



EDDIE NORMAN *and 25 Battalion*

ELIZABETH KAY

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152 × 229 mm • portrait • soft cover

360 pp • photos and maps included

Selling points:

- recommended by leading military historians
- first-person account of a noted soldier in WWII
- graphic account of the under-reported Italian campaign after Cassino

‘Elizabeth Kay is telling an important story that encompasses the wartime experience of one of the noted soldiers in the New Zealand Division.’

— **Christopher Pugsley**

‘Nicely balancing the personal and the wider context, it is a superb piece of work, one of the best presented accounts of its type, and deserves a wide readership.’

— **Ian McGibbon**

Elizabeth Kay is a researcher and writer. Her previous books are *A Suitable Residence: The Story of Bishopscourt*, *Mulgrave Street Wellington*, and *A Wonderful Scheme: The Story of The New Zealand Anglican Church Pension Board*. She is



President of Friends of Te Papa and lives in Wellington with her husband, Crispin.

When World War Two broke out, three theological students left their college in Auckland to the sound of bagpipes and volunteered to fight. Eddie Norman, aged 22 from Hawke’s Bay, was one of them. A natural leader, his first experience of action was at El Alamein in 1942 as a platoon commander, and during the Italian campaign he quickly rose to command 25 Battalion.

Under Eddie, the battalion was responsible for the division’s success at Cassino, almost single-handedly smashed the German defensive line south of Arezzo and led the advance across the Senio to the Sillaro River. He was awarded the Military Cross, Distinguished Service Order and American Legion of Merit.

Eddie’s regular letters home to his new wife, Margaret, described daily army life fighting in the heat of the desert and the wet winter campaign in Italy when the men were holed up in the ruins of Cassino and pursued the enemy through Tuscany to the Adriatic Coast.

Eddie returned home to Margaret and his studies for the Anglican priesthood, eventually becoming Anglican Bishop of Wellington and, in 1984, a Knight Commander of the British Empire.

Eddie Norman and 25 Battalion is told by Eddie’s daughter Elizabeth Kay using his letters and other writings, 200 images and a series of custom-made maps.



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