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Barbarossa Through Soviet Eyes: The First Twenty-Four Hours

Artem Drabkin, Alexei Isaev, Christopher Summerville

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22 June 1941 changed the direction of the Second World War. It also changed the direction of human history. Unleashing a massive, three-pronged assault into Soviet territory, the German army unwittingly created its own nemesis, forging the modern Russian state in the process. Thus, for most Russians, 22 June 1941 was a critical point in their nation's history. After the first day of ‘Barbarossa’ nothing would be the same again – for anyone. Now, for the first time in English, Russians speak of their experiences on that fatal Sunday. Apparently caught off guard by Hitler’s initiative, the Soviets struggled to make sense of a disaster that had seemingly struck from nowhere. Here are generals scrambling to mobilize ill-prepared divisions, pilots defying orders not to grapple with the mighty Luftwaffe, bewildered soldiers showing individual acts of blind courage, and civilians dumbstruck by air raid sirens and radio broadcasts telling of German treachery.

REVIEWS

The title tells it all. Barbarossa Through Soviet Eyes: The First Twenty-Four Hours recounts the first day of Nazi Germany’s attack on Soviet Russia – Sunday, 22 June 1941. But don’t expect a dry distillation of strategic events and principal players. Authors Artem Drabkin and Alexei Isaev instead competently convey the chaos and confusion of combat through historical notes amidst gritty, often brutal personal recollections. Through Christopher Summerville’s lively English version, we learn much minutiae of the day itself. On the ground. In the air. On the sea. Attitudes. Expectations. Experiences. Even food, weather and, believe it or not, “hobby groups – aircraft modeling”! Surprises abound. How did Soviet troops, for instance, spot German infiltrators? How did some villages react? How did some Soviets escape envelopment and capture? And what was the first confirmed Soviet air-to-air victory? I won’t spoil things. Available through Casemate in North America, this informative, illustrated, entertaining effort promises many surprises. So grab it. And trace Barbarossa’s first hours through the eyes of everyday Soviets suddenly thrust into savage circumstances.
Recommended!
Cybermodeler

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