

'We can still lose this war!'

- U.S. General George S. Patton , 4 January 1945.

In December 1944, just at the end of World War II , Hitler shocked the whole world with a powerful German counter-offensive on the Western Front. The attack came through the Ardennes, the hilly and forested area in eastern Belgium and Luxembourg, and for the second time in the war, the Allies were taken completely by surprise. They still believed that it was impossible to bring forward a great army there, but quickly realized their mistake.

Seemingly invincible, large German panzer columns surged westward. The latest German weapons technology was concentrated to this offensive: Mighty Königstiger tanks, a revolutionary new assault rifle, flying bombs and modern jet aircraft. The Germans even despatched electric mini U boats to support the offensive!

U.S. First Army was overthrown and thousands of soldiers were taken prisoner. But in one small town, Bastogne, American paratroopers offered a dogged resistance. Meanwhile the ruthless General Patton's Army hastened to their rescue. Yet, it would take a six-week-long, epic winter battle, the bloodiest in the history of the U.S. Army, before the Germans had been pushed back.

Christer Bergstrom has interviewed veterans, gone through large amounts of archive material, and well traveled and researched in the area. The result is a large amount of previously unpublished material and new findings, presented in this thorough description of the dramatic Ardennes Battle in the winter of 1944/1945.

The Ardennes Battle has often been described from the American point of view. This balanced book devotes equal attention to the perspectives of both sides. Not least is it focused on the veterans' own stories, which gives a human dimension to this bloody battle.

The book has nearly 400 illustrations, including a large number of previously unpublished photographs, numerous maps, and 32 superb color profiles of combat vehicles and aircraft by the world-famous profile artist Claes Sundin.

The Swedish edition of this book was published in 2013 and sold in 3,000 copies in six months.

Christer Bergström, 1958, has published 23 books on World War II.

'A brilliant, well-written and thorough review of one of the decisive battles of World War II.'

- Tord Rönnholm, Swedish Library Service.

'I have never read a more outstanding book about World War II.'

- Lars Navander, Swedish Lieutenant Colonel and former Intelligence Officer at the Headquarters.



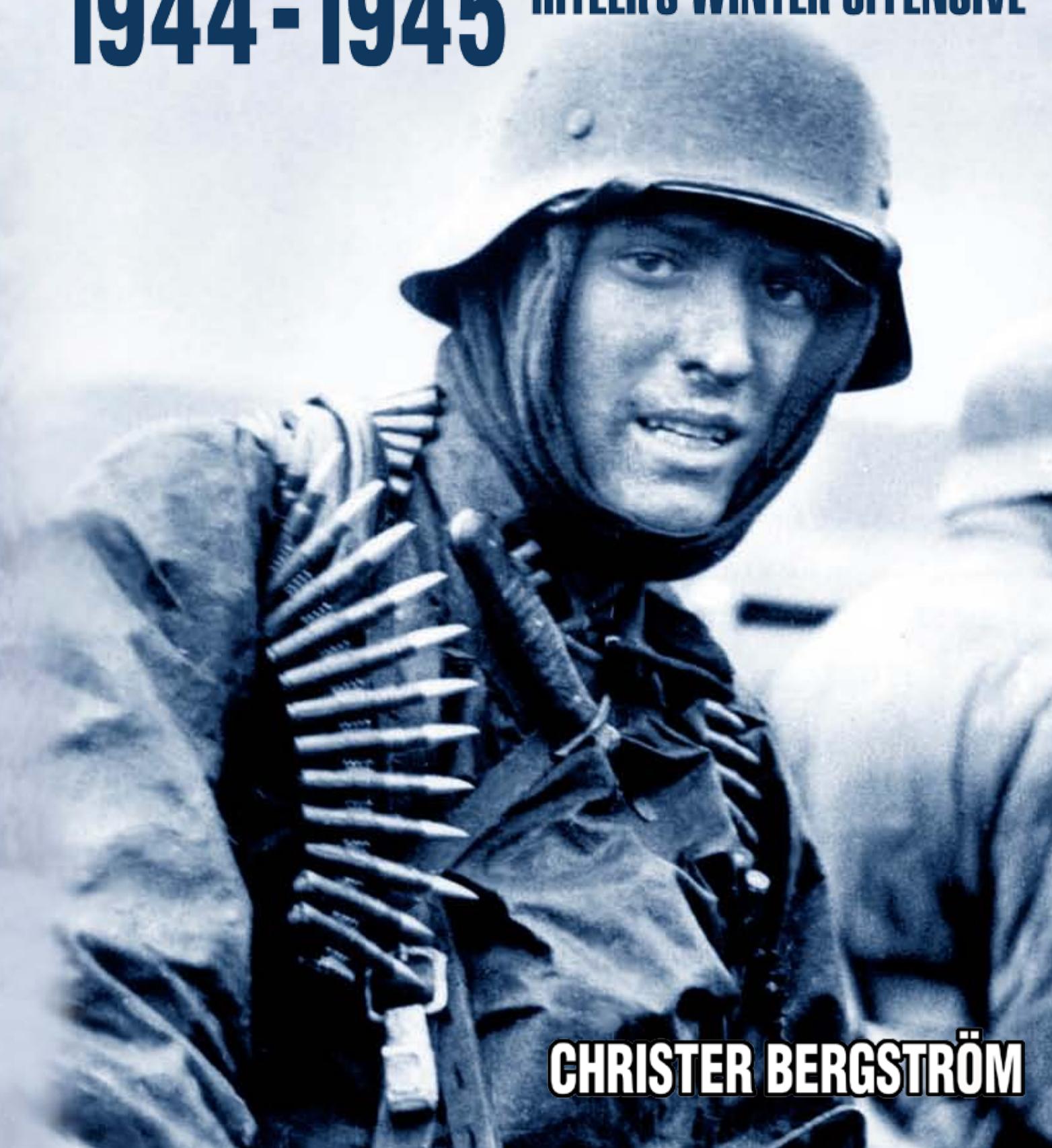
THE
ARDENNES

HITLER'S WINTER OFFENSIVE
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