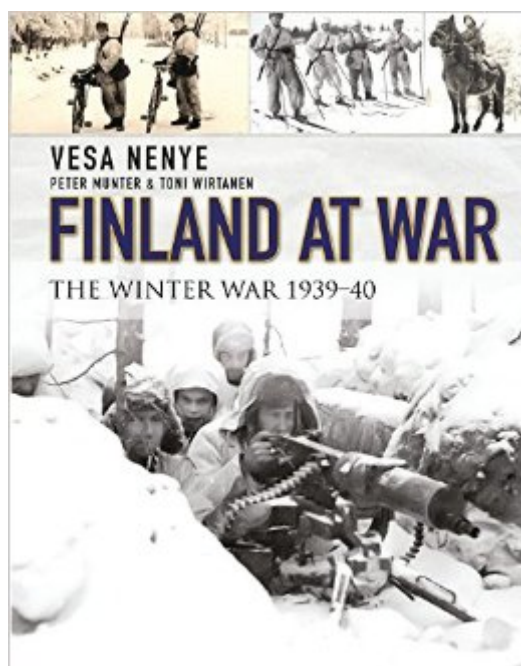


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# Finland At War: The Winter War 1939-40 (General Military)



## Synopsis

The story of the 'Winter War' between Finland and Soviet Russia is a dramatic David versus Goliath encounter. When close to half a million Soviet troops poured into Finland in 1939 it was expected that Finnish defences would collapse in a matter of weeks. But they held firm. The Finns not only survived the initial attacks but succeeded in inflicting devastating casualties before superior Russian numbers eventually forced a peace settlement. This is a rigorously detailed and utterly compelling guide to Finland's vital, but almost forgotten role in the cataclysmic World War II. It reveals the untold story of iron determination, unparalleled skill and utter mastery of winter warfare that characterized Finland's fight for survival on the hellish Eastern Front. *Finland at War: the Winter War 1939-40* is the premiere English-language history of the fighting performance of the Finns, drawing on first-hand accounts and previously unpublished photographs to explain just how they were able to perform military feats that nearly defy belief.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The struggle of Finland against the USSR was one of those heroic struggles that was probably doomed from the start, with the net result not all that much different that would have happened if the struggle never happened. Prior to the start of WWII, the Soviet Union coveted parts of Finnish territory mostly to strengthen the defenses of its own territory, particularly Leningrad, from possible German invasion. The proud Finns refused Soviet demands, and were subject to an invasion. With gallant fighting against vastly superior forces, the Finns made the Soviets pay dearly for their

invasion. However, eventually the superior numbers of the Red Army won out, and the Finns were forced to cede territory.=== The Good Stuff ===\* The author's biography was a little sketchy, but I believe he is a Finnish army veteran. As such, I was expecting to deal with a clumsy translation, but that was not the case at all. The writing flowed easily and was a pleasure to read.\* The version of the book I read (an advance galley proof) was a PDF file. The layout was well done, and someone spent quite a bit of time on this. The book is full of pictures relevant to the story, and the sidebars and text boxes add quite a bit to the story.\* The book seems very well researched. Most of the content is based at the unit level, so you get a good feel for what it was like to fight in the cold winter campaigns of this war. The Finns were shown to be very well led, and as a rule their soldiers were well adapted and trained to fight in the harsh conditions.

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