

MS# D-406

Das Ringen um Die Grossen Entscheidungen im Zweiten Weltkriege  
Volume II

This well written, easy to follow, manuscript presents the big picture on the Eastern Front from September 1942 to Spring 1944. A portion is verbatim of Volume I by the same author. The author devotes a large portion of the manuscript to personal conferences with Hitler. He labels these as occurring "Unter vier Augen," thus their accuracy should be carefully weighed.

Germany's military problems are presented from the OKH command level. Hitler is constantly blamed for the major military reverses, starting with Stalingrad and continuing to the Kurtland encirclement. Each encirclement follows a similar pattern, the Russian build up, Zeitzler's recommendation for action, Russia's pincer movement, Germany's attempt to withdraw, only to realize that they were surrounded, gradual annihilation of the encircled Germans. The encirclements of Stalingrad, Saporoshe, Demjansk, Krim and Kurtland are all given as illustrations of operations which resulted in unnecessary major German losses.

Other mistakes for which Hitler is blamed are the inopportune major German attacks after February 1943. These attacks were made by well trained, but poorly equipped, and inadequately supplied forces, resulting in unnecessary military losses. "Operation Zitadelle" is an example of such an attack.

Although this study is well written, and provides excellent background reading, its value is limited as a historical manuscript. The author uses many illustrations to prove his points, however, since these are controversial issues, it would be well to support his views with documentary evidence.

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