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Nota di contenuto	Preface: A people' war -- 1. The sources of Odessa's military value -- Part one: The defense of Odessa 1941 (2. The situation on the Southern Front in the summer of 1941 ; 3. Defensively fighting on the distant approaches to the city ; 4. The fighting on the nearest approaches to the city ; 5. Tanks in the battle for Odessa ; 6. The joint counterattack by the defendes of Odessa and the stabilization of the front ; 7. The evacuation of the Odessa defensive area) Part two: The occupation and liberation of Odessa 1941-44 (8. Odessa under occupation ; 9. Odessa resists the occupation ; 10. The 3rd Ukrainian Front's Odessa offensive and the liberation of Odessa ; 11. Odessa rises from the ruins)
Sommario/riassunto	"Afreer a brief overview of the origins and development of the city of Odessa on the Black Sea coast, [the author] turns to its citizens' ordeal during the Second World War. In the process, he describes the heroism of the city's defendes and residents in the summer of 1941 when defending against insistent Romanian attacks. Exploiting the numerous estuaries on the Black Sea coastline, which served as natural defensive lines, under the weight of numerically superior Romanian forces Odessa's defenders successfully fell back into the city of Odessa itself. Once the situation became critical, a valiant counterattack in part with naval infantry gained valuable space and time for Odessa. Eventually, at a time when German forces had advanced far to the east and were

approaching the critical naval base at Sebastopol in the Crimea, the decision was made to evacuate the remaining Soviet forces from Odessa. There ensued more than two years of occupation and underground resistance; the partisans and activists made use of the extensive catacombs underneath the city of Odessa. The occupiers scored successes against the underground movement, which Ovcharenko details in succeeding chapters using contemporary newspapers and interviews with surviving eyewitnesses, but were never able to stamp out resistance completely. Finally, in the spring of 1944, Odessa was liberated by forces of the advancing Third Ukrainian Front. Ovcharenko describes this offensive against opposing forces of the resurrected German Sixth Army."--Book jacket.
