

## Death Traps: The Survival of an American Armored Division in World War II

By *Belton Y. Cooper*



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**“Cooper saw more of the war than most junior officers, and he writes about it better than almost anyone. . . . His stories are vivid, enlightening, full of life—and of pain, sorrow, horror, and triumph.”**

—STEPHEN E. AMBROSE

**From his Foreword**

“In a down-to-earth style, *Death Traps* tells the compelling story of one man’s assignment to the famous 3rd Armored Division that spearheaded the American advance from Normandy into Germany. Cooper served as an ordnance officer with the forward elements and was responsible for coordinating the recovery and repair of damaged American tanks. This was a dangerous job that often required him to travel alone through enemy territory, and the author recalls his service with pride, downplaying his role in the vast effort that kept the American forces well equipped and supplied. . . . [Readers] will be left with an indelible impression of the importance of the support troops and how dependent combat forces were on them.”

—*Library Journal*

**“[DEATH TRAPS] FILLS A CRITICAL GAP IN WW2 LITERATURE. . . . IT’S A TRULY UNIQUE AND VALUABLE WORK.”**

—*G.I. Journal*

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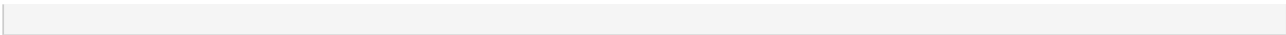
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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Without a doubt, this is one of the finest WWII memoirs ever written by an American junior officer. Lieutenant Cooper served with the 3rd Armored Division's Maintenance Battalion and saw action from Normandy to Germany in 1944-1945. One of the army's two heavy armored divisions, the 3rd lost 648 M4 Shermans and had another 700 tanks damaged, repaired and put back in service by the time the shooting ended in May 1945. Cooper, as one of the division's three ordnance liaison officers, was in the midst of the division's tank recovery operations. He writes about the tenacity of the maintenance mechanics and their ability to improvise and devise their own policies. Cooper is unsparing in his criticism of George S. Patton and other generals whose belief in mobility over heavy armor kept the Sherman medium tank as the standard. American tank crews quickly learned that these "death traps" were no match for heavier German tanks such as the Panther and King Tiger. Cooper describes the difficult maneuvering in the hedgerow country, the confusion of the Battle of the Bulge, the liberation of Nordhausen concentration camp and the destruction of an entire column of tanks and other vehicles. Cooper demonstrates convincingly that it was the unheralded work of the maintenance section that allowed the 3rd Armored Division to maintain its combat effectiveness. This detailed story will become a classic of WWII history and required reading for anyone interested in armored warfare. Photos not seen by PW.

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From School Library Journal

YA-In a down-to-earth style, *Death Traps* tells the compelling story of one man's assignment to the famous 3rd Armored Division that spearheaded the American advance from Normandy into Germany. Cooper served as an ordnance officer with the forward elements and was responsible for coordinating the recovery and repair of damaged American tanks. This was a dangerous job that often required him to travel alone through enemy territory, and the author modestly recalls his service with pride, downplaying his role in the vast effort that kept the American forces well equipped and supplied. Readers will not gain any great insights on the causes of the war or the reasons why a campaign went the way it did; however, they will be left with an indelible impression of the importance of the support troops and how dependent combat forces were on them.

*Robert Burnham, R. E. Lee High School, Springfield, VA*

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From the Inside Flap

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Here thing why that Death Traps: The Survival of an American Armored Division in World War II are different and dependable to be yours. First of all examining a book is good however it depends in the content of computer which is the content is as scrumptious as food or not. Death Traps: The Survival of an American Armored Division in World War II giving you information deeper and in different ways, you can find any e-book out there but there is no book that similar with Death Traps: The Survival of an American Armored Division in World War II. It gives you thrill reading journey, its open up your own eyes about the thing this happened in the world which is possibly can be happened around you. You can actually bring everywhere like in recreation area, café, or even in your approach home by train. For anyone who is having difficulties in bringing the imprinted book maybe the form of Death Traps: The Survival of an American Armored Division in World War II in e-book can be your choice.

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