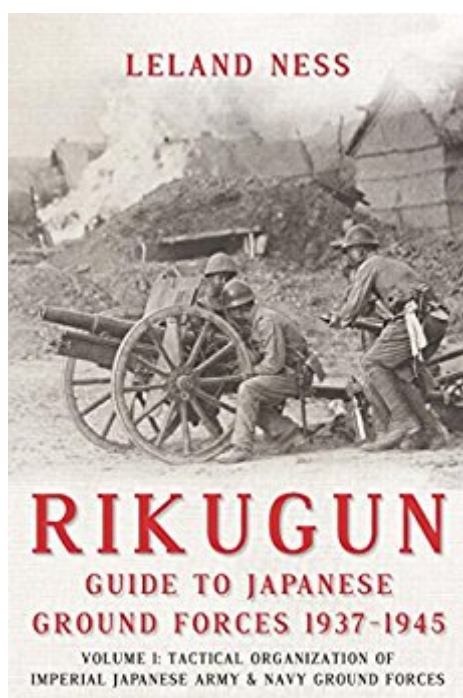


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Rikugun: Guide To Japanese Ground Forces 1937-1945: Volume 1: Tactical Organization Of Imperial Japanese Army & Navy Ground Forces



Synopsis

Rikugun: Guide to Japanese Ground Forces 1937-1945 is the first nuts-and-bolts handbook to utilize both the voluminous raw allied intelligence documents and postwar Japanese documentation as primary sources. This first volume covers the tactical organization of Army and Navy ground forces during the 1937-45 war. Using the wartime Imperial Japanese Army (IJA) mobilization plans, and the Unit Organization Tables, Unit Strength Tables and Unit History Tables compiled by the War Ministry and the 1st Demobilization Bureau during and after the war, a complete picture of IJA ground forces through the war is presented. The evolution of the Japanese force structure is examined, including infantry, armor, cavalry, artillery and naval ground combat units from battalion to division level, each thoroughly discussed and illustrated with tables of organization and equipment and mobilization data. This forms the framework for any discussion of the Imperial Japanese Army's capabilities and intentions.

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Customer Reviews

For a single source combining materials from numerous individual sources, this is excellent. It provides a good single source document that more than adequately covers a very complex subject. Unlike the US and Western nations of the period, Japanese organizations appear to be more task

oriented than structural oriented, and this book makes the point very clearly.

This is a superb book which fills a long standing void in Japanese military research. Drawing exclusively on original Japanese and U.S. source documents, Mr. Ness has written what should be for many years to come the standard reference work on the organization of the Japanese Army and Navy ground forces. Western students of the Japanese military, for the most part, have had to rely on second hand materials, for example, TM-E 30-480 Handbook on Japanese Military Forces. These sources are incomplete and given the fact that they are wartime intelligence publications, they are often inaccurate. By going to the original records, Mr. Ness has produced a thorough and complete account of the evolution and organization of Japanese military units. The book includes excellent charts and tables and a very valuable bibliographic survey. Potential readers should be aware that this is not an order of battle nor is it a chronicle of the battles fought by the Japanese. These topics are mentioned but only in so far as to show how Japan's changing military fortunes influenced the organization of its military units. I cannot recommend this book highly enough.

Anyone wanting to read about Japanese training and organization should read this. One of the most interesting books on this subject printed. Covers all types of Japanese formation and organization that started out the war and were done away with when the Japanese found out what types of formation worked and did not work. After reading I was surprised by the Japanese consolidation towards the end of the war into division type formation. This should have been done early in the conflict. The increase in firepower is also examined at the platoon and company level. The increase in Battalion and regimental strength is talked about when other loose formations are joined to divisions.

I would have given him 5 stars, but for the fact it is impossible to cover the amount of detail on the Japanese Army and do it total justice. Ness has done an awfully good job here and one very worthy of those wishing to pursue studies on the Japanese Army but who do not read Japanese. Unlike the fetishism surrounding WWII in Europe, access to Japanese documents on the Asia-Pacific War have been restricted by the amount of translated original source materials. This has been very little. In some years there are less than 5 Japanese books on the war translated into English. Ness does the heavy lifting in identifying the history of the units and the minutiae of Army organisation - a subject bedeviling the understanding of Japanese units during the war. Here is a template for serious study of the Japanese soldier contemporaneous and academically at the same level as those

histories of western armies. Comes complete with dozens of tables and I am cross-referencing them with Japanese sources. So far Ness is bang on with his details. Great work.

One of the best Army histories on Japanese Army/Great Division histories. BUY BUY

Mr. Ness did a very good job on this book. It is very detailed and mentions all sorts of units used by the Imperial Japanese Army. There is no question about the quality of information being researched by Mr. Ness, so I'm sure this book will be one of the most reliable sources for the next coming years. There are two reasons why I can't give 5 stars: 1.) There is no index!! So no chance to look for the 5th Inf division, or 6th area army, or 27th army in a second. You have to read the whole book. I'm in the process of creating an index myself which I will gladly offer to the public in order to use it for searching for units in this excellent book. 2.) One thing I stumble in again is the fact that some area or field armies have a different composition than all other sources being published so far. The difference could be due to inadequate sources of older books, or ... I wrote over a hundred articles on German and English Wikipedia about the IJA and own lots of literature about the topic, so I'm familiar with the organization of the IJA. In cases where the unit's composition differentiates it would have been great to see the source for that particular information. Summary: this is an excellent book I wouldn't miss it in my collection about the IJA. I highly recommend it. Thank you Mr. Ness for this great book.

not quite recommended

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