A unique opportunity to acquire a full-scale reproduction of this extraordinary record of SAS history, published in a limited edition to mark the 70th anniversary of the Special Air Service and to raise funds for the SAS Regimental Association.
In early 1946, only months after the end of World War 2, a former SAS soldier tasked himself with one final mission. The SAS had been disbanded and there were no plans to resurrect it. The soldier’s self-appointed mission was simple: to find and preserve whatever documentation he could before the SAS was forgotten and its story lost forever.

The soldier tracked down and copied the Top Secret order authorising the first ever SAS operation..... he sought out photographs of the original members of 1 SAS, including men lost on that first operation ......... he somehow acquired the after-action reports from the few who survived. Then, with more photographs, operational orders and reports, and a handful of newspaper articles from Britain and even America, he traced the story of the SAS through North Africa, Sicily, Italy, D-Day and France, then the drive through Europe for Berlin, and the final march past when the SAS was stood down.

By mission end, the soldier had not only produced something unique - the first ever history of the SAS, collated by an SAS man – but, in the event of the SAS being consigned to a footnote in history, and with many of the documents he had copied either destroyed or lost forever, he had saved the story of the SAS during World War 2.

But the soldier did something else. He collated his work in a single massive war diary, measuring 17” x 12” x 4” and weighing over 25 lbs, and bound it in leather "liberated" from Nazi Germany.

He gave it to the SAS Regimental Association and its existence has remained a secret ever since.

Now, however, the Diary has broken cover. To mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Special Air Service and to raise funds for their welfare work, the SAS Regimental Association agreed to produce this unique anniversary limited edition of The SAS War Diary 1941-1945.
THE 2011 EDITIONS

Each edition replicates The Diary – all 17” x 12” x 4”, and some 25 lbs weight, fully bound in leather – but with one important difference.

When the wartime SAS man finally collated The Diary in 1946, it ran to nearly 600 pages. The soldier used the first 281 pages to record the history of 1 SAS. For some reason, perhaps aware that there was another mission which might follow his, he kept in the remaining pages but left them blank.

These empty pages have now been completed with specially cleared material and documents from the Association’s own highly confidential archives, to include the histories of 2 SAS and the wartime SBS. This will complete the mission the soldier began in 1946 and gives, for the first time ever, the full picture of the SAS in World War 2.

Each page has been individually scanned and converted to a high quality digital file, as has the material from the Association archive. This digital artwork has been printed on heavyweight archival-quality acid-free paper, especially made for the project in order to replicate the original pages as closely as possible. The original documents, photographs and maps are therefore reproduced in full size and in stunning clarity.

Each diary is bound using brass posts in a full leather binding in the style of the original diary and blocked with a new design featuring the Regimental badge and wings.

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Finally there are four very special signed versions of the Diary. These versions are bound over extra thick boards and have an additional leather closing flap in an exact copy of the original Diary. They all contain the additional post war chapter.

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