

## BOOK RELEASE

**TITLE:** ORSOGNA: NEW ZEALAND'S FIRST ITALIAN BATTLE

**AUTHOR:** JEFFREY PLOWMAN



## SYNOPSIS

Orsogna. Of all the hill top towns on this part of the Italian Adriatic Coast, none was of greater natural strength. From the south it appeared as a long line of stone-built houses perched precariously on an escarpment above the Moro River, its buttresses extending down into the cliff face. To an attacker approaching from this side it presented a formidable aspect. It was on this sector of the German Bernhardt Line that the New Zealand Division found itself, after moving from to Italy. General Montgomery wanted to break through on this front and launch a left hook on Rome. With his Eighth Army exhausted by months of fighting, he was hoping the New Zealanders would provide just the punch he needed. But the Division, fresh from the North African campaign, was not the

force it once was. Reforged with reinforcements to replace those that had refused to return after a furlough scheme that had turned sour, it was only just beginning to find its feet and Orsogna would be its first testing ground.

## DETAILS

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## CONTACT

willsonscott  
P U B L I S H I N G

PO Box 6006, Christchurch 8442  
Ph: (03) 342 3138 Fax: (03) 342 3885  
promote@willsonscott.biz www.willsonscott.biz

