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Finding Your Father's War : A Practical Guide to Researching and Understanding Service in the World War II Us Army

Jonathan Gawne

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Originally published in 2006 and selling through three printings, this invaluable guide has been revised and updated for a new edition. In this work, leading military historian and researcher, Jonathan Gawne, explains and shares the techniques he uses to research archives, libraries, veteran associations, and myriad other sources of information to track down wartime careers.

The book provides an overview of the Army in World War II, from the basics up. It goes on to explain how to find information from such sources as discharges, uniforms, paperwork, the National Personnel Records Center, National Archives, other facilities, and what you can expect from veterans organizations (and how to find them). The book also helps you to assemble the data you have collected and piece together the story of your relatives' wartime service.

Detailed appendices also give information on such things as insignia of ranks and branches, listing of common MOS's, a breakdown of each division by sub unit, with a brief history and a listing of their campaigns, a capsule history of each campaign, and a bibliography of useful books on various campaigns and units. Color illustrations of campaign ribbons, decorations, insignia, and rare photos accompany the detailed text.

REVIEWS

"... helps you assemble the data you have collected and piece the story of your relative’s wartime service together. It also gives advice on preserving the memories - oral histories, photos, artifacts, documents, etc. ... addresses an increasing need to record and understand the lives of the "greatest generation and their service to the country." - HistoryBuff.com, 01/2007

"...for those interested in WWII army service, there is no source better than FINDING YOUR FATHER'S WAR". We are greatly impressed with the depictions "...Gawne provides a wealth of background information and keys to interpreting military records and items from the WWII period.... This book is a great starting point."
ARMY Magazine,04/2007

"...This work is a road map for users seeking to trace their relative’s wartime army service... a Useful source for genealogists and readers interested in the wartime military."
CHOICE, 06/2007

“…a useful book for anyone trying to establish the history of any US veteran during W.W.II.”
Military Trader Magazine, 10/2007

“…a thoroughly comprehensive guide to the U.S. Army in the World War II period… covers an enormous range of subjects…”
The NYMAS Review 41, Summer 2007

“…very practical useful guide to assist all those whose relatives served in the wartime US Army. …very well illustrated… Finding You Father’s War is highly recommended for all those who find themselves in need of assistance in doing research on World War II.”
Journal For America’s Military Past Spring/ Summer 2007

“…a terrific guide that details how to go about researching and understanding the lives of a generation of servicemen that answered their nation’s call when the world was at war.”
On Point Magazine Winter 2007-8

“… a fascinating book…no veteran post should be without it.”
Daily Times (Delaware County), 04/2008

“…a great read not only for genealogists wishing to research an ancestor, but also for those who simply have an interest in the United States Army during World War II… written so that anyone, even those with no military background, can understand, yet also includes more advanced information… detail is phenomenal… a must read reference book for any professional genealogist or military historian…”
Association of Professional Genealogists Quarterly, 12/2009

“…focus is on researching individual and social history. Using this book will help you write a family history narrative.”
Genealogy Book reviews

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