



Liquidate Paris

Sven Hassel

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I had a grenade in my hand. So, no doubt, did the English private. I tore out the pin with my teeth. Lay there and counted. Twenty-one, twenty-two, twenty-three, twenty-four. . .

It is Hitler's last chance to save The Third Reich. . . Millions of Allied troops have landed in Normandy. The orders are clear: Sven and his comrades, hardened by a savage war that has led them from the bloody steppes of the Russian Front, to the slopes of Monte Cassino, are ordered to withdraw to Strasbourg and destroy Paris on the way. . . *Liquidate Paris* shows the eruption of World War II in its most brutal and cruel phase, as allied troops advance upon Paris and the penal regiment retreat

Liquidate Paris Details

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From Reader Review Liquidate Paris for online ebook

Brian Turner says

Sven and his unit find themselves in France for the Normandy landings up to the liberation of Paris. As usual, it's the characters and their interactions that make the book interesting. Some tense moments, some gallows humour and all that holds his group of misfits together is their camaraderie.

For some reason, "Tiny" from all of the other books is suddenly referred to as "Little John", but otherwise it's pretty much what you've come to expect from a Sven Hassel book.

Hobbeldehoy says

The same formula as Wheels of Terror and Legion of the Damned but not quite as good. Certainly easy and quick to read because it's more a novella size than the other two books, the irony is there, the savagery is there but it's more of a lazy effort by the author compared with the other two.

Still it's worth reading but I think the author was running out of steam here and reads more like fiction than faction because the other books are supposedly based on real experiences, how much is gloss we'll never know but there was a rumour that Hassel's wife actually wrote these books. Quite possible, it wouldn't be the first time. Perhaps it was a writing team, who knows.

Radu says

Not good, not great. An equivalent of a light movie :)

Hatice says

Son derece dehşet verici, savaştan anlamsızlıktan ve çirkinliğini kanıtlayan yüzlerce an var kitapta. Unutmamak için okunmalı!

Ercan says

This book does not contain so much character description but especially environment description. I think we all need those descriptions for the imagination of the scenes. This made the book not so fun to read.

I may have got attention to this because of I read Trevanian's "The Summer of Katya" at the same time. I read so gorgorous and excellent character and environment descriptions in the scenes in that book.

Leonard says

I discovered Sven Hassel's many books back in the 1970's. I was in my early twenties, newly married and ready to settle in an armchair and read. The War had ended twenty five years previously, my father playing an active part in the fighting, so I was intrigued to get an insight into the War from the other side, get a different view.

This was long before the wonders of the internet and Kindle. I devoured them, bought the paperbacks one after the other, read them all. Of course, as sometimes happens, I had a clear out and took them as well as many other books to the literary graveyard, the charity shop.

A month or two ago while looking for a new book on my Kindle I came across Sven again. I wasn't disappointed! I find his writing quirky and sometimes hard to follow; but his characters are very real and paint a picture of the Second World War from a very different perspective than is the norm, in fact his characters remind me of my father who was also very rebellious, not a man to follow the rules, but at least he came home alive!. I will be buying more of Sven's outpourings. he is addictive and keeps you reading!

Robert Roby says

I love this book . It's a real treasure , in my opinion. It made me laugh at some points , and cry at other points. It's one of my favorite Sven books. I really recommend this to you guys , if you like the WW II stories

Andreas Schmidt says

Altro romanzo in pieno stile Argberg; come già sperimentato negli altri libri, la battaglia, che dà inizio a questo libro, si presenta come fosse pura poesia. 'Liquidate Parigi' ha come collocazione storica i mesi che vanno dallo sbarco alleato in Normandia, ai primi di giugno del 1944, fino alla fine di agosto. Data entro la quale Parigi sarà liberata. La guerra si svolge in questo lasso di tempo, con scontri, massacri, ritirate dell'esercito tedesco. E il 27°, la quinta compagnia, secondo gruppo, di cui fanno parte i soliti (Barcellona Blom, Fratellino/Tiny/Petit-Frère, il legionario, il vecchio unno, Porta, Heide, Sven, Gunther ...) si trova a combattere. A volte a piedi, a volte in trincea, a volte in ritirata, a volte sui letali Tiger II o Panther; fino a quando si giunge ad un punto focale: la distruzione di Parigi. E' il secondo libro che non è fine a se stesso, per Argberg, ma una trama sbiadita inizia a sorgere (a mio avviso quello che prima faceva voltare pagina dopo pagina al lettore, erano le sole gesta dei personaggi descritti con forza carismatica da Hassel) quando Himmler ordina a Von Choltitz di radere al suolo Parigi secondo gli ordini di Hitler. In questo libro, come in tanti altri, la guerra e la società tedesca e delle nazioni soggiogate, sono presentate nel modo più naturale ma al contempo curioso, possibile. In primo luogo, nessuno è indispensabile. Le fucilazioni e le esecuzioni sommarie, si voglia per insubordinazione, si voglia per giustizia militare, o qualunque altra cosa, sono all'ordine del giorno. Il valente generale, il giovane senza paura e abile nella guerra, l'ufficiale capace, eccetera, tutti sono soltanto pedine in un gioco più grande di loro, mosso dalle alte sfere, che servono una causa che non appartiene loro e per la quale possono e devono morire. La curiosità e l'assurdità però sta proprio in questo: è la pedina uomo che non ha valore, a fare lo stato delle cose. Generali, soldati, civili, sono

