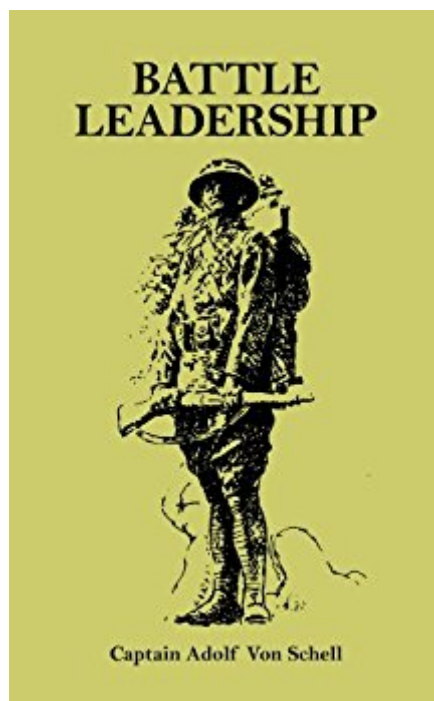


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Battle Leadership



Synopsis

Battle Leadership by Adolf Von Schell, is a classic that should be read by all combat leaders. Written between the First and Second World War, Von Schell provides insight on German Army lessons learned that are timeless and applicable to any generation of military professionals. Von Schell addresses the effects of tempo, importance of timely intelligence, the often inaccuracy of intelligence, the value of veteran combat leadership and leadership by example.

Book Information

File Size: 528 KB

Print Length: 104 pages

Publisher: The Benning Herald (October 1, 2012)

Publication Date: October 1, 2012

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B008RDNT96

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #178,900 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #107

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Military > World War I #332 in Books > History > Military > World War I #50630 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction

Customer Reviews

In the mid 1930's German soldier and First World War veteran, Captain Adolf Von Schell, found himself on an exchange program at Fort Benning, Ga. During his tenure there he lectured extensively on his wartime experiences which included first hand knowledge of the maneuver battles that had characterized the war against Russia and the early stages of the war in the west. These lectures and two contemporaneously written articles on the U.S. Army and the Army of the Weimar Republic have been compiled into a remarkably provocative little book that should interest scholars and warriors alike. It is not surprising that many readers have likened "Battle Leadership" to Rommel's "Infantry Attacks". Both books are exceptionally well written documents built on the experience of company grade German officers and designed to pass on lessons learned in blood.

However, "Battle Leadership" differs from "Attacks" in its short proscriptive style. Where Rommel gives us a narrative of his war experience, Von Schell has highlighted five specific lessons each of which is explained in a short discussion of an actual combat experience:1. The effect of tempo on military planning after hostilities commence.2. The inaccuracy of nearly all intelligence at the commencement of hostilities.3. The use of the attack in gaining timely and accurate intelligence.4. The virtues and uses of veteran troops.5. The cultivation of bravery by personal example. For the most part Von Schell is restating-- albeit in his particularly lucid and accessible style-- truisms with which any well read militarist is familiar. However, in his analysis of two of these points he strikes out on somewhat novel ground.

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