

# 'Rommel

Erwin Rommel

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Johannes Erwin Eugen Rommel (pronounced [ˈʁɔmˌɛl] ; 15 November 1891 – 14 October 1944), popularly known as The Desert Fox (German: Wüstenfuchs, pronounced [ˈvyːstn̩ˈfʊks] ), was a German Generalfeldmarschall (field marshal) during World War II. He served in the Wehrmacht (armed forces) of Nazi Germany, as well as in the Reichswehr of the Weimar Republic, and the army of Imperial Germany.

Rommel was a highly decorated officer in World War I and was awarded the Pour le Mérite for his actions on the Italian Front. In 1937, he published his classic book on military tactics, *Infantry Attacks*, drawing on his experiences in that war. In World War II, he commanded the 7th Panzer Division during the 1940 invasion of France. His leadership of German and Italian forces in the North African campaign established his reputation as one of the ablest tank commanders of the war, and earned him the nickname *der Wüstenfuchs*, "the Desert Fox". Among his British adversaries he had a reputation for chivalry, and his phrase "war without hate" has been uncritically used to describe the North African campaign. Other historians have since rejected the phrase as a myth, citing exploitation of North African Jewish populations during the conflict. Other historians note that there is no clear evidence Rommel was involved in or aware of these crimes, with some pointing out that the war in the desert, as fought by Rommel and his opponents, still came as close to a clean fight as there was in World War II. He later commanded the German forces opposing the Allied cross-channel invasion of Normandy in June 1944.

After the Nazis gained power in Germany, Rommel gradually accepted the new regime. Historians have given different accounts of the specific period and his motivations. He was a supporter of Adolf Hitler, at least until near the end of the war, if not necessarily sympathetic to the party and the paramilitary forces associated with it. In 1944, Rommel was implicated in the 20 July plot to assassinate Hitler. Because of Rommel's status as a national hero, Hitler wanted to eliminate him quietly instead of having him immediately executed, as many other plotters were. Rommel was given a choice between suicide, in return for assurances that his reputation would remain intact and that his family would not be persecuted following his death, or facing a trial that would result in his disgrace and execution; he chose the former and took a cyanide pill. Rommel was given a state funeral, and it was announced that he had succumbed to his injuries from the strafing of his staff car in Normandy.

Rommel became a larger-than-life figure in both Allied and Nazi propaganda, and in postwar popular culture. Numerous authors portray him as an apolitical, brilliant commander and a victim of Nazi Germany, although other authors have contested this assessment and called it the "Rommel myth". Rommel's reputation for conducting a clean war was used in the interest of the West German rearmament and reconciliation between the former enemies – the United Kingdom and the United States on one side and the new Federal Republic of Germany on the other. Several of Rommel's former subordinates, notably his chief of staff Hans Speidel, played key roles in German rearmament and integration into NATO in the postwar era. The German Army's largest military base, the Field Marshal Rommel Barracks, Augustdorf, and a third ship of the Lütjens-class destroyer of the German Navy are both named in his honour. His son Manfred Rommel was the longtime mayor of Stuttgart, Germany and namesake of Stuttgart Airport.

Rommel (disambiguation)

*up Rommel in Wiktionary, the free dictionary. Erwin Rommel was a German World War II field marshal. Rommel may also refer to: Rommel (surname) Rómmel, a*

Erwin Rommel was a German World War II field marshal.

Rommel may also refer to:

Rommel (surname)

Rómmel, a surname

Rommel (film), a German television film

German destroyer Rommel (D187), a West German guided missile destroyer

Jurgen Vsyck or Rommel, film director

Manfred Rommel

*Manfred Rommel (24 December 1928 – 7 November 2013) was a German politician belonging to the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), who served as mayor of Stuttgart*

Manfred Rommel (24 December 1928 – 7 November 2013) was a German politician belonging to the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), who served as mayor of Stuttgart from 1974 until 1996. Rommel's policies were described as tolerant and liberal, and he was one of the most popular municipal politicians in Germany. He was the recipient of numerous foreign honours. He was the only son of Wehrmacht Field Marshal Erwin Rommel and his wife Lucia Maria Mollin (1894–1971), and contributed to the establishment of museums in his father's honour. He was also known for his friendship with George Patton IV and David Montgomery, the sons of his father's two principal military adversaries.

