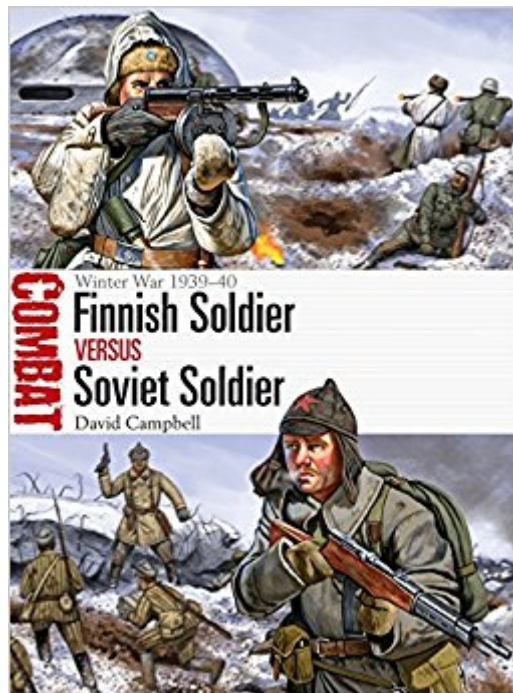




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# Finnish Soldier Vs Soviet Soldier: Winter War 1939-40 (Combat)



## Synopsis

The Winter War was supposed to be a quick and easy conflict; instead it proved to be a bitter war that destroyed the international reputation of the Soviet Red Army. The diminutive Finnish force was desperately outnumbered by almost half a million Russian troops, but rather than sweeping across their neighbors, the Soviet troops stumbled blindly, constantly wrong-footed and then bloodied by their seemingly insignificant foe. Drawing on a wide range of sources, this study looks at three key battles, drawing a stark contrast between the poorly prepared Russian troops and the Finns, who made excellent use of terrain and innovative guerrilla tactics as they defended their homeland. Detailed maps and specially commissioned artwork highlight key moments in the Winter War, a David-and-Goliath conflict that saw the Soviet Union suffer horrendous losses as they tried to recover from each disastrous defeat.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

David Campbell has worked at IBM, the BBC, various internet consultancies, and the civil service.

His interests include the Middle Ages, the Napoleonic era, naval warfare, and the genesis of the

“military revolution.” He is the author of CBT 007 German Infantryman vs Soviet

Rifleman. Johnny Shumate works as a freelance illustrator living in Nashville, Tennessee. He began his career in 1987 after graduating from Austin Peay State University.

It's 1939. Little Finland faces the prospect of an imminent invasion by an aggressive Soviet Union,

fresh from dismembering Poland with Nazi Germany. Vastly outnumbered, Finland must choose capitulation or a desperate and hopeless resistance. The Finns chose resistance. What happened next was the miracle of the Winter War..."Combat: Finnish Soldier Versus Soviet Soldier" is an Osprey Combat Series book, authored by David Campbell, with illustrations by Johnny Shumate. The narrative discusses the two sides, including the mismatch of forces, before dissecting three different combats. The first two combats relate to the nearly miraculous survival of the outnumbered Finnish forces against Soviet Divisions who enjoyed many advantages, except preparation for combat in deadly winter conditions. The Finns, adept on skis in the forests, took advantage of the weather and terrain to baffle, attrite, and ultimately defeat the initial Soviet thrusts into Finland. The third combat reflects a regrouping by the Soviets, and a willingness to apply overwhelming force, regardless of casualties. The text is nicely supplemented by period photographs, maps, battle diagrams, and illustrations. The narrative itself is evenhanded, recognizing the pluck of the Finns, the stubborn determination of their Soviet counterparts, and the absolute ruthlessness of the Soviet High Command. This is a concise but highly readable introduction into the Winter War of 1939-1940. Highly recommended.

When Hitler's erstwhile ally Stalin moved into eastern Poland and the Baltic States as part of share of the booty, Stalin decided to add a large chunk of Finland to his empire. Unfortunately for Stalin, Finland turned out to be able to defend itself. This book looks at the Finnish soldier and his opponent the Red Army Man during the Winter War. The Finns may not have been ten feet tall, but they were fighting for their homes and even though they had to bring a lot of their own gear that was good too: their civilian gear was ideal for the icy forests of Finland. The Red Army Man, on the other hand, was poorly equipped, badly trained and led by officers of varying quality who had survived the purges. At least initially, though, their morale was high as they were fed a bunch of propaganda. An interesting assessment, well-illustrated by photographs and original artwork. A good reference for those reading about the Winter War, or a fine book in its own right.

A David and Goliath story. Loved reading about the Finns' creativity and balls during their struggle against a bully neighbor.

Great read, that gives me much respect for the out-numbered Finns who excelled protecting their country.

Quick shipping Interesting book on a not well known subject

Very educational

A good survey to accompany more scholarly Winter War works

Excellent maps, photos and text. Contains information not otherwise in my Finnish-Russian library collection.

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