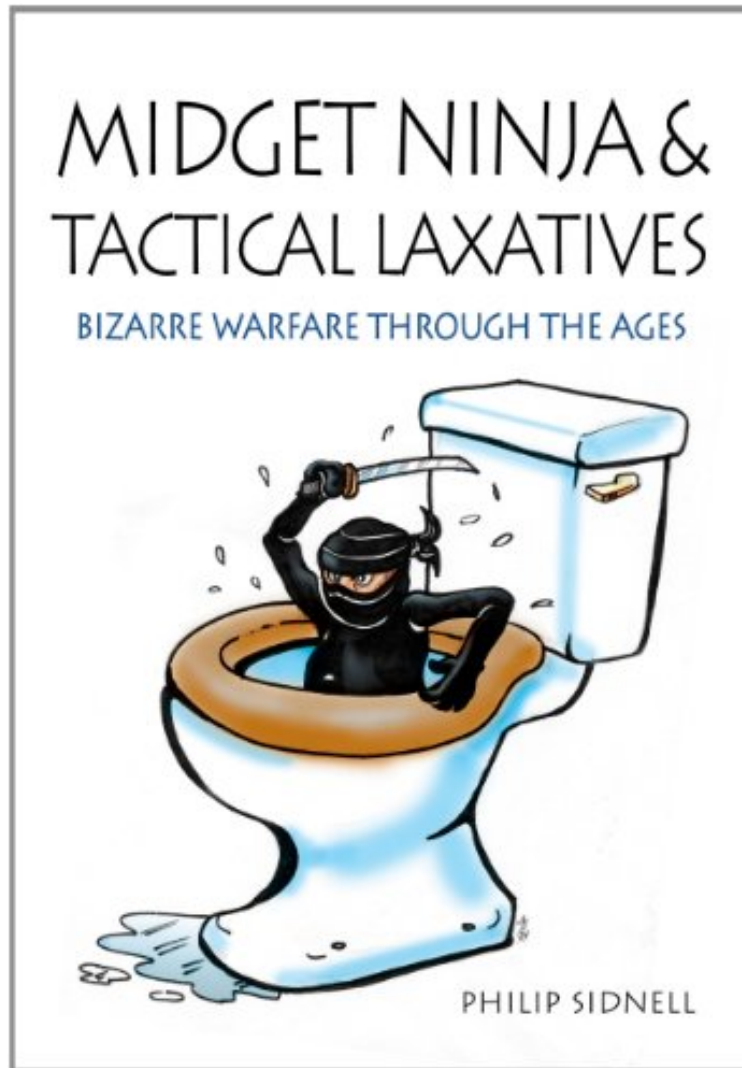


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Midget Ninja and Tactical Laxatives: Bizarre Warfare Through the Ages

Philip Sidnell

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#2854885 in Books 2013-01-19 2013-02-02Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 7.70 x .60 x 5.001, .35 #File Name: 1848843313176 pages | File size: 72.Mb

Philip Sidnell : Midget Ninja and Tactical Laxatives: Bizarre Warfare Through the Ages before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Midget Ninja and Tactical Laxatives: Bizarre Warfare Through the Ages:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Got to like a historian with a keen sense of humorBy R.F.If the title doesn't make you curious enough to buy it you probably are not in the target population. Each story is anywhere from half a page to 2 pages long, so it's excellent on top of the toilet tank, waiting for an appointment, or traveling. It is a

well organized combination of humor and historical information -- it is nice to combine humor with learning, and some of the mental pictures the author paints are hard to forget. I'm still thinking of elephants sliding down a mountain on their backsides and it's been at least a week since I finished the book. Purposely having elephants sliding on their butts down the mountain make you curious? Buy the book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. InterestingBy WayneThis book shows just how strange human nature can be. It's amazing the things that we fight and die for and the way karma has a way of showing up and just screwing up the best laid plans of some of history's greatest (so called) military minds. It's actually a pretty cool read if you are into military history 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Alright for a wet afternoon. By LiamOkay as a quick read. Bathroom material I suppose could describe it. It is amusing at times, if you like dark humour. Some sections drag a bit though, but in general it is a bit of a giggle. bought it because I heard the author being interviewed about it on the radio.