Rommel (surname)

*World War Manfred Rommel (1928–2013), mayor of Stuttgart and son of Erwin Rommel Adrien Rommel (1914–1963), French fencer Eddie Rommel (1897–1970), American*

Rommel is a German surname. Notable people with the surname include:

Erwin Rommel (1891–1944), German field marshal of the Second World War

Manfred Rommel (1928–2013), mayor of Stuttgart and son of Erwin Rommel

Adrien Rommel (1914–1963), French fencer

Eddie Rommel (1897–1970), American baseball pitcher and umpire

Frank Rommel (born 1984), German skeleton racer

Henrik Rommel (born 1994), Swedish ice hockey player

John Rommel (born 1958), American trumpeter

Julia Rommel, American painter

Kurt Rommel (1926–2011), German Protestant pastor, author and hymnodist

Rommel myth

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The Rommel myth, or the Rommel legend, is a phrase used by a number of historians for the common depictions of German Generalfeldmarschall Erwin Rommel as an apolitical, brilliant commander and a victim of Nazi Germany due to his presumed participation in the 20 July plot against Adolf Hitler, which led to Rommel's forced suicide in 1944. According to these historians, who take a critical view of Rommel, such depictions are not accurate.

The description of Rommel as a brilliant commander started in 1941, with Rommel's participation, as a component of Nazi propaganda to praise the Wehrmacht and instill optimism in the German public. It was picked up and disseminated in the West by the British war-time press as the Allies sought to explain their continued inability to defeat the Axis forces in North Africa: the genius of Rommel was used by dissenters to protest against social inequality within the British Army and by leaders like Churchill to reduce class tensions.

Following the war, the Western Allies, and particularly the British, depicted Rommel as the "good German" and "our friend Rommel", adhering closely to the tenets of the myth of the clean Wehrmacht. His reputation for conducting a clean war was used in the interests of West German rearmament during the Cold War and the reconciliation between the former enemies—the United Kingdom and the United States on one side, and the new Federal Republic of Germany on the other. The 1950 biography *Rommel: The Desert Fox* and the 1953 publication of *The Rommel Papers* added to the myth, which has proven resilient to critical examination.

This reevaluation has produced new interpretations of Rommel, including his relationship with Nazism, his abilities as an operational and strategic level commander, and his role in the 20 July plot to assassinate Hitler. Historians and commentators conclude that Rommel remains an ambiguous figure, not easily definable either inside or outside the myth.

Rommel Padilla

*Rommel Cariño Padilla (Tagalog pronunciation: [paʔdilja]; born January 4, 1965) is a Filipino actor, model, businessman, politician, and movie producer*

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Rommel Marbil

*Rommel Francisco Dayleg Marbil (born February 7, 1969) is a Filipino police officer who served as the Chief of the Philippine National Police from April*

Rommel Francisco Dayleg Marbil (born February 7, 1969) is a Filipino police officer who served as the Chief of the Philippine National Police from April 1, 2024 to June 2, 2025. Prior to his assumption as the PNP Chief, Marbil served as the director of the PNP's Directorate for Comptrollership. Marbil's term as PNP Chief was extended by 4 months from February 7, 2025 to June 2, 2025, which allowed him to serve beyond the mandatory retirement age of 56 due to the security and stability concerns on the 2025 Philippine Midterm Elections.

Rómmel

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Juliusz Rómmel (1881–1967), Polish military general

Karol Rómmel (1888–1967), Polish and Russian military officer, sportsman, and horse rider

Rommel Museum

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Rommel Museum, Blaustein, a museum in Blaustein, Germany

Rommel Museum, Mersa Matruh, a museum in Mersa Matruh, Egypt

The Rommel Papers

*The Rommel Papers is the collected writings by the German World War II field marshal Erwin Rommel published in 1953. The book included Rommel's writings*

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