polish-Russian relations for over six decades, provoking bitterness and controversy. *By Jacek Lubecki*
- 54 Tito's War**  
The story of Josip Broz, a Yugoslav partisan leader who took on dictators Adolf Hitler *and* Joseph Stalin – and beat them both. *By Kurt W. Jefferson*

## INTERACTIVE

- COMBAT!**
- 63 U.S. Tankers in North Africa, 1943**  
Choose the correct course of action as an American tank crew faces Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps veterans in the Tunisian desert.
- YOU COMMAND**
- 68 Aussies at Buna, 1942**  
Test your combat decision-making skills as an Australian infantry leader battling fanatical Japanese defenders in the jungles of New Guinea.
- YOU COMMAND SOLUTION**
- 74 Farragut at Mobile Bay, 1864**  
Historical outcome and winning Reader Solutions to CDG #27, July 2008 issue.
- WHAT NEXT, GENERAL?**
- 78 The Desert Fox – Tunisia, 1943**  
Find out if YOU have what it takes to save the Axis armies from the advancing Allies and reverse the course of World War II in North Africa. *By Richard N. Armstrong*



**ON THE COVER**  
General George Patton and Field Marshal Erwin Rommel.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES, PHOTO BY HANS GERT FREIHERR VON ESEBECK, ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED BY VERLAG DIE HEIMBUCHEREI – BERLIN, 1943

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

## DEPARTMENTS

- 4 PUBLISHER'S NOTE**
- 6 EDITOR'S LETTER**
- 8 MAILBAG**
- 10 CRISIS WATCH**  
**Dethroning the King**  
How artillery cuts are putting U.S. troops in jeopardy. *By Ralph Peters*
- 12 DEFENSE 21**  
**New President, Old Challenges**  
Why America's defense issues won't disappear when the new administration takes over. *By Caspar Weinberger Jr.*
- 14 DISPATCHES**  
Real heroes, destinations, significant events in history, cool gear and more!
- 22 10 QUESTIONS**  
**Carlo D'Este**  
An interview with renowned historian and best-selling author Carlo D'Este.
- 26 FORGOTTEN HISTORY**  
**Second Arab Siege of Constantinople**  
The epic Byzantine victory that secured Christendom's eastern flank against Muslim predation for 700 years.
- 28 LEGENDARY COMBAT UNITS**  
**Germany's Afrika Korps**  
A profile of the force that helped Rommel earn his Desert Fox nickname.
- 30 GREAT WARRIORS**  
**Old Guard Infantrymen**  
The elite soldiers who powered Napoleon's conquests.
- 32 BADGES OF HONOR**  
**Distinguished Service Cross**  
With this American medal, "second highest" does not mean "second best."
- 34 SPY WARS**  
**KGB**  
The USSR's "sword and shield" protected Soviet secrets while stealing information from the West.
- 36 TIPPING POINTS**  
**Partisan Warfare**  
Oppressed populations waged a "people's war" against brutal Nazi occupation.
- 38 HARD CHOICES**  
**Eisenhower's Education**  
The choices Ike made after the Battle of Kasserine Pass proved to be some of his most important of World War II.
- 40 LEADERSHIP**  
**Field Marshal Erwin Rommel**  
Enduring leadership lessons from the legendary Desert Fox.
- 96 PARTING SHOT**  
**Artist at Work**
- REVIEWS**
- 86 GAME BUZZ**  
**Thanksgiving Cornucopia**  
Five games to feast on – and not a turkey in the bunch!
- 88 VIDEO GAME REVIEW**  
**Brothers in Arms: Hell's Highway** and **Rainbow Six Vegas 2**
- 90 WARGAME REVIEW**  
**Battle of Britain II: Wings of Victory** and **The Mexican American War**
- 92 BOOKSHELF**  
**Stalin the Instigator**  
Victor Suvorov's new book convicts Stalin for committing history's greatest crime.
- 94 DVD LIBRARY**  
**Desert War on Film**  
Filmmakers venture into World War II's North African desert.

