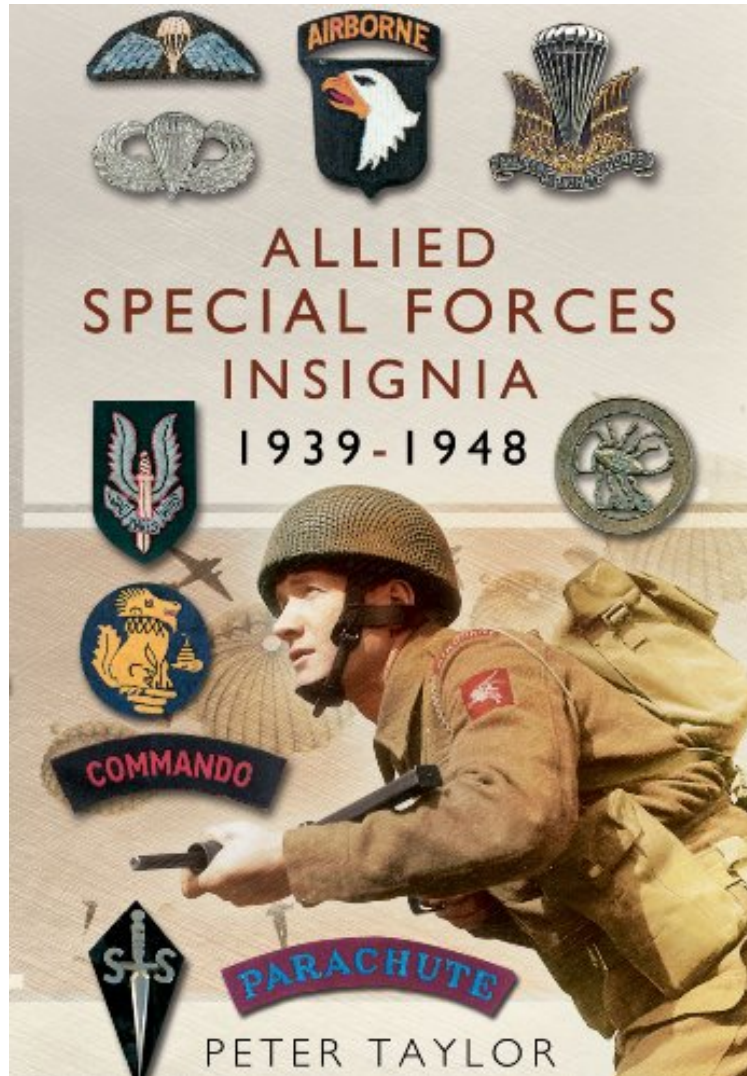


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Peter Taylor

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Allied Special Forces Insignia

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2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Decent overviewBy Mark OlingerDecent overview, but the focus was mostly on British/Commonwealth forces. Very limited on U.S., French, Poles, and other allies. Also little to no captions with the photographs.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy J. LombardoThis is a great reference book!7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A useful reference that could have been betterBy A CustomerThis ambitious book covers the insignia of the Commandos, SAS, OSS, Rangers, Allied airborne units, various private armies and other 'special forces' of the WWII era. This is accomplished through many illustrations of rare insignia and of personnel wearing them, and through text sketching the history of the units and

their insignia. As tends to be the case when one addresses a broad topic, the quality and depth of coverage is uneven. I noted several errors and the inclusion of a few insignia of questionable authenticity in sections where I have expertise. Whether this trend continues throughout the book, I cannot say. (I would expect that it does not, as those sections I do not feel qualified to judge are ones where I would expect the author, who is British, and his sources to be on firmer ground.) My overall sense is that with a little more research and greater care editing for accuracy, the text of this book could have been raised to the level of the illustrations, producing a truly outstanding reference. Even then, this book would fall short of being all-inclusive, leaving to other authors the opportunity to expand the coverage and address missing topics. Nevertheless, this is a reference that collectors with an interest in the topic that is the title of the book will wish to add to their libraries. (As an aside, those who find the subject of this book to be of interest are encouraged to seek a copy of Len Whittaker's now out-of-print "Some Talk of Private Armies," a book of substantially narrower focus than the one reviewed here, but one that speaks, in the opinion of this reviewer, with greater authority.)

As early as 1940 political leaders and military commanders responsible for the conduct of the Allied operations realized that, after a string of disastrous setbacks, national morale could only be restored by taking offensive action against the enemy. With the limited resources, available Churchills stirring call to set Europe ablaze called for unconventional solutions and action. From these uncertain beginnings was born a plethora of Allied Special Force units. Inevitably, some are household names but others are little known, having had brief and covert existences in far flung parts of the world. All, however, had distinctive identities and their proudly worn insignia represent a fascinating and often elusive challenge for military collectors. This is due, not just to the scarcity of items in many cases, but to the mystery of their origin; a number of these units were established on an ad hoc and spontaneous basis. Peter Taylors aim in compiling Allied Special Forces Insignia 1939-1948 is to fill a gap in the growing bibliography of militaria collecting. At the same time, Brigadier Bryan Watkins introduction sets in context the growth and development of Allied Special Forces during the global conflict 1939-45. Lavishly illustrated, this work will prove an essential reference work and companion guide for the expert collector and all interested in military history.

Lavishly illustrated, this work will prove an essential reference work and companion guide. OCAD MILITARIA COLLECTORS RESOURCES A superb catalogue detailing the insignia of those wartime units, particularly the British ones, which may be labelled as Special Forces; including the Parachute and Glider Pilot Regiments, Commandos, Special Air Service, and the various raiding forces which operated in Europe and the Far East. The Special Operations Executive, Polish Parachute Brigade, and the US Airborne and Rangers are also discussed. Clear and original colour examples of practically every conceivable insignia type, worn at any time during the war by any branch of the above formations is included, together with numerous carefully selected wartime photographs to show how they were properly applied to uniforms. A first class reference guide. Pegasus Archive
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