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Stalingrad Battle Atlas: volume II

Anton Joly



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"We realized that the decisive battle had come and if we can survive it the Germans were unlikely to muster such powerful forces again."

Thus wrote Lieutenant-General Vasily Chuikov, 62nd Army Commander, about 14 October 1942. As hundreds of tons of steel where hurled against the Soviet defenders, the Germans unleashed a critical onslaught in what they perceived as their D-day for Stalingrad.

This same day Hitler issued the winter standby directive to his troops on the eastern front. It read: "This year's summer and fall campaign, excepting the operations currently under way and several local offensives still contemplated, has been concluded." As for the "operations currently under way" 6th Army was ordered not only to continue, but also to strengthen its offensive.

Although badly depleted for the most part, the divisions mustered by both sides in the industrial district of the city still embodied a considerable fighting potential. With regard to density, seldom in the history of wars such a small territory was contested by such a quantity of manpower, artillery and aircraft.

After the equivalent of a full month of combats within the city, the culminating point was about to be reached. Towards mid- October, after having completed a restructuration of his attacking forces, Paulus moved the most able formations into line, expecting the entire front to collapse in the northern sector of Stalingrad, then to finish off 62nd Army's truncated remnants with an enveloping maneuver along the Volga, as was his intent from the beginning.

The second volume of the "Stalingrad Battle Atlas" series covers 35 days of combat within the city. It presents essential strategic and tactical information, including recently released archival data, and features *entirely new maps for each day* of active operations during this period.

Synthesizing an extremely wide range of documents and information sources, this chronological atlas seeks to reach the maximal degree of precision in describing historical reality, rendering it through a standardized set of instruments: timeline, orders of battle, unit strength returns, tactical and strategic situation maps, contextual photos, quotes from key actors. It can be used as a reference manual for searchers, as well as a guide for those who want to know the basics: Who, When, Where.

Main features:

- o Order of Battle & Strength Returns
- o Tactical & Strategic Maps
- o Unit Positions with daily updates

A new perspective of the legendary battle on the Volga

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