

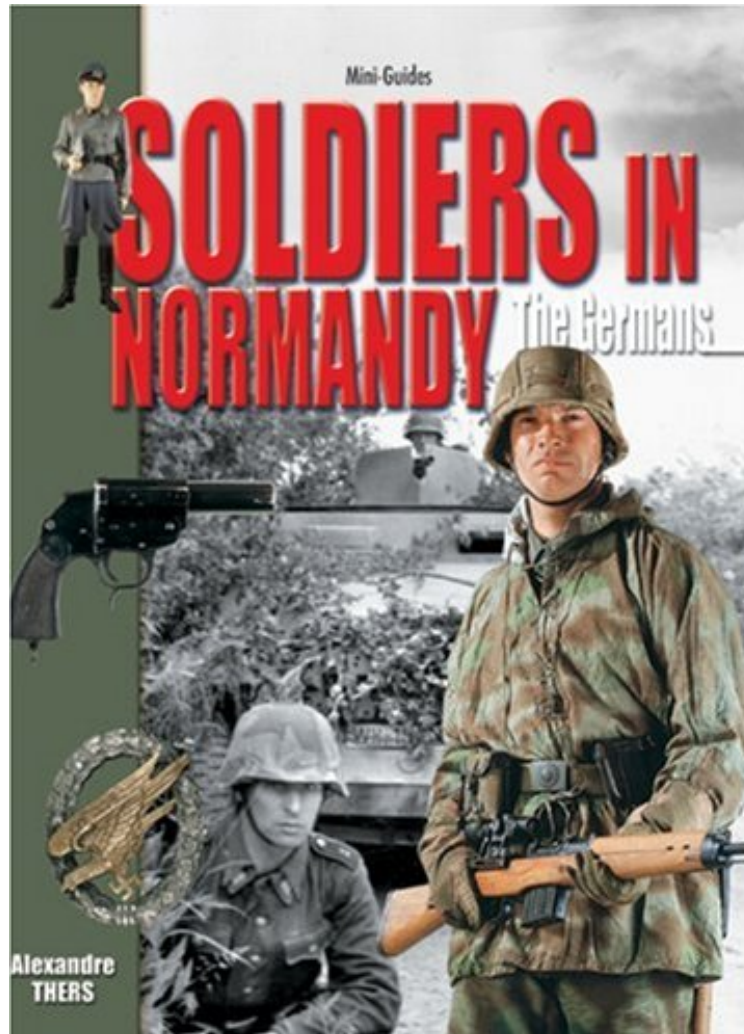
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Soldiers in Normandy: The Germans

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3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A detailed review of German soldiers at NormandyBy Robert SabbaThis guide provides a brief, but detailed look at the German soldiers, and their level of preparedness during the Normandy campaign. It does a nice job of describing everyone from costal gunners, to elite Waffen SS units. I found it quite interesting how the German defenders were a real mixed bag of well equipped and prepared units (such as Waffen SS) and undermanned and poorly equipped units (such as the "static" divisions). A nice addition to anyone's collection of WWII.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. not worth buyingBy GSnot worth buying....very minimal info and pages.Spend the extra money and get something worthwhile and more useful and informative6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. An interesting and well designed guideBy David W. LangSoldiers in

Normandy: The Germans by Alexandre Thers is one of three complimentary mini-guides (the other two are focused on American and British soldiers), each devoted not to the events of the battle but to what the personnel looked like as they performed their duties. As such, this well designed book is a compliment to other works devoted to uniforms and equipment. Thers illustrates widely differing individual groups, including coastal gunners, grenadiers, armored grenadiers, tank crewmen, tank killers, and several other key teams. His choices allow Thers to give credit to those who are often overlooked in standard histories, such as the paratroopers. One doesn't often hear of the German paratroopers at Normandy, but they were there--with poor survival odds at best. The text is minimal but adequate, and the illustrations are first rate. Nicely done

Each mini-guide allows the reader to get to know more about a region's history, linking historical events with places of interest and sites of note, as well as providing an unprecedented visual feast of contemporary photographs, uniforms, badges and equipment - all in full color. Practical information is included in each mini-guide and itineraries are suggested for those wishing to visit battlefields, monuments, memorials and museums. German forces stationed in Normandy at the time of the invasion were mainly Army (Heer) infantry divisions, most of which were supported by horse drawn transport. Amongst these were so-called static units which were incapable of maneuver. The majority of these formations were of mixed ability and had little combat value. The sole exception to this was the 6th Fallschirmjäger-Division, made-up of welltrained and fanatical paratroopers. As for armored forces, the German army could only boast three divisions which were truly combat-ready. By contrast, the Waffen-SS panzerdivisions were vastly better and demonstrated their superiority in combat. Often outclassed by the Allies in terms of materiel (particularly the number of tanks), logistics and suffering from a crippling shortage of fuel, the Germans were literally pushed around by the attackers, being forced to react to rather than to initiate combat, in the most part. Their situation was made even worse by the fact that they could not count on air support. Despite all of these shortcomings, the Germans used all off the opportunities afforded them by the landscape of Normandy, particularly the Bocage region, to inflict severe damage on Allied units.