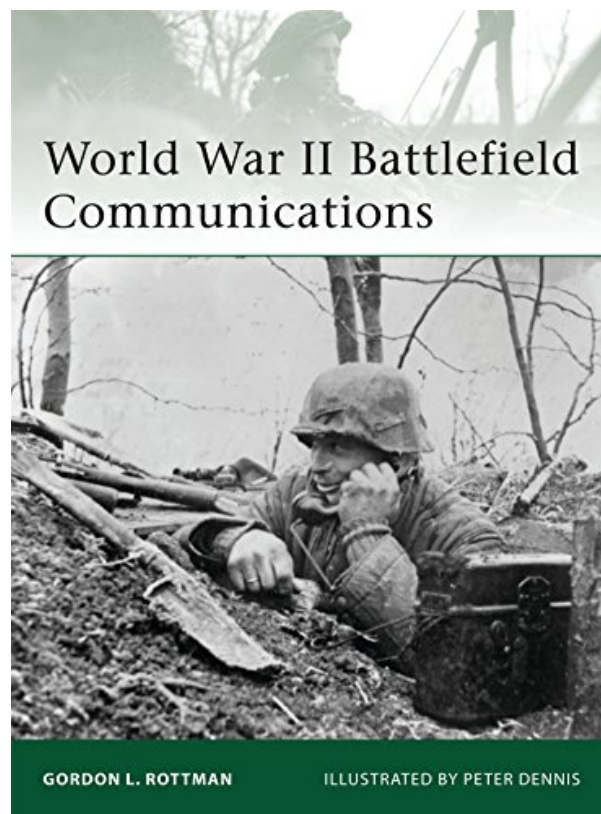
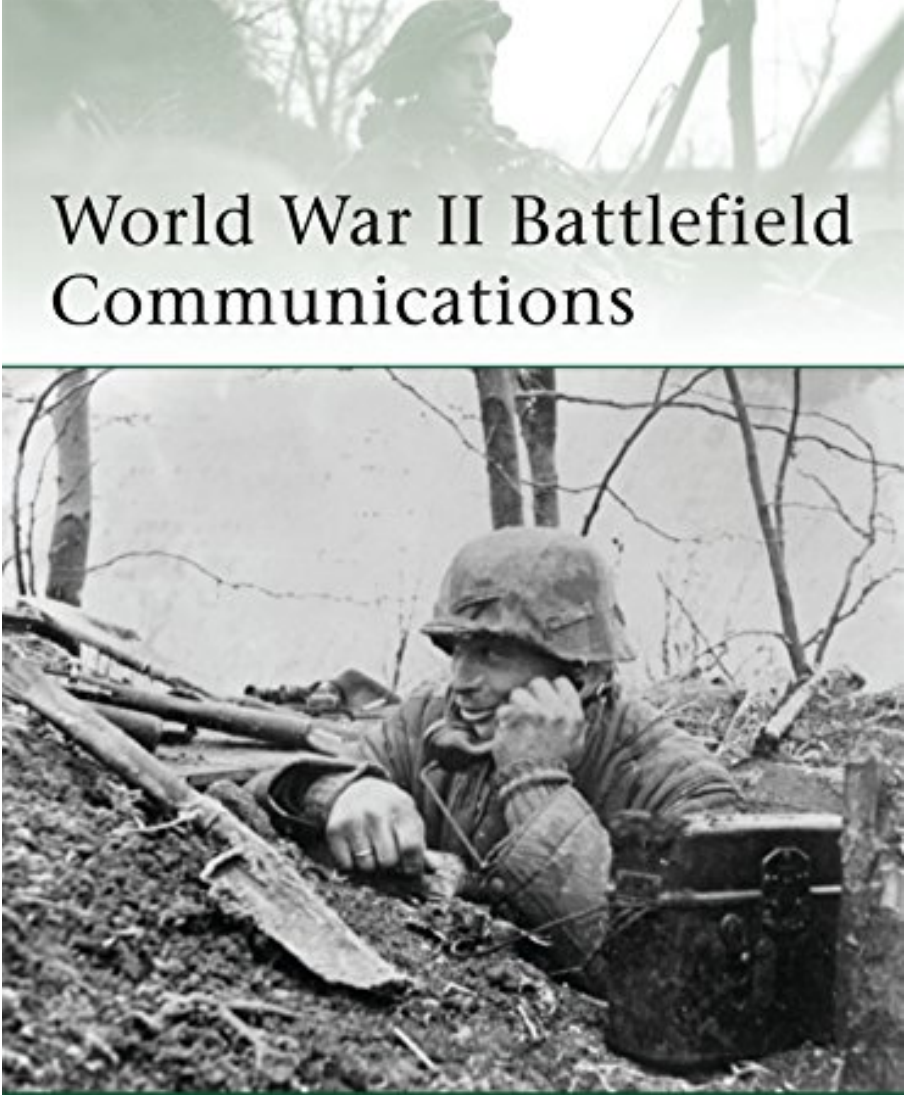


