

# Special Operations Forces Of World War II And Korea 25

## Delving into the Shadowy World of Elite Warriors

In the annals of military history, Special Operations Forces (SOF) have left an indelible mark, their daring exploits etched into the fabric of warfare. During the tumultuous years of World War II and the Korean War, these unconventional units played a pivotal role, shaping the course of events and cementing their reputation as the epitome of elite military proficiency.



### America's Commandos: U.S. Special Operations Forces of World War II and Korea (G.I. Book 25) by Leroy Thompson

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

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## World War II: The Birth of Modern SOF

As the cataclysmic events of World War II unfolded, the need for specialized forces capable of operating behind enemy lines became imperative. In response, Allied nations established a plethora of SOF units, each with its unique mission profile and area of expertise.

The British Special Air Service (SAS), formed in 1941, pioneered airborne operations, infiltrating enemy-held territories to conduct sabotage, reconnaissance, and unconventional warfare. Their exploits in North Africa, Italy, and France became legendary, earning them a formidable reputation.

Across the Atlantic, the United States Army established the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the forerunner to the modern Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). The OSS deployed operatives into occupied Europe and Asia, gathering intelligence, organizing resistance movements, and carrying out covert operations.

### **The Korean War: Refining Irregular Warfare Techniques**

The Korean War, fought from 1950 to 1953, witnessed a continuation of the trend towards specialized SOF units. Both sides employed irregular warfare tactics, including guerrilla warfare, sabotage, and psychological operations.

The United Nations Command deployed elite units such as the US Army's 101st Airborne Division and the South Korean Special Forces, which conducted raids behind enemy lines, disrupted supply lines, and gathered intelligence.

North Korea, too, utilized SOF units, such as the Reconnaissance and Diversionary Group, to infiltrate South Korean territory and carry out sabotage and assassination attempts.

### **Unconventional Warfare: A Legacy of Innovation**

The operations conducted by SOF units during World War II and Korea showcased the importance of unconventional warfare tactics. These

tactics, which deviated from traditional military doctrine, proved highly effective against conventional forces.

Airborne operations allowed SOF units to infiltrate enemy territory undetected, while amphibious landings enabled them to strike from unexpected directions. Night operations exploited the cover of darkness to conduct raids and sabotage missions.

Psychological operations, such as leaflet drops and radio broadcasts, undermined enemy morale and sowed discord within their ranks.

### **Adapting to Changing Times: SOF's Enduring Relevance**

The lessons learned during World War II and Korea shaped the evolution of SOF units, which continue to play a vital role in modern warfare. SOF forces have adapted to changing geopolitical realities, from the Cold War to the Global War on Terrorism.

Today, SOF units are deployed in various theaters of operation, conducting a wide range of missions, including counterterrorism, unconventional warfare, and strategic reconnaissance. They remain at the forefront of military innovation, constantly adapting their tactics and capabilities to meet the evolving challenges of the 21st century.

### **: Honoring the Legacy of Special Operations Warriors**

The Special Operations Forces of World War II and Korea stand as a testament to the indomitable spirit and unwavering dedication of elite warriors. Their daring missions and innovative tactics shaped the course of history and continue to inspire modern-day SOF units.

As we remember the sacrifices and accomplishments of these extraordinary soldiers, we honor their legacy and recognize the enduring importance of specialized forces in safeguarding our security in an ever-changing world.



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