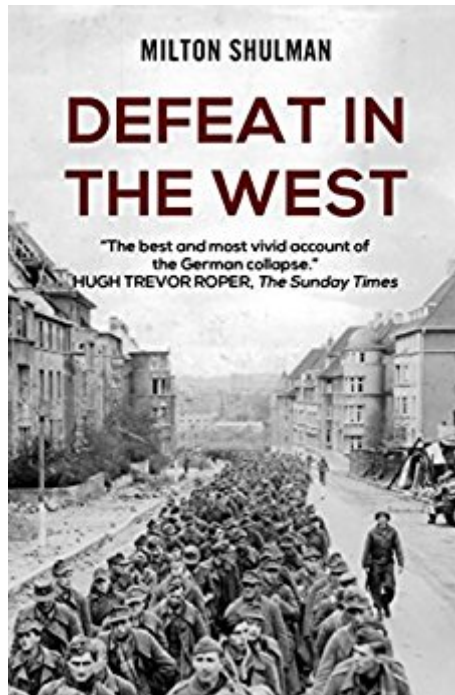




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# Defeat In The West



## Synopsis

"The best and most vivid account of the German collapse." Hugh Trevor-Roper, *The Sunday Times* "Ambitiously enough this volume was begun with a threefold object • to tell the story of the defeat of the German Wehrmacht in the West, to suggest some of the causes that brought about that defeat, and finally to show how men, both great and small, react to the overwhelming, psychological experience of defeat itself." Milton Shulman "Defeat in the West is a detailed and thorough account of the reasons behind Germany's loss of World War 2. Among these reasons, Shulman firmly places the responsibility for the magnitude of lost lives at the feet of Adolf Hitler. A combination of the Fuhrer's military ineptness, his refusal to take advice and his unique position of power made victory in WWII much less likely for Germany. Shulman also gives an account of the major military mistakes made by the German Army beginning a war with Russia on the eastern front, declaring war on the U.S., and the decisive losses in North Africa. Defeat in the West is an important addition to WWII military history and a must-read for those interested in the subject. "An evaluation of the causes of German defeat, analyzed from interrogations of senior German officers, and a pre-D-day study of the German army, by an officer of the Intelligence Staff of the First Canadian Army." Kirkus Reviews "His account of the strange relations between Hitler and the German General Staff is most revealing." *The Canadian Historical Review* "The sources that he has utilized are impressive. They consist essentially of Anglo-American intelligence summaries, which often incorporated captured German documents, of the published records of the Nuremberg Trial, and of his own and other interrogations of German officers." *Saturday Review* Milton Shulman (1 September 1913 – 24 May 2004) was a Canadian author, film and theatre critic. He joined the Canadian Army in 1944 as a major and by the war's end he was an intelligence officer with the First Canadian Army. He interviewed many of the captured German generals in the following months and years including Gerd von Rundstedt and Kurt Meyer. As a result of these interviews he wrote the classic Second World War military history *Defeat in the West*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

An excellent in-depth analysis with accurate perspective from both the Allied and German sides. Nazi mistakes which accelerated Germany's defeat are explored in detail, Anglo-American exploitation of the mistakes against them explain the consistent defeat and retreat in the West of the best military force of World War II. Not minimizing Soviet achievements in the east, Schulman's Book helps to explain total defeat of Germany in the West by an Allied force that quickly adapted and matured as the war progressed, eventually evolving from student into teacher.

To thoroughly enjoy this book you need to be a WW II history buff. The author was a major in Canadian Army intelligence and had the opportunity to interview about three dozen German field officers, including several Field Marshals. He also had access to many records including the Nuremberg testimony. Some of these interviews were in POW camps before the war was over so the book is very insightful of the mistakes made by Hitler and the unthinking discipline and loyalty of his officers. The stupidity of the High Command and Supreme Command (Hitler) was appalling but to disobey was death. Hitler did much for the allies to win the war and his officers went along with his intuitive strategies even after they knew the war was lost. The detail and first hand comments by the officers are greatly interesting and enlightening to the reader.

This is a must read! I can't even describe the horror of it at. It has to be experienced by oneself by reading this book to really understand the magnitude of Hitler's evil mind. Blind obedience has no place in the military. There has to be accountability or there remains only tyranny and tyrants. Clearly all this was present in German Army. Raw ambition and greed were at work here and willing

puppets to play their parts well. Now I know even more and am saddened to the core by all the millions who died needlessly simply because one fanatical man wanted to rule the world. Will we ever learn?