*Armchair General*® [ISSN 1546-055X] is published bimonthly by Armchair General®, LLC, 4165 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd., Suite 255, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362. Periodicals Postage paid at the Thousand Oaks Post Office and at additional mailing offices. Subscription rate is \$29.95 for 6 issues (one year). Subscriptions sent outside of U.S. must be prepaid in U.S. funds with an additional \$12 for surface postage and \$20 for airmail postage. For Customer Service e-mail us at [subscriptions@armchairgeneral.com](mailto:subscriptions@armchairgeneral.com) or call us at (800)755-1366 or (386)246-3456. Canadian Post International Sales Agreement #40852014. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Armchair General®, P.O. Box 420235, Palm Coast, FL 32164-0235. Copyright ©2008, Armchair General®, LLC. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without written permission. The views expressed herein are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of Armchair General®, LLC.

# Carlo D'Este

An interview with the renowned historian and best-selling biographer of Patton, Eisenhower and Churchill.

**ACG** Our readers know you best for your superb body of historical work and for your outstanding biographies of Patton, Eisenhower, and most recently, Churchill. Yet previously, you had a successful Army career. What are some memorable highlights from that earlier period?

**D'ESTE:** In retrospect, the most significant aspect of my years of service was that it helped in a variety of ways to prepare me for a second career as a military historian and biographer. It gave me knowledge and perspective that has proved invaluable.

Easily the most memorable event was the Berlin Wall in 1961. I was stationed in Germany, and U.S. Army Europe was on high alert when we sent a battle group along the autobahn to test our right to free access to Berlin. We all held our collective breath wondering if it would trigger war.

**ACG** What motivated you to begin writing history?

**D'ESTE:** Growing up during World War II in the San Francisco Bay area, where there was so much military activity, I developed a great interest in the war. Later, my military service in Germany presented an opportunity to tour some of the European battlefields, including Normandy. My last duty station was in England, and after my retirement I was fortunate to study under the GI Bill at one of the British universities. I always felt there was more to the Normandy story than what I had read. My research led to my first book, *Decision in Normandy*, and more importantly, it became my incentive to continue to write.

**ACG** Our readers tell us they glean valuable leadership lessons from history's great commanders. Do you see any common leadership traits or characteristics among your three most famous biographical subjects – Patton, Eisenhower and Churchill?

**D'ESTE:** Each of these men possessed

such mistakes would not be repeated. Above all, these three men succeeded because of their unique ability to inspire others to follow them.

**ACG** How does your latest biography, *Warlord: A Life of Winston Churchill at War, 1874-1945*, differ from previous Churchill biographies, and what insight does it offer readers about Britain's greatest 20th-century statesman?

**D'ESTE:** *Warlord* is completely different from all previous Churchill biographies in that it focuses on his military life, beginning with his earliest experience as a young and rather brash subaltern, and how those experiences prepared him for his greatest challenge during World War II. The book is the first full biography of his military life. However, *Warlord* is much more than the story of Churchill the warrior – it is

the human story of his struggles to achieve recognition, and how he not only survived his disastrous failure in World War I but also persevered to emerge from the wilderness of the 1930s to become Britain's prime minister and war leader in 1940.

**ACG** What do you consider the "defining moment" in Churchill's remarkable life?

**D'ESTE:** There are many defining moments in his extraordinary life, but unquestionably the one that stands out is his leadership during the summer of 1940 when, against all odds, and when Britain's survival seemed nearly hopeless, he stood firm against compromising with Hitler – when



**1983. Carlo D'Este presents Britain's Princess Margaret with an autographed copy of *Decision in Normandy*, a book in which he highlights the D-Day performance of the British 3d Division. The princess was an honorary colonel in the division's Suffolk Regiment.**

an extraordinarily high degree of motivation to master his profession. Ike and Patton became great military leaders through study, hard work and a deep commitment to reading and learning from history. As a onetime soldier and war correspondent, Churchill saw firsthand the dreadful mistakes made by incompetent generals during the Boer War and World War I, and he was determined that under his leadership

# BADGES OF HONOR

## Distinguished Service Cross

“Second highest”  
does not mean “second best.”



