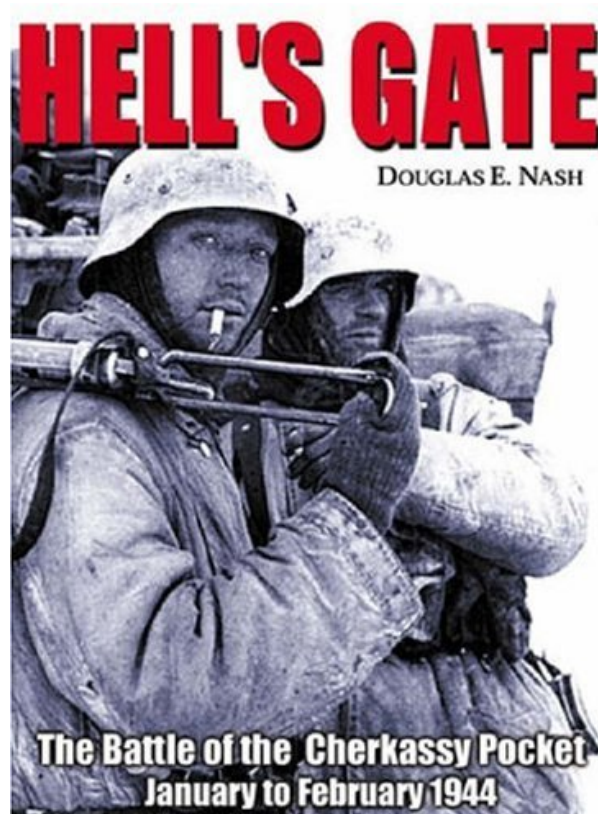


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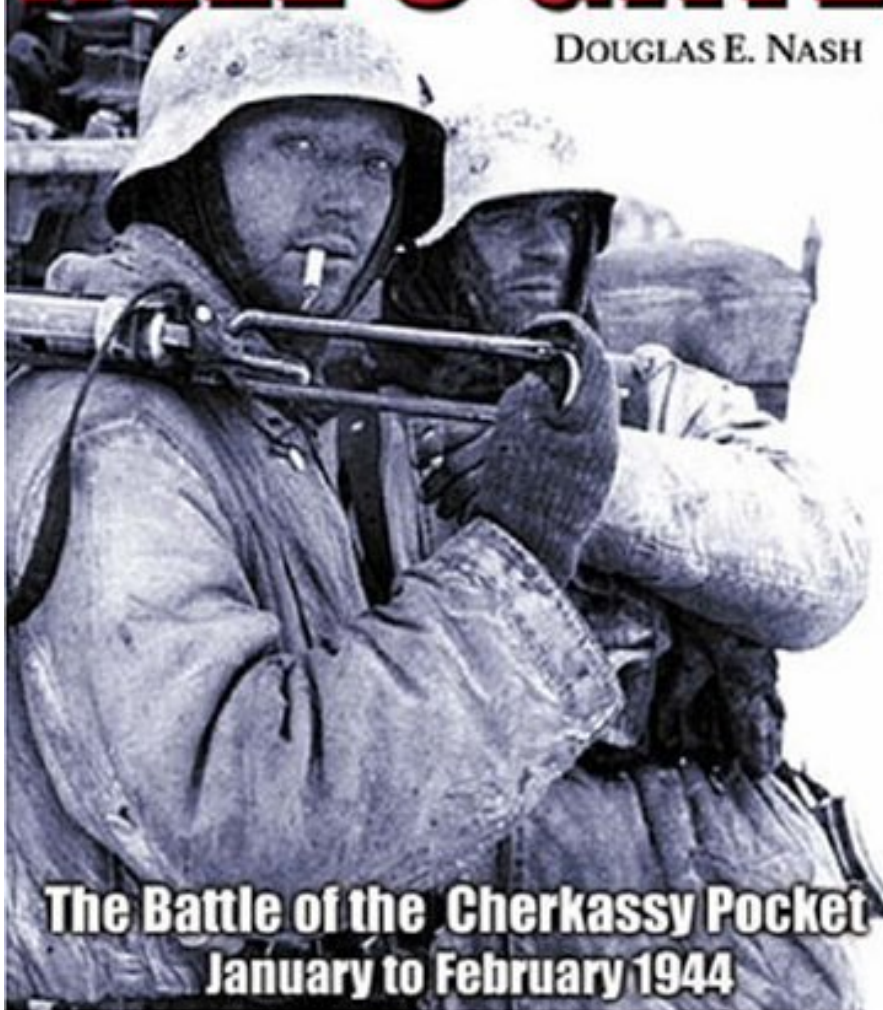


