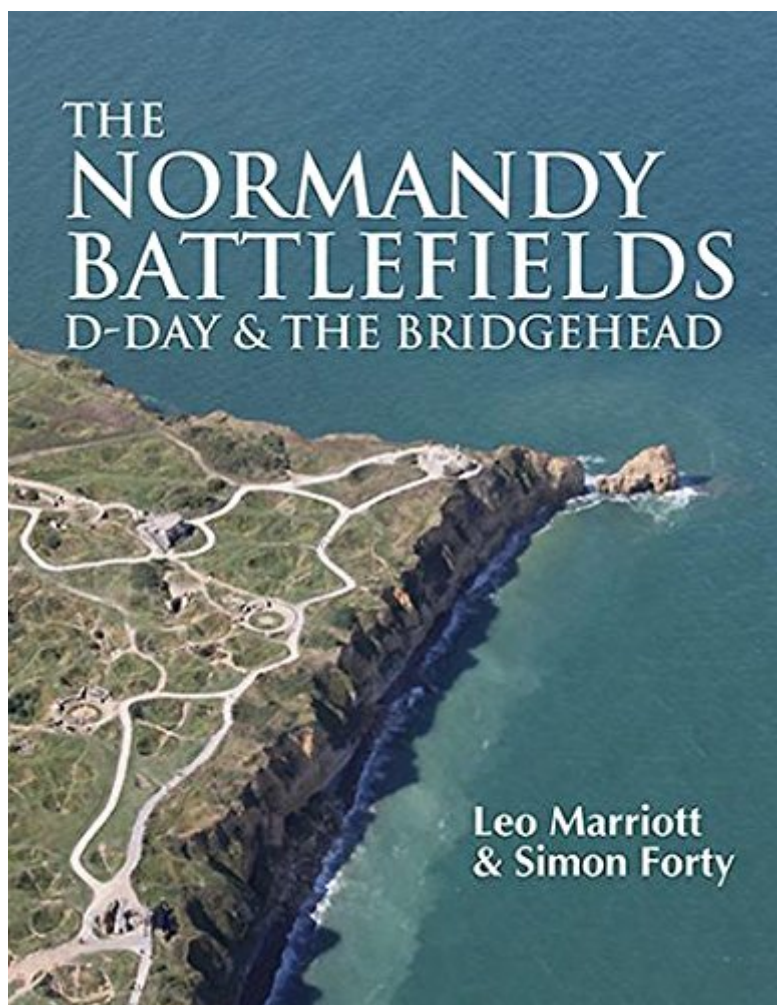


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The Normandy Battlefields: D-Day And The Bridgehead



Synopsis

With their 70th anniversary just around the corner, the D-Day landings have lost none of their impact. Even today the vestiges of Hitler's Atlantic Wall speak of the huge undertaking necessary for the Allies to gain a foothold in Normandy. In this beautiful new full-color book, the reader goes on-site to the sacred battleground from its scarred medieval villages to the remains of modern means of destruction. The huge armada that attacked from Britain left behind many signs of their passage: from the huge caissons of the mulberry harbor around Arromanches, the gun emplacements at Longues and Merville, to the multitude of hardware used as memorials—tanks, artillery, pillboxes—and the many graves and cemeteries that honor those who died on both sides. It is in memory of the dead that much of what can be seen on the ground survives, but as the last few survivors reach their 90s, a new audience requires information about the events of the past that can only come from seeing the ground where the battle was fought. Today, the beaches are a fascinating mixture of the new and the old, including the new visitor's center at Colleville and the renovation and expansion of the Utah Beach museum—even as further new memorials jostle with the older sites that have changed little in 70 years. The Normandy Battlefields details what can be seen on the ground today using a mixture of media to provide a complete overview of the campaign. Maps old and new highlight what has survived and what hasn't; then-and-now photography allows fascinating comparisons with the images taken at the time—particularly the aerial views—and computer artwork provides graphic details of things that can't be seen today. The book describes the area from Cherbourg to Le Havre by way of the key D-Day locations, providing a handbook for the visitor and an overview for the armchair traveler. It covers, wherever possible, the forces from both sides and the memorials to those young men who fought so many years ago.

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Customer Reviews

My wife and I have been to several WWI and WWII battlefields and national cemeteries. This book has great photos and is an easy read. For those of you that have been to Normandy, it will vividly bring back your visit. For those who have not gone, this book will give you a decent overview of the invasion's successes and failures. It has a lot of information as well: Most Americans do not know that there were more British and Canadian troops in the invasion than American; that 80% of the ships that took part were British and that aside from Eisenhower, the four other top commanders under him including his top deputy and those commanding land, sea and air operations were all British. This book honors all who fought and died and survived during the invasion and is worthy of reading.

If you want a book with high quality photograph reproductions you should try another book. This is a book of maps, historical photos and recent photos of the D-Day sites. Most pages are 3/4 or more photo and map with the remaining portion of the page being caption. The captions and explanations are very good and add a lot of value. Many of the historical photographs are juxtaposed with a modern aerial photo of the same area. The maps and historical B/W photos are reproduced well here but the recent color images are dull and the aerial photos are sometimes poorly focused. The D-Day sites themselves are well worth a visit. Two years ago I visited the D-Day beaches and cemetery with a tour and on a blustery April day many French school kids and families were visiting the sites.

This book makes the D-Day battle sights come alive, at least in this reader's opinion. We have all seen the black and white photos, and newsreels. But viewing these sights in color really brings them

alive, color makes all the difference. It is still amazing that these brave men managed to establish a foothold, and drive inland in the face of determined German resistance. The Germans knew that the cross channel invasion had to come, they prepared for it, and it still succeeded, in spite of Rommel's best efforts. This book is well worth buying for anyone interested in WW2, it adds another dimension to this stirring story. JRV

Bought as a companion book to *After the Battle Then and Now* book on Normandy. It did not have the heft or volume of those books and that was why I could not give it more stars. Some of the shots from above are fantastic, There just not enough of them

My brother has always been fascinated with WWII. Our dad fought in the European Theater through the whole war so we have heard many stories. Dad parachuted into the Normandy frey. My brother and his family will be going there this year and he was so happy to get this book. Thank you.

Simply put, this book is outstanding and the photos are great, I had the privilege of touring the Normandy battlefields a few years ago, and I wish this book had already been in print then. The aerial photos make it so much easier to put things into perspective and understand where the various places are.

A beautifully laid out photogravure of the Normandy battlefields with a great deal of accurate background information. For the military historian or just the casual reader, you will enjoy this book! The focus is primarily on the battlefields near the beachfronts, however there is mention of important action that led from the beachfronts: for example, one of the most brutal actions that occurred was securing the bridge at La Fiere over the Merderet River. This bridgehead was extremely important to keep out of German hands, as control over the causeway with flooded fields and sunken roads and hedgerows was important to allow the Allies into the interior of the Cotentin peninsula, and was the scene of significant losses on both sides. If you buy this book for the photos alone, it would be worth the money.

Having been fortunate to have visited the Normandy area several years ago this book took me back. Well done with great pictures, worth the time, money for the interested person.

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