Distinguished Service Cross

### VITAL STATISTICS

**INSTITUTED:** January 2, 1918, by President Woodrow Wilson  
**DESIGN:** Bronze cross and eagle overlay with scroll reading “For Valor”; suspended from a blue ribbon with red and white border  
**NUMBER AWARDED:**  
 World War I – 6,309  
 World War II – 5,000+  
 Korean War – 800+ (about 300 posthumous)  
 Vietnam War – 1,000+ (about 400 posthumous)  
 Post-Vietnam – 9 (through December 2007)

In 1917, General John J. Pershing, commander of the World War I American Expeditionary Force in France (and a later recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross), urged President Woodrow Wilson to authorize a new award equal to those given by European armies for combat valor. At the time, the Medal of Honor (MOH) was the only valor decoration available to U.S. service members, and the criteria for earning it was exceptionally high. On January 2, 1918, Wilson issued a directive for the creation of the U.S. Army’s Distinguished Service Cross (DSC). In July of that year, a congressional act (10 USC § 3742) established the medal into law. The DSC is presented for extreme gallantry and risk of life in combat with an armed enemy force when the action does not fully meet the rigorous criteria for an MOH.

Although first awarded during World War I, the DSC also was extended to Soldiers who had demonstrated tremendous courage in earlier conflicts, and in some cases it was given to those who had received Certificates of Merit. (See *Battlefield Detective*, “Recognizing Gallantry During the Indian Wars,” May 2008.) This allowed belated recognition of valorous combat acts in the Indian Wars (to 1890), the Spanish-American War (1898), the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1913), the Boxer Rebellion (1899-1901), and the Mexican Punitive Expedition (1916-17). Since the inception of the DSC,

over 13,000 of the medals have been awarded. (Nearly 3,500 Medals of Honor have been awarded since 1863.)

America’s other military services offer decorations that are equivalent to the U.S. Army’s DSC. The U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps recognize brave deeds with the Navy Cross (created in 1919), while the U.S. Air Force awards the Air Force Cross (created in 1960).

It is important to note that the DSC is entirely distinct from the Distinguished Service Medal (DSM), which is presented to senior military and government officials for meritorious career service.

### COLLECTOR’S GUIDE

Only official recipients of the DSC may legally obtain one, as the 2006 Stolen Valor Act makes it a crime to purchase or sell any medal authorized by Congress or to falsely claim to have earned such a medal. While copies of the DSC do exist, they also may fall under the federal law. Thus buying or trading these reproductions may be punishable by fines or imprisonment.

**References for Collectors:** *Distinguished Service Cross 1901-1938* by H.M. Fevyer, and *American Military Insignia, Medals and Decorations* by William Fowler and Evans Kerrigan.

**DSC Websites:** cmohs.org, omsa.org ★

*Peter Suci* has covered military history for more than a decade and his work has appeared in “Military Heritage” and “Military Trader.” He has been an avid collector of helmets for over 30 years.



September 1945. Spy Virginia Hall receives the Distinguished Service Cross from Gen. William Donovan. Hall was the only female civilian awarded the DSC during World War II.

### NOTABLE RECIPIENTS

**RICHARD BONG** (WWII U.S. “ace of aces”)  
**VASILY CHUIKOV** (Soviet defender of Stalingrad)  
**WILLIAM O. DARBY** (of Darby’s Rangers)  
**VIRGINIA HALL** (WWII female spy)  
**CURTIS LEMAY** (USAF)  
**DOUGLAS MACARTHUR** (3 awards; last one presented the day before Truman relieved him of command)  
**BARRY MCCAFFREY** (2 awards)  
**HENRY MUCCI** (Cabanatuan “Great Raid” Ranger)  
**AUDIE L. MURPHY**  
**GEORGE S. PATTON JR.** (2 awards)  
**LEWIS B. “CHESTY” PULLER** (USMC; also earned 5 Navy Crosses)  
**EDDIE RICKENBACKER** (WWI U.S. “ace of aces”; 7 awards)  
**RICHARD WINTERS** (Easy Co. “Band of Brothers” leader)

## THE PEOPLE ARMED: Partisan Warfare

Oppressed populations, particularly in the Soviet Union, waged a “people’s war” against brutal Nazi occupation.

