

Foreword

This four-disc CD-ROM is the fourth of seven multidisc CDs that the U.S. Army Center of Military History is publishing 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 fourth CD—*The United States Army and World War II, Set 4: The Technical Services, Part I*—includes the volumes in the World War II series on the Chemical Warfare Service, the Ordnance Department, the Transportation Corps, and the Signal Corps.

Reflecting the overall reputation of the Green Books, the books collected in Set 4 remain essential, authoritative sources. 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 Chemical Warfare Service volumes. *Chemical Warfare Service: Organizing for War*; by Leo P. Brophy and George J.B. Fisher, covers the organization and administration of the service from its origins in World War I, with an emphasis on training of military personnel for chemical warfare. *Chemical Warfare Service: From Laboratory to Field*; by Leo P. Brophy, Wyndham D. Miles, and Rexmond C. Cochrane, is an account of the research and development phase and the procurement and supply of both offensive and defensive materiel. Finally, *Chemical Warfare Service: Chemicals in Combat*, by Brooks E. Kleber and Dale Birdsell, covers the use of chemical weapons in combat and provides an analysis of administrative and supply problems overseas.

Disc 2 covers the Ordnance Department. *The Ordnance Department: Planning Munitions for War*, by Constance McLaughlin Green, Harry C. Thomson, and Peter C. Roots, discusses both the planning stage and the problems encountered in prewar and wartime research and development programs. *The Ordnance Department: Procurement and Supply*, by Harry C. Thomson and Lida Mayo, provides a description of how the War Department and private industry manufactured huge amounts of munitions and how the Field Service stored, catalogued, maintained, and distributed those munitions to the ports of embarkation. The third volume, *The Ordnance Department: On Beachhead and Battlefield*, by Lida Mayo, describes how America’s munitions reached U.S. and Allied troops and how Ordnance soldiers stored, maintained, supplied, and salvaged materiel in the major theaters of operations.

Disk 3 contains the three volumes on the Transportation Corps. *The Transportation Corps: Responsibilities, Organization, and Operations*, by Chester Wardlow, covers the transportation challenge, the functions and organization of the Corps, and its operating problems. *The Transportation Corps: Movements Training and Supply*, by Chester Wardlow, covers troop and supply movements within the zone of interior and to overseas commands, the organization and training of personnel, and the development, procurement, and distribution of the Corps' own materiel needs. *The Transportation Corps: Operations Overseas*, by Joseph Bykofsky and Harold Larson, rounds out this group, providing an account of successes and failures in the massive deployment of men and materiel from the zone of interior to the theaters.

Disk 4 completes The Technical Series, Part I, with the story of the Signal Corps. *The Signal Corps: The Emergency (To December 1941)*, by Dulany Terrett, gives a description of the Corps' responsibility for developing, procuring, and furnishing signal equipment. The study features the development both of radar and of frequency modulation and its impact on the use of tanks. *The Signal Corps: The Test (December 1941 to July 1943)*, by George Raynor Thompson, Dixie R. Harris, Pauline M. Oakes, and Dulany Terrett, describes the rapid expansion of the communications industry in close partnership with the Signal Corps and the race with the enemy to produce electronic weapons and counterweapons. *The Signal Corps: The Outcome (Mid-1943 Through 1945)*, by George Raynor Thompson and Dixie R. Harris, discusses the activities of the Corps as a service and combat arm in the various theaters of operations.

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 millions of 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 CD, Set 5, will complete the story of 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.

Washington, D.C.
22 July 2004

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