tutti ingranaggi di una grande macchina, che funziona anche forse non come una macchina di precisione come si vorrebbe per il III Reich: sono vittime e al contempo involontari carnefici. E poi, c'è la guerra, che non ha alcun significato se non quello di morte e distruzione.

David says

As a child looking at book carousels while on holiday, Sven Hassel's books with their gory and violent covers seemed to be everywhere, so it was with surprise that I found his name on a list of forgotten authors, despite still being in print. Hassel seems to have given the impression that he had been a soldier and indeed he appears as a character, but a counter-story is that he'd got most of his material from talking to veterans in pubs. Having now read one of these books, the latter story is almost certainly the case: the combat sections in this book read like a toy soldier's wet dream.

The British Churchill tank, one of the most heavily armoured allied AFVs, seems to be surprisingly easy to knock out and incapable of returning fire effectively. Six of these with their crews sit patiently in a shooting gallery row waiting to be knocked out by Tiger tanks, despite Hassel's own comment that a stationary tank is mince and having had plenty of notice the German tanks are coming.

Allied troops run blindly down the MG42's barrel, instead of exploiting the need to change its barrel frequently, which is not mentioned.

Hassel seems to have needed a new translator who actually knew something about weapons. Side arms are referred to throughout as 'revolvers', including the P38 German pistol which was definitely an automatic. 'Bazookas' are referred to several times, which would probably have been the panzerfaust at that stage of the war, although the Germans did have reloadable AT weapons.

The plot is not very coherent, to some extent being a plugged together set of short stories, but things tighten up as Sven's tight knit section falls back on and makes itself at home in Paris where it becomes involved in the black market. There is quite a lot of high level politics and the pen portraits of German leaders strike true. The Gestapo is presented as no more popular with its own side than the enemy. Hassel inserts incidents of German compassion as a counter to the allied narrative of unrelenting brutality: thus wounded British soldiers are comforted and Jewish resistance workers are saved from the firing squad.

There is some camaraderie between the opposing lower ranks, for which I have heard some evidence. Captured Americans are treated to booze and exchange 'no prisoner' stories. Conversely allied war crimes are highlighted, the Canadians apparently being particularly reviled for shooting their prisoners, which I have never come across before and wonder about truth of it. Even in the most full on combat sequences, Hassel asserts that the hard-bitten German troops felt sorry for the green troops they were mowing down with their MG42s. War is a weird thing.

Hassel also includes vignettes that seem to relate to real life incidents of resistance and also the brutality against the general population. This leads on to the general hypocrisy around the liberation of Paris as collaborators rush to cover their tracks and women in relationships with German soldiers are victimised. Hassel even inserts a frankly unlikely and ultimately tragic love affair. More wet dreams there I think. Although I haven't had the inclination to check these vignettes out, they do read as some of the most interesting parts of the book.

Having scored three of these books literally 'under the counter' at a local second hand place, I have another two to go and am on the look out for 'Legion of the Damned', which seems to have some sort of iconic status. This was used as holiday reading and that's probably the best place for it. Although at times Hassel presents a real rollercoaster, at times this disjointed story can get rather tedious. As you may have noticed, Paris was not liquidated.