**P**ushed to the limit by a ruthless occupier, ordinary citizens have sometimes armed themselves and waged a clandestine war against their oppressors. Called partisans, those irregular freedom fighters employ much the same tactics and methods as insurgents conducting classic guerrilla warfare; however, partisans seek to *defend* their country and its government from an outside invader, not *overthrow* the government.

During World War II (1939-45), the populations of several different nations turned to partisan warfare: Yugoslavs opposed German and Italian occupation of their country, eventually liberating it (see “Tito’s War,” p. 54); Maquis conducted underground resistance after France was conquered; and Filipinos fought Japanese occupiers and greatly assisted General Douglas MacArthur’s returning U.S. forces. Yet partisan warfare developed its most characteristic and refined form during the Soviets’ struggle against the Nazi occupiers within the 850,000 square miles of western Russia.

The first Russians to wage partisan-type actions were cut-off Red Army units and local Communist Party officials trapped by the advancing Germans. Although Soviet leader Joseph Stalin publicly called for a partisan war within days of the Germans’ June 22, 1941, attack, he was never one to trust his people to use too much initiative, lest they rise up against his repressive regime. Early partisan efforts therefore received little official support and were poorly organized. In September 1941, Soviet authorities listed 87,000 partisans; by January 1942, that number fell to 30,000. German forces wiped out thousands of partisans, forcing survivors to retreat to heavily forested regions or impenetrable marshlands. In open areas such as

Ukraine’s steppes, partisan activity nearly ceased altogether.

However, the brutal German occupation brought about a transformation in Russia’s partisan war. The monstrous activities of the *insatztruppen* – the mobile killing squads of the SS and police that engaged in mass murders, resource appropriations and the deportation of thousands of Soviet citizens to slave labor in the Reich – convinced the Soviets that taking up arms was the only way to avoid death or imposed starvation. Partisan ranks swelled due to rising popular hatred of the Germans, and partisan leadership was leavened by an infusion of Red Army stragglers and former Soviet POWs who had escaped from German prison camps.

The German occupiers expended little effort trying to win the hearts and minds of the Soviets. Their heavy-handed anti-partisan tactics emphasized terror, the wholesale murder of hostages, and the annihilation of entire villages suspected of harboring any enemy of the Nazis. Such vicious tactics only drove more Soviet civilians into partisan bands and thus proved generally counter-productive.

In August 1942, Stalin made a virtue of necessity by appointing P.K. Ponomarenko as director of the Central Staff of the Partisan Movement in an effort to establish centralized direction of the burgeoning partisan effort. The destruction of the Germans, Stalin announced, should be an “all people’s war,” carried out by the blows of the Red Army at the front and by the actions of the partisans at the rear. Moscow even sent instructors to train the partisans and provided logistical support such as radios, weapons, ammunition, explosives and medical supplies.

The partisan movement soon grew immensely, reaching 103,000 members in De-



Soviet partisans mine a bridge in western Belorussia as they battle the occupying Germans during World War II.

cember 1942 and 139,000 six months later. Most were young men; at the height of the effort, only about 9 percent of the members were women.

The partisans operated primarily out of the densely wooded and swampy regions of eastern Belorussia and the forested areas of Russia around Leningrad, Smolensk and Briansk. Partisan bands were small by regular army standards. Seldom did a band have more than 100 members, and typically it had fewer than 50. The standard partisan unit was a brigade composed of up to seven detachments. Brigades were large enough and mobile enough to operate on their own during a raid but could quickly concentrate or disperse depending on the tactical situation.

