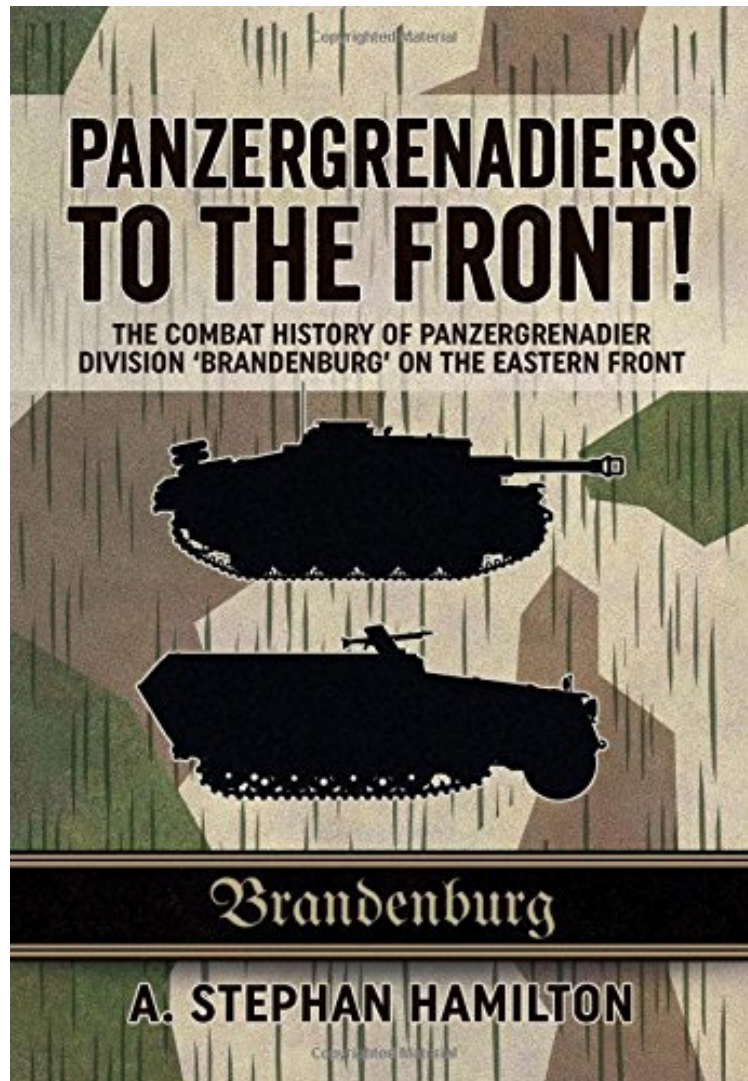


#350934 in Books imusti 2016-12-27 2017-01-10Original language:English 9.90 x 1.70 x 7.00l, .0 #File Name: 1910777137464 pagesHelion Company | File size: 77.Mb



*A. Stephan Hamilton*  
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## **Panzer Grenadiers to the Front!: The Combat History of Panzer Grenadier Division 'Brandenburg' on the Eastern Front 1944-45**

**A. Stephan Hamilton : Panzer Grenadiers to the Front!: The Combat History of Panzer Grenadier Division 'Brandenburg' on the Eastern Front 1944-45** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Panzer Grenadiers to the Front!: The Combat History of Panzer Grenadier Division 'Brandenburg' on the Eastern Front 1944-45:

13 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Bravo By BAM publisher Helion are finally learning to produce decent maps and they make a very good separate mapbook for this book, with over 30 good, clear, color maps. The book itself is a great mix of strategic overview mixed with tactical 1st person accounts, and is a well written, flowing story, detailing actions from Oct 44 near Belgrade, to Jan 45 at Lodz, retreat thru Poland to the Oder/Neisse in Feb, and then a very good section on the fighting from April 16th to the counterattacks around Bautzen thru to the end of April. Final section is a look at the final week of the war which saw Brandenburg shipped east to Olmütz in Czech to hold open the retreat route of 1st Pz. Army from Mährisch Odrau region in May. Overall, a very good, detailed unit history backed with many clear maps. No photos except a few of Bautzen, but no vehicles. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Mr. Hamilton has done it again! By Mr. T. If you have read Mr. Hamilton's Oder Front book, you know his meticulous attention to detail, (If you have not, do so immediately). His insistence on using primary sources brings an authenticity matched by few. This book is truly remarkable in a number of ways, and must be read and reread to be truly enjoyed. This book will complete your understanding of the final days of the WW II. This one is definitely a must for the history enthusiast, I have added it to my library and so should you. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book on this unit covers the unit from beginning ... By Scott Bailey Excellent book on this unit covers the unit from beginning to the end of the war. The movement of each unit is covered in great detail. Many maps and pictures of this unit. Book covers this unit to the end with descriptions of the last units trying to make it to the west. Interesting portion is the fighting abilities of this unit when it was withdrawing to inflict heavy casualties on the Russians.

"Panzer Grenadiers to the Front!" is the first in-depth look at the enigmatic Panzer Grenadier-Division Brandenburg formation and its five-month combat career along the Eastern Front at the end of the Second World War. This book draws on the previously unpublished personal accounts by more than a dozen division veterans, and is supplemented by extensive use of new primary documents and relevant secondary German, Polish, and Soviet source material. While this book represents the most thorough and accurate treatment of Panzer Grenadier-Division Brandenburg published to date, it also provides extensive coverage of Heeresgruppe Mitte and 4. Panzer-Armee operations. The new

Panzer Grenadier-Division Brandenburg was forged in December 1944 from the nucleus of burnt-out commando regiments and the remnants of a half-dozen conventional units supplied by the Ersatzheer. Panzer Grenadier-Division Brandenburg entered the frontline a month later where it fought in some of the most dramatic and relatively unknown late war battles in Poland, Silesia, Saxony, and Czechoslovakia. The desperate fighting at places like Kutno, Raudten, Primkenau, Niesky, Bautzen, Olmütz and elsewhere is told through the words of the men who fought there. Revealed for the first time is the role of Brandenburg in the last operational Wehrmacht victory of the war that destroyed the Soviet 7th Guards Mechanized Corps, defeated the 2nd Polish Army, and spared Dresden from immediate capture.

The raw, emotional, accounts by Brandenburg veterans shed new light on to the day-to-day operations of the Wehrmacht during the war's chaotic final months. Readers will experience the routine of frontline life, the despair of defeat that caused some to attempt suicide, and the euphoria of survival, with corks popped on champagne bottles to celebrate another day alive. The uncertainty of unconditional surrender drove many in Brandenburg to continue to fight amidst the certainty of a war they knew. In the words of Major Kurt Steidl: I found out on the radio in the morning that our Führer had died in Berlin. All of us knew what that meant for us. Should we surrender for that reason like miserable cowards after years of struggle against forces many times our size? No! And again no! Now more than ever, they shouldn't have it easy with us old hands. We would prove that. "Panzer Grenadiers to the Front!" is a compelling narrative of the often brutal combat of war's end.