

Foreword

This four-disc CD-ROM is the second 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 second CD—*The United States Army and World War II, Set 2: Asiatic-Pacific Theater*—includes the fourteen volumes in the World War II series on the war in the Pacific and on the Army's role in China, Burma, and India.

Reflecting the overall reputation of the Green Books, the books collected in Set 2 remain essential, authoritative sources. The original military maps in the ten combat volumes on the Pacific are particularly renowned both for their accuracy and for their number. Like the maps in the combat volumes in Set 1 on the European and Mediterranean Theaters, 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 Louis Morton's *Strategy and Command: the First Two Years*, a volume that provides a high-level context for the Pacific combat volumes by analyzing the many aspects of the evolution of American and Allied strategy and plans for joint operations from the period before Pearl Harbor to late 1943. The operational story itself then begins with Morton's *The Fall of the Philippines*, followed by *Guadalcanal: The First Offensive*, by John Miller, jr., and *Victory in Papua*, by Samuel Milner.

Moving chronologically, the Pacific combat narrative continues on Disc 2 with *Cartwheel: the Reduction of Rabaul*, by John Miller, jr.; *Seizure of the Gilberts and Marshalls*, by Philip A. Crowl and Edmund G. Love; and *Campaign in the Marianas*, by Philip A. Crowl. Disc 3 then traces the march to victory in *The Approach to the Philippines*, by Robert Ross Smith; *Leyte: The Return to the Philippines*, by M. Hamlin Cannon; *Triumph in the Philippines*, by Robert Ross Smith; and *Okinawa: The Last Battle*, by Roy E. Appleman, James M. Burns, Russell A. Gugeler, and John Stevens.

Disc 4 then moves on to the three Green Books on the Army in the China-Burma-India Theater, all by Charles F. Romanus and Riley Sutherland. *Stilwell's Mission to China* and *Stilwell's Command Problems* tell a two-part story of Lt. Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell's efforts to aid the Chinese Army. These volumes highlight the remarkable number of hats Stilwell wore: administrator of U.S. lend-lease aid, commander of the theater (to include a far-flung Services of Supply, Merrill's Marauders, and the U.S. Tenth and Fourteenth Air Forces), chief of staff to Chiang Kai-shek, and deputy commander of the British-led Southeast Asia Command. *Time Runs Out in CBI* completes the trilogy by describing the efforts of Stilwell's successors, Lt. Gen. Daniel I. Sultan and Lt. Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer, after his recall in October 1944.

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 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 3, will provide "An Overview" of the war by collecting the photographic volumes, the *Chronology*, and the *Reader's Guide* from the Green Book series plus the commemorative campaign pamphlets published for the 50th Anniversary.

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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