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Virtually unknown in the English-speaking world, the Battle of Cherkassy (also known as the Korsun Pocket) still stirs controversy in both the former Soviet Union and in Germany. It was at Cherkassy that the last German offensive strength in the Ukraine was drained away, creating the conditions for the victorious Soviet advance into Poland, Rumania, and the Balkans during the summer and autumn of 1944. Eclipsed by a war of such gigantic proportions that saw the deaths of over one million men or more as commonplace, the events which occurred along the banks of the Gniloy Tickich river should have faded into obscurity. However, to the 60,000 German soldiers who were encircled there at the end of January 1944, this was perhaps one of the most brutal, physically exhausting, and morally demanding battles they had ever experienced. Thirty-four percent of them would not escape. The culmination of years of research and survivor interviews, Hell's Gate is a riveting hour by hour and day by day account of this desperate struggle analyzed on a tactical level through maps and military transcripts, as well as on a personal level, through the words of the enlisted men and officers who risked the roaring waters of the Gniloy Tickich to avoid certain death at the hands of their Soviet foe.

- Sales Rank: #533842 in Books
- Published on: 2002-06-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 11.75" h x 9.25" w x 1.50" l, 4.04 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 417 pages

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Eastern Anomaly

By Kevin Black, MA, MBA

Nash has written, I believe to be, one of the greatest works on the East Front. Stories of courage, imagination, and leader innovation are traits that mark the history of the East Front and are clearly present in this book. What makes this book an anomaly as my heading states? It is the fact that Douglas Nash clearly projects how personal the war was - not only at a tactical level, but also at the operational.

The Battle of Cherkassy (Korson) Pocket signified the destruction of the last German offensive capability in the East.

More importantly, it symbolizes two great operational struggles: The Russian will to destroy their invaders by attempting to create another Stalingrad catastrophe and the German resolve to survive and escape annihilation.

The Book describes the battle in three major levels: strategic, operation, and tactical. Each level includes the planning, coordination, and execution of their respective missions. The decisive characteristic of this work is the smooth intregration of all three of the levels and their respective components. Coupled with the operational and strategic awareness, Nash presents a myriad of personal accounts and stories at the tactical

level that are uncommon for a book that covers an event of such size and magnitude. As a result, one will easily "feel" the desperation on the opposing forces. The result of Nash's diligent work: one will become immersed in the story rather than bored or confused from the complexity of the battlefield.

Finally, I want to address to the physical attributes of the book. The old saying, "Don't judge a book by its cover" should NOT apply here. The size, material, mere construction, and the cover pic leave an incredible, positive impression which is absolutely fulfilled by its content.

I became fascinated with the Battle of the Cherkassy (Korson) Pocket after reading about it in Paul Carrel's SCORTCHED EARTH; however, Carrel left me yearning for more detail about the battle - Douglas Nash successfully filled the void.

34 of 37 people found the following review helpful.

Good historical analysis

By citizen

Hell's Gate is a very good, in depth analysis of one of the Eastern front's most important battles. The buyer should be aware however that this book, in my opinion, is meant for military historians, not for the casual reader. As indicated in previous reviews, the book would benefit from better maps and detailed illustrations supporting the troop movements and positions well described in the book. My other criticism is that the author approaches the subject very analytically, and while he has incorporated first person material he has missed an opportunity to make the subject matter much more exciting and a better read. All in all it is a very good, detailed account of military history and if you are a serious student of WWII & the Eastern Front you would benefit by purchasing this product.

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Lucky the ones who escaped.

By A Customer

Lucky, the ones who escaped

By far one of the best written books about this epic battle on the Eastern Front [Cherkassy] during W.W.II. This book is a must read. You'll never forget the agony, despair, and also the will to survive by any means, of those soldiers involved in this brutal battle.

Just an amazing book for the money !!!!

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