

## Foreword

This three-disc CD-ROM is the third 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 third CD—*The United States Army and World War II, Set 3: An Overview*—includes the *Chronology of World War II, 1941–1945*, the three pictorial volumes in the World War II series, and the forty commemorative pamphlets.

Reflecting the overall reputation of the Green Books, the books collected in Set 3 remain essential, authoritative sources. The original military maps in the forty pamphlets on World War II are unsurpassed for their accuracy. Like the maps in the combat volumes in Sets 1 and 2 on the European and Mediterranean Theaters and on the Pacific-Asiatic Theater, 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 *Reader’s Guide* from the Green Book series. This comprehensive guide provides detailed descriptions and key topics for each of the seventy-nine Green Books, thus acting as an excellent finding aid to the Green Book series. Compiled by Mary H. Williams, the *Chronology of World War II* begins when the war began for America, December 7, 1941, and takes the reader through the events of the war until hostilities with Japan officially ended with the signing of the instrument of surrender aboard the USS *Missouri* on September 2, 1945. Disc 2 gives the reader a history of World War II through pictures. *The War Against Japan* pictorial shows the war in the Pacific from pre-Pearl Harbor training in Hawaii to Allied landings on the Japanese home islands, including a section on the China-Burma-India Theater. *The War Against Germany and Italy: Mediterranean and Adjacent Areas* covers the war in North Africa and the Middle East; in Sicily, Corsica and Sardinia; and in Italy and southern France. *The War Against Germany: Europe and Adjacent Areas* follows the buildup of forces in the United Kingdom and the campaigns in Normandy, northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, and central Europe.

Disc 3 contains the 40 commemorative pamphlets published for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of World War II. The pamphlets include the all the major campaigns of the War as well as *Defense of the Americas*, *A Brief History of World War II*, and two pamphlets on the Army Nurse Corps and the Women’s Army Corps. These pamphlets are a natural addition to the Chronology and pictorial histories on Discs 1 and 2.

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 Army and the American people and encourage further research and interpretation. The next CDs, Sets 4 and 5, will cover the Army's Technical Services.

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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