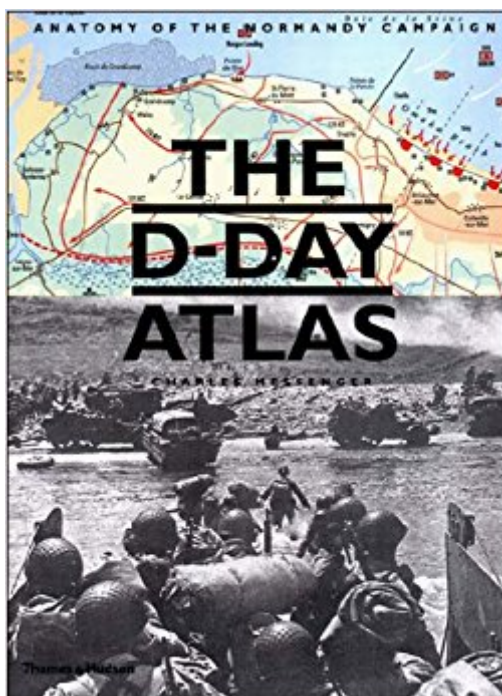


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The D-Day Atlas: Anatomy Of The Normandy Campaign



Synopsis

An hour-by-hour re-creation of the D-Day invasion and its aftermath, told through new and highly detailed computer-generated maps, explanatory texts, and contemporary photographs. June 2004 marks the sixtieth anniversary of the largest amphibious military operation in history. D-Day was the culmination of four years of planning and preparation, which had begun in summer 1940 when Britain stood alone and under imminent threat of a German cross-Channel invasion. This groundbreaking study of D-Day and the subsequent campaign charts the gradual evolution of the invasion plan, encompassing the intelligence efforts, the Anglo-U.S. strategic debate over where the Allies should attack, and the elaborate deception put in place to fool the Germans about the true D-Day objective. The buildup culminates in an hour-by-hour and day-by-day account of the landings by air and by sea on the beaches of NormandyUtah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, and Swordand the subsequent grim struggle for six weeks to break through the German defenses. At the center of this fascinating re-creation of the D-Day invasion are 70 maps in full color, which incorporate the latest computer technology. Many are in fact based on the same maps used by the Allies in 1944. Detailed drawings and 80 photographs, both modern and contemporary to the period, help bring the beaches of Normandy to life. The book also includes contributions by French and German historians. Featuring: Splendid full-color maps with detailed explanatory captionsSection introductions with comprehensive examinations of how, when, where, why, and whoAn authoritative text by a noted military historian175 illustrations, 70 in color

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The 178 illustrations of this annotated atlas include 71 full-color maps, which stand out among its rather indifferent images. A veteran of Britain's Royal Tank Regiment and Territorial Army, historian and defense analyst Messenger (The Second World War in the West) is the author of more than 30 books and has written and directed three BBC Worldwide television series. His knowledge of his subject comes through in the clear, info-packed, subtopic-laden essays that make up the five chapters here, systematically taking readers through D-Day and its aftermath. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

“Those interested in military history and the Second World War in particular will enjoy this book.” - Library Journal
“For a clear, not overly detailed account of the preparations in Britain throughout 1943, the staging of the D-Day invasion itself and the months of close combat that followed in Normandy, this book is hard to beat. . . .” - British Heritage
“A fine history.” - Midwest Book Review --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

This book has very easy to understand maps without insulting the knowledge of the veteran WW II enthusiast. The maps are definitely the strong point here, and well accompanied by stats for each map... well worth it.

My husband has been reading this in preparation for a Normandy tour we'll be taking this summer. The detail and explanations are excellent. Maybe a D-Day guru would already know all this, but for those with some background and more interest (like us), it has been an excellent resource.

Really colorful, lots of maps and has a small section on Dieppe and Sealion in the beginning.

This atlas has many maps and diagrams of equipment. Plan on taking a trip to Normandy and this book will be one of the ones in the mix.

great book. good maps & pictures. not as detailed as some other d-day books i have but maps are very good. great add on to other d-day volumes in your library. recommended!

Excellent overall view - one of the best and I have seen them all.

The book is almost 12 in by 9 in and most of the 71 maps are large with good detail and are easy to understand. The coverage starts before the landing and contains 14 Allied related maps and five maps dealing with German dispositions. The atlas then runs through the major offensives of Normandy through mid September when Montgomery reaches the Netherlands border, Patton reaches Metz and Nancy and Devers is approaching Belfort. The third chapter covers only D-Day landings and contains 13 maps. After D-Day, the Cherbourg liberation, the fall of St Lo, Operation Cobra, Epsom, Charnwood, Goodwood, the Mortain counter offensive, Operation Bluecoat, Totalize, Tractable, and a nice sequence in closing the Falaise pocket are covered. Scattered throughout these specific maps are Situation maps showing Allied progress. There is a running dialog that describes the action that is represented on each map. The overview is sufficient but I would have preferred greater depth of the action but perhaps its not in the purview of the publisher to do so. (That's the reason for 4 stars; the maps are 5 star quality. I study these maps quite often when reading other books on Normandy.) Besides the excellent maps, there are many illustrations, sidebars and photos that will peak your interest as well. The Table of Contents is comprehensive and makes your job easy finding what you need. The index is also well done. There is a section that include "Codewords" which is interesting; it describes what each Codeword operation covers. Another section lists the units on both sides that were fighting in France. If your looking for great, useful maps of France, give this book serious consideration. If your interested in useful maps of the entire war, including the Pacific and China try Mr Messenger's "The Chronological Atlas of World War Two".

The D-Day Atlas: Anatomy of the Normandy Campaign - Charles Messenger I'll be brief: If you have read, are in the process of reading, or are planning to read any book on the Normandy Invasion, this is an essential companion. For example, Overlord (Max Hastings, very good maps), Decision at Normandy (Carlo D'Este, decent maps, but not enough of them), Six Armies at Normandy (John Keegan, mediocre maps). Or anything else for that matter. Five stars. [note: I own and reviewed the earlier edition of this book - but the superb maps remain the same]

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