Procyon Lotor says

6th Liquidate Paris chapter by chapter: ----- 1. No Quarter Given In Section Ninety-one On the French coast. Tiny ('Little John' in this book) talks about swimming to England. Heavy bombardment heralding the Normandy Landings. Porta decides to eat his emergency iron rations. The landings begin. Lots of fighting. Shell-shock. Sven remembers Copenhagen before the war and explains how he got to Germany. British tank attack. 2. The Last Hour Listening in to coded messages on the BBC. Talk about burying casualties with their papers in empty beer cans. Long description of mine-clearing duty. Talk about Blighty wounds. The fate of Lt Klaus Brandt. 3. The Hill Of Golgotha On the march. Porta talks about whores. Description of Old Man. Discovery of bombed wood and human debris. Rocket attack. Section relieves an SS section of Hitler Youth. Comments about Canadian atrocities. More fighting. Canadians shoot surrendering Germans. Porta, Tiny and the Legionnaire take revenge. Use of Goliath remote controlled tanks. 4. Billeting Story of resistance fighter Duchez and his tricks. Section has to set up billets in a French village. Meeting with the village informer. Sven meets French girl. Talk about Sven's origins and German nationality. Porta comes to get Sven when the regiment pulls out of the village. Tiny is pissed. Section has Tiger tanks. Encounter with group of lunatics and others along the road. Big group of non-Germans fighting in the German army. Cossacks. Porta 'tells the fortune' of a Cossack corporal. Tanks attack. 5. In The Style Of Hemingway More resistance activity. Section goes on reconnaissance patrol in Puma and stop in a French village. Porta finds a bar. They discover a large 'important' American war correspondent very drunk at the bar. porta is invited into the kitchen and sets about creating his famous Bouillabaise recipe. More drinking and banter. Eventually section drives off singing and shouting. heide turns out to have appendicitis. Instructions given over the radio. Old Man operates. 6. A Lost Machine Gun Section takes over posh French house. British attack. Old Man's section again given rearguard role. Scots attack. Sven uses MG42 (long description of its use etc). Retreat to bridge which engineers are ready to blow up. Post arrives. Barcelona gets a letter with divorce papers. Another attack. Churchill tanks. Tiny destroys his 29th tank. Sven loses control of his machine-gun and shoots Tiny in the leg. Tiny comes after him. Sven is forced to return to pick up his lost gun. He meets a wounded British soldier. Long (and unlikely) adventure retrieving gun! 7. Discovery Of An American Depot More retreating. Encounter with wounded. Lt L?we decides to get transport for them. 'Panzer Meyer' turns up. Entertaining section of the book. Two SS men brew-up liquor. Two Americans arrive. Lots of drinking and music-making. English attack. Hand-to-hand fighting. Barcelona sent off to hospital. Discovery of American supply depot in forest. Section takes it over. Huge drinking session. Lt L?we gets very cross. 8. General Von Choltitz Visits Himmler That very meeting takes place! Himmler decides to destroy Paris. Description of chaos as Panzer divisions try to get to Paris. 9. Can Paris Be Saved? Plans to destroy Paris... and plans to save Paris. 10. The Guard-room At The Hotel Meurice Guard-room in Paris. Sven's section arrive to relieve the guard and cause all sorts of trouble. Run-in with Gestapo. Barcelona remembers one of the Gestapo men from his time in Spain. Porta trades a Glicenti revolver. Tiny and Heide have a bust up. 11. Escape From The Prison Of Fresnes More guard duty in prison. Argument with French Communist (good stuff). Plan to spring condemned boy from jail. Story of Gunter Soest the disfigured tankman. 12. With 'Redcoat' In Montmartre Time spent in Parisian bar. Raid by Feldgendarmarie. Sven's girlfriend from Normandy turns up, much to Heide's disgust. Start of plans to smuggle the pig across Paris. Reference to 'Malinowski's patrols'. 13.

Night's Journey Across Paris The pig smuggling episode and the big question - 'what was Odin's pig called?' 14. The Gestapo Capitulates Kriminalobersekretär Schluckebier of the Gestapo visits the barracks. One of the great Sven Hassel chapters and possibly Porta's finest hour. 15. An Evening In Paris Arms deals. Encounter with Gestapo types. The Legionnaire tortures one of them for information and the Old Man protests. Death of Sven's girlfriend Jacqueline. Story of mysterious bomb attack. The Liberation of Paris. 16. Refusal To Obey Orders Stories of revenge on 'collaborators'. Preparation for withdrawal to Strasbourg. Porta's latest plan for pilfering food. Final argument with the Americans over the name of Odin's pig (she was called 'S?rimne' in case anyone's still wondering!! Thanks Nils.)

Iain Watson says

Tuhotkaa Pariisi! by Sven Hassel (1995)

Petersch says

One of my favourite war novell. Sometimes very funny, its really surprised me!

Ana says

This is the same Sven Hassel that I read for the first time when I was 12 years old, falling in love with war stories and the sheer amount of ways you can tell said stories. I'm happy to go back to him from time to time, because now I also know the historical context of whatever battle he's writing about. In this book, D-Day made an appearance, and as I've been to the Normandy war cemetery and read as much as I can on the subject, I can integrate these soldiers in a grander picture. The writing is in the typical Hassel style - short, tough, disruptive to the peaceful mind. You can be sure you'll be entertained by all of his works.

Anna says

Quite a nice read. Bad guys making their way to survive not caring much for the rules.

David Miller says

In this book Hassel returns to the short-story format of the earlier books in the series; this book is a collection of vignettes, related only in that they all take place in Paris shortly before it's liberation from the occupying German army.

In the closing pages Hassel claims the commanding German general did not raze the entire city to the ground, only because he did not receive the necessary tanks and mines in time to do it; not at all because he felt Paris actually ought to be spared. It may be true; it certainly fits the state of the war at the time.

As always Hassel excels at showing the brutalizing nature of the war. All the characters in the book remain fully human fleshed out characters - no cardboard Nazis or saintly resistance heroines here - he shows clearly how concepts of civilized and right behaviors were turned totally on their heads.