Just ok. Information seems surfacey. Claims that Nazi Germany was repeatedly on the cusp of victory in WW2, but for the odd mistake, is not compatible with the economic and industrial realities of Germany vs the US, USSR, and British Empire. Seems like a 1960's era analysis. Maybe it was. I don't recall the publication date. In my opinion. Still, some good stuff, such as the appropriate and fair (mostly negative) reappraisal of Rommel's generalship and complete failure to grasp the importance of logistics. But if there's one thing we can all agree on, it's that the publisher should do a simple 'find and replace' to correct the perpetual misspelling of Franz Halder's as 'Haider'.

A marvelous book of the Allied march across Europe to Germany. The very best thing is that it tells first hand experiences from both the German and Allied sides, from private to top generals. A must for history buffs. I hated to see it end.

Good book on military aspects of western front. Using actual orders the author shows the effects on the western front to Germany's loss in WWII.

In the introduction by Major General Sir Ian Jacob, we are told that during WWII it was Milton Shulman's "duty as a member of the Intelligence Staff of the Canadian Army to make a detailed study of the German Army before D-Day. He then made close personal contact with it throughout operations in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. Finally, he was given the task of interrogating a large number of the senior Commanders who had fought for Germany against the Allies in the West, including such notable figures as von Runstedt, 'Sepp' Dietrich and Student." This book, based upon those interviews, was originally published in 1947, then revised and republished in 1968. The focus is on the German Army's experience of the war, but even in this it does not enter into a detailed account of battles. "Each mistake that led to Germany's ultimate defeat was compounded out of the same elements -- a Führer who was guided by intuition rather than logic, a group of advisers who consistently underestimated and misappreciated the moral and physical capacity of their opponents, a military clique that allowed itself to be kept in the dark and was too disciplined or too self-seeking to protest even when it began to see the light." (122) "Thus, with Hitler's death, the tottering structure of the Third Reich quickly began to collapse." (381) "If this

book has proved anything, I trust that it has proved that as well as making strategical blunders of the first magnitude in the early years of the war, the German generals also made far-reaching mistakes of their own design in the battles of the West. These mistakes, some made with Hitler's help and a large number made without it, undoubtedly brought about Germany's military defeat."

(384)Appendix A (complete).Senior German Officers Interviewed by the Author --- Field Marshall Karl Gerd von Rundstedt, Commander in Chief of the West.- Colonel General Joseph 'Sepp' Dietrich, Commander 1 S.S. Panzer Corps, Fifth Panzer Army, Sixth S.S. Panzer Army.- Colonel General Kurt Student, Commander German Airborne Troops, Army Group 'H', First Parachute Army.- Colonel General Heinrich von Vietinghoff, Commander Army Group 'C', Tenth Army.- General Günther Blumentritt, Chief of Staff to Commander-in-Chief West, Commander Twenty-fifth Army, First Parachute Army.- General Hans Eberbach, Commander Seventh Army, Panzer Group 'Eberbach'.- General Richard Heidrich, Commander First Parachute Corps, 1 Parachute Division.- General Heinrich von Lüttwitz, Commander 47 Panzer Corps, 2 Panzer Division.- General Eugen Meindl, Commander 2 Parachute Corps.- General Alfred Schlemm, Commander First Parachute Army.- General Eugen-Felix Schwalbe, Commander 88 Corps, 719 Infantry Division, 344 Infantry Division.- General Leo Geyr von Schweppenburg, Commander Panzer Group West.- General Otto Sponheimer, Commander 67 Corps.- General Erich Straube, Commander 86 Corps.- General Gustav von Zangen, Commander Fifteenth Army, 87 Corps.- Lieutenant General Wilhelm Daser, Commander 70 Infantry Division.- Lieutenant General Eric Diestel, Commander 346 Infantry Division.- Lieutenant General Edgar Feuchtinger, Commander 21 Panzer Division.- Lieutenant General Ferdinand Heim, Commandant 'Fortress Boulogne'.- Lieutenant General Wolfgang Pickert, Commander 3 Flak Corps.- Lieutenant General Hermann Plocher, Commander 6 Parachute Division.- Lieutenant General Erwin Sander, Commander 245 Infantry Division.- Major General Kurt Meyer, Commander 12 S.S. Panzer Division.- Major General Theodor Wisch, Commander 1 S.S. Panzer Division.- Colonel Eberhard Wildermuth, Commandant 'Fortress Le Havre'.- Lieutenant Colonel Ludwig Schroeder, Commandant 'Fortress Calais'.

Comprehensive coverage of the Allies campaign in the west, starting from D-Day. This book was written soon after the war, so the author did not have access to a lot of material other than Allied war documentation and testimony from some Wehrmacht generals. Still it is a good read, although it overly complimentary about the American generals.

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