

# THE SAS WAR DIARY

1941-1945

*“The SAS War Diary is an icon. The fact that its existence has been a secret for over 50 years – even within The Regiment – is incredible. I can think of no better way of marking the 70th anniversary of the SAS than allowing it to break cover.”* Viscount Slim



A unique opportunity to acquire a full-scale reproduction of this extraordinary record of SAS history, published in a limited edition to mark the 70th anniversary of the Special Air Service and to raise funds for the SAS Regimental Association.

# THE ORIGINAL DIARY

1 Unit and WE. Authority is given for the formation of No 1 SAS Regt. on WE WD/769/1. Strength (incl. attd.) at WE is 32 Officers and 574 O/s.

***In early 1946, only months after the end of World War 2, a former SAS soldier tasked himself with one final mission. The SAS had been disbanded and there were no plans to resurrect it. The soldier's self-appointed mission was simple: to find and preserve whatever documentation he could before the SAS was forgotten and its story lost forever.***

The soldier tracked down and copied the Top Secret order authorising the first ever SAS operation..... he sought out photographs of the original members of 1 SAS, including men lost on that first operation ..... he somehow acquired the after-action reports from the few who survived. Then, with more photographs, operational orders and reports, and a handful of newspaper articles from Britain and even America, he traced the story of the SAS through North Africa, Sicily, Italy, D-Day and France, then the drive through Europe for Berlin, and the final march past when the SAS was stood down.

By mission end, the soldier had not only produced something unique - the first ever history of the SAS, collated by an SAS man - but, in the event of the SAS being consigned to a footnote in history, and with many of the documents he had copied either destroyed or lost forever, he had saved the story of the SAS during World War 2.

But the soldier did something else. He collated his work in a single massive war diary, measuring 17" x 12" x 4" and weighing over 25 lbs, and bound it in leather "liberated" from Nazi Germany.



Page of the original Diary



Last photograph of David Stirling before his capture

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM BY COLONEL DAVID STIRLING, DSO, OBE  
ON THE ORIGINS OF THE SPECIAL AIR SERVICE REGIMENT



Map from the original Diary

He gave it to the SAS Regimental Association and its existence has remained a secret ever since.

Now, however, the Diary is about to break cover. To mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Special Air Service and to raise funds for their welfare work, the SAS Regimental Association have agreed to produce an unique anniversary limited edition of The SAS War Diary 1941-1945.

87306. Robert Blair Mayne. (A.A.C.)  
13-1-44  
CITATION FOR LIEUT. COLONEL R.B. MAYNE D.S.O. and two bars. File



# THE 2011 EDITIONS

**Each edition replicates *The Diary* – all 17" x 12" x 4", and some 25 lbs weight, fully bound in leather – but with one important difference.**

When the wartime SAS man finally collated *The Diary* in 1946, it ran to nearly 600 pages. The soldier used the first 281 pages to record the history of 1 SAS. For some reason, perhaps aware that there was another mission which might follow his, he kept in the remaining pages but left them blank.

These empty pages have now been completed with specially cleared material and documents from the Association's own highly confidential archives, to include the histories of 2 SAS and the wartime SBS. This will complete the mission the soldier began in 1946 and gives, for the first time ever, the full picture of the SAS in World War 2.

Each page has been individually scanned and converted to a high quality digital file, as has the material from the Association archive. This digital artwork has been printed on heavyweight archival-quality acid-free paper, especially made for the project in order to replicate the original pages as closely as possible. The original documents, photographs and maps are therefore reproduced in full size and in stunning clarity.



*The Original Diary*



*The Anniversary and Services Edition*

Each diary is bound using brass posts in a full leather binding in the style of the original diary and blocked with a new design featuring the Regimental badge and wings.

## THE ANNIVERSARY EDITION

The Diary as described, comprising 600 pages including the Regimental Roll of Honour with a numbered limitation page embossed with the seal of the Regimental Association.

**Limited to 3450 copies  
available for £975 plus delivery**

## THE SERVICES EDITION

This edition has an extra 24 page chapter which details the Regiment's post war activity hunting down war criminals. It is reserved for members of the Armed Forces and the wider Services family.

**Limited to 1000 copies  
available for £975 plus delivery**



*Briefing behind the lines*



*Paddy Mayne, 1945*



# THE SIGNED EDITIONS

Finally there are four very special signed versions of the Diary. These versions are bound over extra thick boards and have an additional leather closing flap in an exact copy of the original Diary. They all contain the additional post war chapter.

## THE VETERAN'S EDITION

Signed by Major A.J. Schofield MBE, the longest serving member of the Regiment, who fought through Occupied Europe with Paddy Mayne.

**Limited to 150 copies,  
available for £1750 plus delivery.**

## THE NAVIGATOR'S EDITION

Signed by Major W.M. Sadler MC,MM. who was David Stirling's navigator throughout his desert campaign.

**Limited to 150 copies,  
available for £1750 plus delivery**

Please add packing/delivery charges to your order form, as outlined below:

Mainland UK £25  
Europe £50  
Channel Islands £55  
United States/Canada £100  
Aus/NZ £125

Please contact us for charges outside these territories

1. To Bill, or kidman and Field Marshal ROMEL, of his staff.



## THE VICTORIA CROSS EDITION

Signed by all three post war SAS VC holders. Corporal Willie Apiata VC, Corporal Mark Donaldson VC and Corporal Ben Roberts-Smith VC, MG.

**Limited to 150 copies,  
available for £2500 delivery included.**

## THE ORIGINALS EDITION

Signed by Sgt. Jimmy Storie, the last surviving member of the "Originals", those 22 men out of 65 who survived Operation Number One and who went on to become the backbone of the wartime SAS.

**Limited to 100 copies only,  
available for £2500 delivery included.**



Sandblasted presentation ammunition box

The Victoria Cross and Originals Editions both come in a sandblasted presentation ammunition box which is lined in parachute silk. The box doubles as a lectern for reading and display purposes [illustrated]

The Diary is being published by Extraordinary Editions Limited, in association with SAS Regimental Association Publishing Limited, who have retained full editorial control. The lion's share of the profits will go towards the welfare work of the Regimental Association. The team at Extraordinary Editions have many years of experience in producing hand made facsimile books of heirloom quality. Production, printing and binding all take place in Great Britain.



The Signed Editions

Further information can be found at [www.saswardiary.co.uk](http://www.saswardiary.co.uk) or email [info@saswardiary.co.uk](mailto:info@saswardiary.co.uk)