



MILITARY MAVERICKS

Extraordinary Men of Battle

David Rooney

What makes a maverick? Is it simply an orthodox mind, a dislike of rule and tradition? Or is it more than that, a flagrant disregard for convention?

Can there ever be a place for the maverick in a disciplined military hierarchy? A maverick on the battlefield is much more than just a loose cannon; it's the maverick who seizes the unlikely chance to win the day.

In his absorbing new study of heroes who broke the rules, historian David Rooney shows how often the day is won by sheer determination to succeed, despite the odds, despite the criticism of peers and elders. It is invariably the maverick that turns every challenge to an opportunity, leads from the front, and wins the unwinnable. The contrary chaos of war can be so intimidating to the traditional mind that – perhaps – victory can only belong to the military maverick.

Here are the stories of twelve mavericks: Alexander the Great, Shaka Zulu, Stonewall Jackson, Giuseppe Garibaldi, Lawrence of Arabia, Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck, Heinz Guderian, George S. Patton, Vinegar Joe Stilwell, Orde Wingate, Otto Skorzeny, and Vo Nguyen Giap.

Each had flaws that would have brought down a lesser man. Each faced strong opposition from their own side, but they all proved their bravery and leadership in battle. Full of insight into the nature of the military mind, this book reveals by how much, and how often, success in battle depends on the irreplaceable presence of just one man.

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