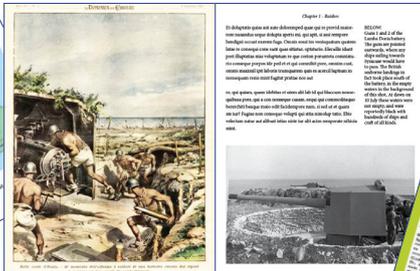


Advance Information Sheet: "Feat of Arms"

FEAT OF ARMS - SAS, AIRBORNE & COMMANDOS - D-DAY SICILY - THE RACE FOR SYRACUSE

Courage. Initiative. Tragedy. Victory. One of the most extraordinary stories of World War 2.



Profusely illustrated, with numerous maps, photos, illustrations and box-outs, with detailed captions.



The Story

Landing from the sea, 250 men of Britain's SAS take gun battery after gun battery by storm. Beside them fight the elite airborne troops of the 1st Airborne Division, christened 'Red Devils' by their enemies. Out of more than a thousand men sent by glider to Sicily to capture a crucial bridge, only a handful reach their objective. They seize it and hold it for the seaborne troops of General Montgomery's Eighth Army. The 'Desert Rats', supported by Commandos, advance to the rescue - but too late. The airborne defenders at the bridge, outgunned and outnumbered ten to one, fight to the last round before being overwhelmed. Have they failed?

Operation Ladbroke, the mass glider landing near Syracuse in July 1943, was the spearhead of the British half of Operation Husky, the invasion of Sicily, itself the first major D-Day landing on European soil in World War 2. The many lessons learned here contributed significantly to the success of D-Day in Normandy just under a year later, in particular the famous coup-de-main glider assault on what is now known as Pegasus Bridge.

Treatment

For the first time, 'Feat of Arms' brings together the detailed stories of all the major combat units embroiled in the fighting for Syracuse, using many untapped and rare sources from all the nations involved, with many previously unpublished maps and photographs. It uncovers new facts and challenges myths. There are numerous quotations from commanders and ordinary soldiers alike. The book is profusely illustrated with both modern and period maps, photographs, drawings and paintings, and includes many specially commissioned maps to support the narrative. Background detail is presented in fascinating box-outs so that it does not interrupt the flow of the fast-paced narrative. 'Feat of Arms' is that rare feat of writing - a book packed with historical facts and research, but also extremely readable and a treat for the eyes.

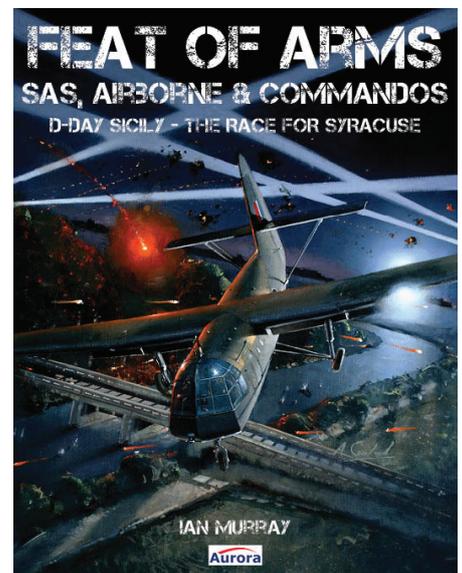
Author

Ian Murray has spent ten years researching the 1943 invasion of Sicily. He has visited archives all over the UK, in Italy and in America. He has found numerous previously unpublished photographs and studied many previously unpublished documents. He has interviewed veterans and extensively walked the battlefield. He is a journalist and writer, with an MA in English from Cambridge University, and lives in Kent.

Readership

'Feat of Arms' will appeal to all kinds of readers of military history - those who simply enjoy a great story well told, but also historians, fans of special forces and the families of those who fought. The many maps and photographs will particularly appeal to wargamers, modellers, militaria enthusiasts and battlefield tourists.

Aurora
Aurora Publishing



Book Data

Title:	Feat of Arms
Author:	Ian Murray
Format:	Full colour hardback
Publication:	TBA
ISBN:	TBA
Rights held:	UK only
Size:	191 mm x 246 mm
RRP:	£49.99
No. of pages:	320
No. of images:	72 colour photos 147 B&W photos 46 maps & drawings
Weight:	1,375g
BIC Code:	HBWQ
Category:	General non-fiction
Audience:	General / trade

Further details from the Publisher:
Aurora Publishing
Ashford
Kent

t: 01303 813763
m: 07720 711754

featofarms@aurora-publishing.co.uk
aurora-publishing.co.uk

All this information is subject to change. 1409a