

Foreword

This four-disc CD-ROM is the first of seven multidisc CDs that the U.S. Army Center of Military History plans to publish over the next several years in a new electronic series called The United States Army and World War II. Numbered as Sets 1–7, the CDs will collect, in a compact and searchable form, the seventy-nine books in the Center’s well-known United States Army in World War II printed series (the “Green Books”), plus the forty concise and very readable pamphlets on World War II that the Center published to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the war. This first CD—Set 1—includes the eleven combat volumes in the World War II series on the European and Mediterranean Theaters of Operations. It also contains a detailed study of General Dwight D. Eisenhower’s role as the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, two volumes on logistical support from the Normandy invasion to the end of the war in Europe, and a volume on the complex task of supplying aid through Iran to the Soviet Union.

Reflecting the overall reputation of the Green Books, the fifteen books in Set 1 remain essential, authoritative sources on the central role of the U.S. Army in liberating Europe. The combat volumes’ original military maps are particularly renowned both for their accuracy and for their sheer number. They long ago set the standard for how maps can quickly and clearly summarize extended narrative descriptions of complex military actions. Scholarly interpretations of America’s most far-ranging and demanding war have evolved over time, but the wealth of documented factual detail captured on this CD has been a constant—a continuing foundation for current and future analysis.

Disc 1 opens with *The Supreme Command*, Forrest G. Pogue’s well-known description of Eisenhower’s Supreme Headquarters, his decisions, and his relationships with his superiors in London and Washington. Additional background on the war in Europe is provided by *Logistical Support of the Armies, Volume I: May 1941–September 1944*, and *Logistical Support of the Armies, Volume II: September 1944–May 1945*, both by Roland G. Ruppenthal. The European Theater combat story then begins with *Cross-Channel Attack*, by Gordon A. Harrison, and *Breakout and Pursuit*, by Martin Blumenson.

Moving chronologically, the seven-volume European combat narrative continues on Disc 2 with *The Lorraine Campaign*, by Hugh M. Cole; *The Siegfried Line Campaign*, by Charles B. MacDonald; and *The Ardennes: Battle of the Bulge*, by Hugh M. Cole. The account of European operations concludes on Disc 3 with *Riviera to the Rhine*, by Jeffrey J. Clarke and Robert Ross Smith, and *The Last Offensive*, by Charles B. MacDonald.

Disc 3 then looks farther eastward with T.H. Vail Motter’s *The Persian Corridor and Aid to Russia*, a non-combat study. The disc ends with Hugh M. Cole’s *Northwest Africa: Seizing the Initiative in the West*, the first of four combat volumes on the Mediterranean Theater of Operations. Disc 4 concludes this combat story by recounting the difficult and painstaking movement of American and Allied troops up the Italian peninsula in *Sicily and the Surrender of Italy*, by Albert N. Garland, *Salerno to Cassino*, by Martin Blumenson, and *Cassino to the Alps*, by Ernest F. Fisher, Jr.

World War II was a monumental endeavor by the United States and its Allies to defeat aggression and defend the principles of freedom. It remains a vivid memory for several million Army veterans. Given its global scale and intense and complex level of joint and combined (Allied) cooperation, it still has many lessons for today's Army leaders, planners, and students. Our hope is that this seven-part The United States Army and World War II CD-ROM series will both make the Center's previously published work on World War II more accessible to the American people and encourage further research and interpretation. The next CD, Set 2, will be on the Asiatic-Pacific Theaters of Operations.

We must never forget that the history of the Army is the history of the courage and commitment of the American soldier. This CD-ROM is dedicated to those who served.

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