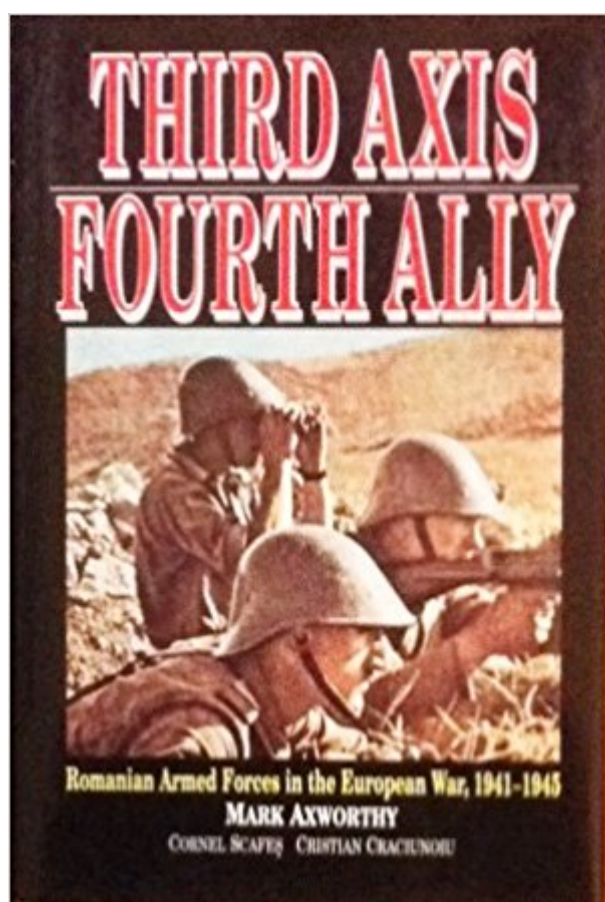


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Third Axis Fourth Ally: Romanian Armed Forces In The European War, 1941-1945



Synopsis

Romania was the third Axis element in Europe, yet suffered some of the highest casualties of the Allied nations in the last year of the war. This account of Romania's changing allegiance and its part in World War II draws on details from the recently opened archives. Details chart: the relationships between Romania and other Axis powers; the importance of Romania to Hitler, its operational record; the international coup d'état and liberation; and the change to support the Allied cause. The authors also provide full coverage of the personalities, weaponry and orders of battle.

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Customer Reviews

In many ways an outstanding work detailing many facets of the Rumanian military in WW2.

Unfortunately the author chooses to rationalize the many failings of the Rumanian military's failures rather than examine the underlying causes and policies. If the Germany Army was a strong chain with an occasional weak link the Rumanian Army was a weak chain with an satisfactory link. The author fails to explain why some units performed in a satisfactory manner while most were likely to shatter under moderate attack. The book remains a extremely noteworthy and valuable book that I'd highly recommend.

great thank you

Simply put, this is the best book in English for the Romanian Armed Forces in World War II. Anyone interested in the Eastern Front in WWII must have it.

This is simply the best single-volume book in English on Romania in WW2. although it's not easy or fun to read you simply won't find this information anywhere else. if you're a gamer or a modeler THIS is the book you've been looking for. the first chapter gives a summary of Romanian war aims, economic and military preparations. chapters 2 - 6 detail military campaigns from capturing Besarabia, the Crimea, all the way up to the defection and invasion of Hungary and Czechoslovakia with the advancing Soviet forces. this is the only book in English that chronicles every Romanian campaign in detail. each chapter includes line-drawing maps of the major campaign maps. these maps include rivers, cities, and mountain ranges (as text). I would have preferred a bit more topographical detail, but I can find more detailed topographical maps elsewhere. chapter 7 details Romanian tanks (German, captured Russian, domestic overhauls of French and Russian tanks) chapter 8 examines Romanian aviation (aircraft specs, imports, and local industry) chapter 9 details air force operations (with order of battle diagrams, squadrons, and aircraft assignments, and combat summaries) chapter 10 examines the naval vessels and operations in the Black Sea from 1941-44 there are line-drawings and specifications of all the major airplanes, tanks, and vessels. when appropriate the author includes detailed inventories of all of the major types available at various stages of the war. there are no footnotes, but there is a two-page bibliography at the end of the book. the book has a pretty thorough index in the back (too many books these days don't have a useful index) the following book provides a more detailed account of Romanian involvement with Barbarossa: *Reluctant Axis Romania 1941-1944* "Romania in the Second World War" makes a good companion piece to this book. it doesn't provide detailed campaign information, and has very little in the way of technical data. it primarily deals with correspondence between leaders, generals, and the various diplomatic and political maneuvering within the Romanian leadership. at over 400 pages I can't think of a better book in English that deals with the highest level Romanian politics of WW2: *Romania World War* Dinu Giurescu

Axworthy does (if you excuse the pun) a worthy job in taking us through the build up of the Romanian Armed Forces prior to World War 2 and then their actions in combat. Though some of the book may be overly detailed and the maps have too much information to be presented only in black and white, in the end you get all the information about each of the battles fought and the outcomes. For a country that ended up having the heaviest casualties of all the non-major belligerents, Romania actually put more men in the field than the Italians on the Axis side, and more than anyone but the Americans, Brits and Russians on the Allies' side. Romania had over half a million soldiers on the Eastern Front versus 200,000 for the Italians. They were thought of as good

soldiers by both the Germans and Russians. But they spent most of the war fighting with obsolete weapons and without the full training that would have made them a force equal to any of the major armies. They fought best when fighting to clear the areas of their country that had been taken over by the Soviets in 1939 and when they forced out the Germans in late 1944 when they made a "volte face" and came over to the Allies. Sadly, those who fought the hardest for Romania, were treated as traitors after the war by the new Communist installed government and so there little written about their courage and bravery. As an aside, the Romanians (as per Mr. Axworthy) did their best to save their Jewish citizens from the Germans, and in many cases refused to let anyone from post 1939 Romania be deported to Camps including Gypsies. Not that they treated them so well at home, but they didn't contribute to the mass murder of people like the Germans. They were very considerate in the Soviet Union to massacre whoever they came up against not matter their religion or political beliefs. Zeb Kantrowitz

This book is not just the only English-language book on its subject, but it stands comparison with the best English-language studies of any individual country's armed forces in WWII. The book has ten chapters. Chapter 1 is a survey of Romania and its armed forces prior to the war. Chapters 2-6 each cover one annual campaign over 1941-45. Chapter 7 is on Romanian armour, Chapter 8 is on the Romanian aircraft industry, Chapter 9 is on Romanian air force operations and Chapter 10 is on Romanian naval operations. The book is packed with unique research, maps, line drawings, charts, organigrams and photographs, virtually none of which are available elsewhere. There is also a most comprehensive index. I hesitate to describe any WWII book as definitive or indispensable on its subject, but "Third Axis, Fourth Ally" comes as close as any. Indeed, I consider it one of the ten most important books on the Eastern Front in WWII, dealing, as it does, with the third most important participant and its armed forces. For anyone interested in the military history of WWII, I recommend it most strongly. P. A. S. Jefferson

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