Which army used camels disguised as war elephants? Which illustrious warlord was killed by a midget ninja hidden in his latrine? How did live cows dropped by the Soviet air force sink a Japanese vessel? And just what kind of weapon was the Bohemian Ear Spoon? These are just a few of the important questions of military history answered in this book. 'Midget Ninja and Tactical Laxatives' is a light-hearted look at some of the most bizarre incidents, weirdest weapons and strangest stratagems to be found in the annals of warfare. Drawn from all periods of history there is something here for every reader with an interest in military history and/or a sense of humor. Some of the sections included: War Elephants and How to Stop Them (including the infamous blazing pigs) Ignominious Deaths (e.g. the midget ninja in the latrine) A Misplaced Sense of Honor (e.g. the sniper who let George Washington live) Suicide Missions (e.g. mass suicide as a diversion tactic and a case of self-decapitation) Weird and Wonderful Weapons: (such as the WW2 bat bomb -with real bats) Stranger things happen at Sea (e.g. million-ton ice ships and death by blocked toilet) God is on our side (of omens, oracles and the ancient battle stopped by a UFO) An Army Marches on its Stomach (e.g. the tactical use of laxatives and the Greek army immobilized for 3 days by hallucinogenic honey)

This is a slim, paperback volume from Pen and Sword, written by Phillip Sidnell. However, though this book may have all the appearance of being a lightweight big of historical fluff, Mr Sidnell wears his erudition lightly, since his more scholarly work, Warhorse, Cavalry in Ancient Warfare (Also from Pen Sword) is highly regarded in historical circles. We've all seen those 100 Greatest Military Blunders and 50 Most Stupid Military Commanders volumes that clog up the discount displays at Waterstone's when Christmas approaches, and this is certainly in a similar vein. A glance at the contents gives you the general idea, boasting seventeen chapters, beginning with "War Elephants and How to Beat Them" followed by "Ignominious Deaths," through "An Army Marches on its Stomach (and Liver)" before "Unlikely Survivors", and culminating with "Weird and Wonderful Weapons" and "Towards the Future - Robot Wars". The author writes in an engaging, amusing, even 'matey' style, which suits the content, as if it were stories being exchanged in your local pub or down the wargames club. The chapters are divided into brief anecdotes, some barely more than a paragraph, a few page or two long. Sidnell's expertise in the ancient era is clear and where he seems most comfortable, but he has managed to unearth plenty of unusual and extraordinary facts from the full breadth of military history, whether it be idiots who met uncomfortable ends, bonkers inventions, breathtaking incompetence or simply exploits that just leave you wondering what the participants must have been thinking. The book has no illustrations, which is a shame, as even a few black and white images would have added to our enjoyment and understanding of some of the more obscure items, but Sidnell has crammed a lot into some 170 tightly - typeset pages (warning: the text is rather small). Curiously, the book ends with a further dozen pages or so of ads by other Pen and Sword books, including an excerpt from another book by someone else, which we could have done without, quite honestly. (Or which would have been better used to provide those illustrations -) But at GBP8.99, this is a witty birthday present for a chum that I would heartily recommend. Armed with its contents, you will be celebrated as either the most entertaining raconteur of unusual military lore - or the geekiest grognard at the club! I was going to say that it would make the perfect book to keep in the smallest room in the house, but the midget ninja of the title gained his fame for attacking a samurai lord from, shall we say, an unexpected direction that will have you checking your U-bend regularly! - Miniature Wargames The tone is about right, with the right mix of amused surprise and clear explanation. There are also a set of useful footnotes that provide the original sources for most of the stories. I must admit some of the incidents described were quite familiar to me (the many wounds of Alexander the Great or some of the more unusual ways in which warships sank themselves), but given that I spent most of my time reading a wide range of works on military history I was surprised just how many of the topics were entirely new to me. There are plenty of interesting snippets in here, with enough variety to ensure that any familiar story is followed by something new and unfamiliar.- History of WarAbout the AuthorPhilip Sidnell has a First Class degree in War Studies and History from King's College London and was for some years the Editor of The Military and Aviation Book Society, Ancient and Medieval History Book Club and the History Guild. He is now a commissioning editor for Pen Sword Books, one of the UK's leading specialist publishers of military history. He edited Tribute: the Combat Experiences of the Military and Aviation Book Club, and wrote Warhorse: Cavalry in Ancient Warfare. A keen wargamer, he has a deep interest

in all periods of military history but a special fondness for the ancient world. He lives and works in Kent.