The partisans’ tactical advantages were speed, shock, surprise and maneuverability; thus the ambush became the quintessential



You  
Command  
**68**



You  
Command  
Solution  
**74**



What  
Next  
General?  
**78**

# INTERACTIVE

Can you successfully lead a U.S. tank and a squad of combat engineers as they fight off elements of Erwin Rommel's fast-approaching Afrika Korps? Find out in *Armchair General's* interactive tactical decision game!

**COMBAT!**

## U.S. TANKERS IN NORTH AFRICA 1943

**NEXT PAGE**

GREGORY PROUCH

MacArthur decided to *defend* Australia by *attacking* Japanese forces in eastern New Guinea.



Australian soldiers of the 30th Infantry Battalion cross a river near Weber Point, New Guinea. As they trekked from Roinji to link up with American troops at Yagomai, their advance was slowed by kunai grass, muddy swamps and numerous water obstacles.

### 9TH BATTALION COMMAND POST DECEMBER 17, 1942

As you swat ineffectually at the swarms of mosquitoes buzzing around your head, sweat drips off your face and onto the map you hover over in your makeshift battalion command post. A short while ago, 18th Brigade headquarters sent a mission order that you had expected yet dreaded. Your 9th Battalion has been ordered to eliminate the Japanese defenses southeast of Buna and seize two airfields there. (See CDG map on page 71.) “This mission comes straight from the top, Clem,”

your brigade commander had said, “and you have only 24 hours to accomplish it.”

Your battalion consists of 26 officers and 638 men divided into four infantry companies, A through D. Your infantrymen are armed chiefly with grenades, World War I-vintage bolt-action Enfield No. 1 Mk 3 rifles, and a scattering of various models of submachine guns. Each company also has several .303-caliber Bren machine guns and some light mortars.

For added support during your mission, you have been assigned two platoons of U.S.-

made Stuart light tanks with Australian crews. The seven lightly armored tanks each mount a small 37 mm main gun and two .30-caliber machine guns. Equal to any Japanese tanks, the compact Stuarts are perfect for combat in dense jungle terrain.

You have also received a platoon of five Bren Gun Carriers. Each open-topped, lightly armored tracked vehicle mounts a .303-caliber Bren machine gun. Like the Stuarts, the small Bren carriers are handy in jungle combat when facing enemy small-arms fire.

Lastly, to supplement your battalion’s

# Thanksgiving Cornucopia

Five games to feast on this holiday season – and not a “turkey” in the bunch!



Just looking at the map for John Tiller's *Winter War* makes players cold!

**1** John Tiller's *Winter War* re-creates the battles of the 1939-40 Russo-Finnish War and Finland's Continuation War against the USSR (while allied with Germany). Using HPS Simulation's (hpssims.com) famous *Squad Battles* game engine, participants fight 58 battles and three campaigns on 24 different maps, some as large as 38,000 hexes.

*Winter War* is turn-based, so players have time to contemplate their next moves before acting. They take control of tanks, squads and leaders, choosing targets and deciding how and where their formations will overcome the enemy. New rules

and options, including enhanced armor assaults on infantry in clear terrain and the ability to capture civilians, improve the system. It's a nice offering from one of the veteran companies in the business.

**2** *Empire: Total War* (sega.com) is a real-time strategy game covering the era from 1700 to shortly after 1800, a pivotal period in the development of modern war. For the first time in the *Total War* series, formations are predominantly composed of men armed with guns – muskets in this case. The action is electrifying as hundreds of soldiers rush the battlefield, where they fire against the backdrop of lush 3-D landscapes. Innovations include the ability to place men in buildings and position line formations behind walls. Meanwhile, the turn-based grand campaign, which overarches the real-time battles, is introduced slowly, giving participants time to adapt to the game's complexities.

The most exciting change from previous titles is the addition of fleets. Players now have the chance to fight naval battles on the high seas, with up to 20 ships on each side. From the hulking men of war to the fast frigates, they are all simply stunning.

*Empire: Total War* should be on store shelves by late 2008 – and that's good news, because this game is something to look forward to!



Ships like these play a big role in the fighting in *Empire Total War*.