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World War II Battlefield Communications

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Review

“... an informative study of how radio communications revolutionized the battlefield through the use of manportable radios, field telephones, signal flares and ground-to-air signaling. Included in this book are over 50 photographs and 8 full-color plates detailing US, British, Soviet, German and Japanese equipment.”
?www.mataka.org (November 2010)

About the Author

Gordon L. Rottman entered the US Army in 1967, volunteered for Special Forces and completed training as a weapons specialist. He served in the 5th Special Forces Group in Vietnam in 1969-70 and subsequently in airborne infantry, long-range patrol and intelligence assignments until retiring after 26 years. He was a Special Operations Forces scenario writer at the Joint Readiness Training Center for 12 years and is now a freelance writer, living in Texas. The author lives in Cyprus, TX.

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Osprey's examination of technological advances in communications during World War II (1939-1945). Perhaps the biggest difference in the fighting between the two World Wars lay in the invention of the man-portable radio that allowed for a greater degree of tactical coordination than ever before. Gordon L. Rottman provides an informative study of the use of small radios, field telephones, signal flares and ground-to-air signaling that revolutionized the battlefield.

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Most helpful customer reviews

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Fills in some needed information!

By R. Douglas Johnson

This work is another in the series dedicated to WWII infantry combat by Osprey. These books explain the 'nuts and bolts' of infantry combat using a 'How and with What' approach that makes clearer what is read in WWII history is accomplished for those of us fortunate enough to be reading it sitting in a comfortable chair!

World War II Battlefield Communications is a much needed look in to how units communicated with each other under operational conditions. It looks at American, Commonwealth, Russian, German and Japanese equipment and operational practice individually after casting light on the basics of visual, wire and wireless communication common to all. The illustrations and pictures are well placed in the narrative to increase the subject comprehension like all the previous books in this series.

For me, this gave me some idea on how various battles I have read about were affected by communication or lack thereof. This subject has long needed to be addressed in a fairly brief, clear and concise matter and this book goes a long way to filling in this gap. My only complaint would be is that it could be more in depth but this is not the purpose of these books!

I highly recommend this to anyone curious about this aspect of WWII infantry combat!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

This short book is a general overview of telephone and ...

By PJ

This short book is a general overview of telephone and radio communications used by all major combatants during the war. As a result, there isn't a lot of detailed information on the equipment and procedures of each combatant. Someone could probably write a decent sized book just on German field telephone communications alone.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

A very good overview of these systems

By Yoda

Any review of this book would have to start out by stating that it is relatively short, at about 65 pages (a third of which consist of photographs, color plates and other types of illustrations). Despite this short length, however, it provides a very good overview of tactical battlefield communications systems used during the Second World War at the regiment and brigade level and below. It covers these communication systems for the US, Britain, Soviet Union, Germany and Japan. The systems covered include (not necessarily in order of importance) field telephones, radios, visual signals (such as flares, smoke, flags, marker panels, signal lights and arm and hand signals), messengers and audible signals. Not only are very detailed technical details regarding each of these (i.e., frequencies radios operated on, weight, etc.), but there is a good discussion of how, tactically, they were used as well as their strengths and weaknesses (per and relative to each other). In addition, there are very good photographs and color plates and illustrations that would prove of some value (or at least a decent starting point) for the figurine and diorama builder.

Not only is this provided but signal units are discussed as well as distribution of these systems by unit type (i.e., at the platoon, squad, etc. levels). The procedures used for each are also discussed. Last but not least many tidbits of information are provided that would be of interest to WWII aficionados. For example, the Soviet Union had little communication equipment and most of what it did have was of foreign manufacture, radio communications during the period were quite rudimentary relative to what they are today (to say the least) and telephones were the most preferred (and most reliable) form of communication, despite their many drawbacks.

In short, the reader receives quite an education regarding the physical characteristics of these systems, their tactical use, the organizational structure they were used under and the procedures required for their use. A very good survey for those interested in an overview of the subject. On the negative side the book is a bit dry, due to its technical nature, but how can a book on this subject not be?

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