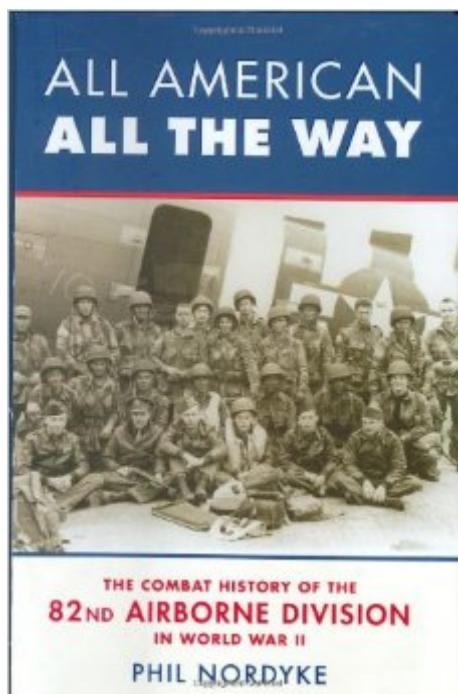


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All American, All The Way: The Combat History Of The 82nd Airborne Division In World War II



Synopsis

The 82nd Airborne Division - known as the "All-Americans" - parachuted into history as America's first airborne division to see combat. Always at the forefront of some of the heaviest fighting in WWII, the 82nd helped spearhead the Allied drive to victory. This book is the first to tell the full combat history of these gallant All-Americans -- from their first perilous night drop into Sicily to their acclaimed victory parade up New York's 5th Avenue in 1946. Currently, the 82nd remains the only active American parachute division. The 82nd Airborne Division; dubbed the All-Americans during WWI, when Sgt. Alvin York was among its soldiers; parachuted into history on July, 9, 1943, as the opening salvo in Operation Husky, the invasion of Sicily. This book, the first to tell the full story of the 82nd; America's first airborne division to see combat, and the only American parachute division still active today; follows these all-Americans from their first perilous drop to their victory parade up 5th Avenue in January 1946. From the shore of Sicily to the beaches of Normandy, from the Rhine to the Elbe to the German surrender and the U.S. occupation of Berlin, this is military history at its best, often told in the words of the soldiers themselves. It is a fitting; and long overdue; tribute to the valorous service of one of America's most celebrated fighting divisions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As the fortieth and fiftieth anniversaries of the climatic D-Day invasion graced our television screens with dedications, speeches by honored dignitaries, and surviving veterans gathered on once blood soaked battlefields, serious efforts were already being undertaken to tell their stories, in their own

words. Teams of academic historians and their assistants embarked upon immense oral history projects, combed the nation, for World War II veterans, conducted extensive interviews, recorded and transcribed their testimonies, and housed them in various university archival depositories. Soon places like the National D-Day Museum and Eisenhower Center in New Orleans, U.S. Army Military History Institute at Carlisle Barracks, Ohio State University, and Rutgers University in New Jersey, just to name a few, were stacked with thousands of oral histories of members of the "greatest generation" who fought and survived in the bloodiest war of the twentieth century. And there they sit. Ordinary readers are not usually apt to travel to one of these great archival houses to delve into these oral histories. It takes the diligent and time consuming work of historians to compile and assimilate this vast storehouse of individual experiences into a readable format, and pass it on to the general reader. This is exactly what Phil Nordyke has done in All American All the Way: The Combat History of the 82nd Airborne Division in World War II. At first sight, this massive book, 776 pages of written narrative, with over sixty pages of notes is impressive. An unknown author, and publishing house, for this reviewer, usually sends red flags flying as to the quality of its content, however. Not so in the case of this masterfully written chronicle.

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