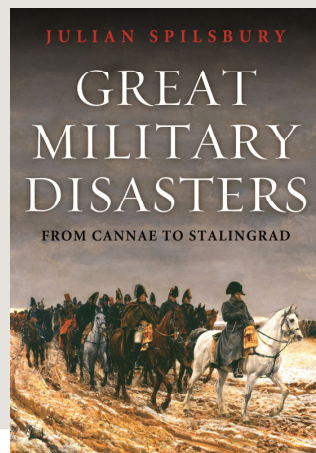


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The compelling stories of history's most disastrous military decisions

Description

Great Military Disasters tells the dramatic stories behind the world's most calamitous conflicts. From the French army's failure to understand the impact of new technology at Crécy to Hitler's blatant overconfidence at Stalingrad, military historian Julian Spilsbury provides thrilling accounts of 20 military catastrophes, covering exactly what went wrong, how and why. Of course, a disastrous outcome for one side meant victory for another, so as well as exploring the reasons the conflict ended in disaster, *Great Military Disasters* also reveals the key to victory.

Complemented with eyewitness quotations and dramatic illustrations, this is both an absorbing overview of the world's major conflicts and an intriguing study of human incompetence of the gravest kind.

The disastrous campaigns are:

Mount Tabor 1125 BC; **Leipzig** 1813; **Siracuse** 415–413 BC; **Fredericksburg** 1862; **Cannae** 216 BC; **Sedan** 1870; **Teutoberger Wald** AD 9; **Little Big Horn** 1876; **Bannockburn** 1314; **Isandhlwana** 1879; **Crécy** 1346; **Tannenberg** 1914; **Flodden** 1513; **Verdun** 1916; **Pavia** 1524; **The Somme** 1916; **Saratoga** 1777; **Stalingrad** 1942; **Moscow** 1812; **Dien Bien Phu** 1954

Sales Points

- A former army officer turned military obituarist and scriptwriter, Julian Spilsbury is perfectly placed to bring these battles and their key players to life
- *Great Military Disasters* is a fascinating exploration of the worst – and best – military tactics
- 50 black and white images illustrate the fateful battles

Author Profile

Julian Spilsbury is the military obituarist for the *Daily Telegraph* and a script writer for 'The Bill', 'Taggart' and 'Casualty'. He is the author of *The Indian Mutiny* and *The Thin Red Line: An Eyewitness History of the Crimean War*.