



## The SAS Pocket Manual: 1941-1945

*By Christopher Westhorp*

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The Special Air Service was the brainchild of Scots Guards' officer Lieutenant David Stirling, serving with No. 8 Commando. He advocated a specially organized, specially equipped, and specially trained unit dedicated to the "unrelenting pursuit of excellence" that could act covertly and operate behind enemy lines to gain intelligence, destroy enemy aircraft, and attack their supply and reinforcement routes.

The First SAS Regiment was officially designated after successful raids against enemy airfields in the Middle East in 1941-1942. In May 1943, a Second SAS Regiment was raised in Algeria and would also serve in Sicily and Italy. SAS troopers were at the forefront of the action on D-Day, serving behind the enemy lines, assisting the French Resistance in diversionary attacks and in support of Allied armies. The SAS served with great distinction through forty-two significant actions in Belgium, the Netherlands, and Germany until the end of the war in Europe.

This new addition to the bestselling Conway pocket-book series is compiled from wartime and post-war memorandums, manuals, and documents. They include unit after-action reports and lecture notes from the centers used to train special services soldiers, gathered from the Liddell Hart Military Archive, National Archives, wartime periodicals, and post-war memoirs. The book covers:

- training methods
- weapons handling
- fieldcraft
- sabotage training
- operations in North Africa and the Middle East (1941–1942), Sicily and Italy (1943), and France (1944–1945)

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About the Author

**Chris Westthorp** is an experienced freelance editor, writer, and researcher. Formerly of Arms and Armour Press and Duncan Baird Publishing, he has a special interest in military history and aviation. Chris is the author of *The Commando Pocket Manual 1950-1945* (Conway, 2012) among numerous other titles.

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