



# After D-Day

The U.S. Army Encounters the French

ROBERT LYNN FULLER

### PRAISE FOR *AFTER D-DAY*:

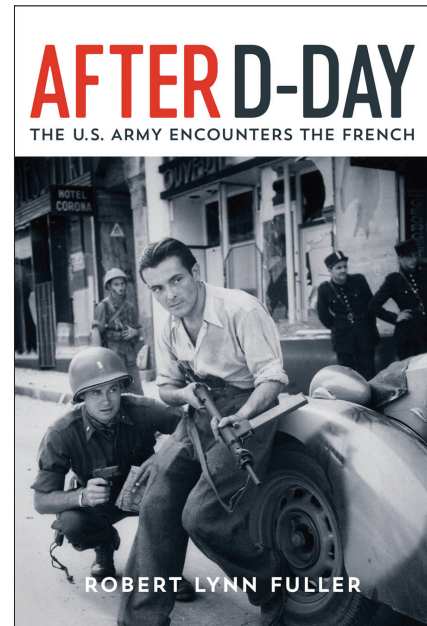
“This remarkable and well-researched book fills a gap in the already heavily documented history of the liberation of France in 1944 by analyzing how the French people were affected by the military action. Fuller uses French works that have never been translated into English, along with extensive government reports from numerous obscure archives, to add an important new dimension to English versions of the war in Europe. While many books recite statistics on the heavy damage the bombing, shelling, and fighting imposed on France—whole villages and towns demolished, hundreds of thousands of civilian casualties and persons displaced, important infrastructure destroyed—Fuller makes all of this much more immediate through his copious use of individual accounts to flesh out these statistics.”—Charles L. Robertson, author of *When Roosevelt Planned to Govern France*

*After D-Day* is one of a small but growing body of works that examine the Allied liberators of France. This study focuses on both the French experience of the U.S. Army and the American soldiers’ reaction to the French during the liberation and its immediate aftermath. Drawing on French and American archival materials, as well as dozens of memoirs, diaries, letters, and newspapers, Robert Lynn Fuller follows French and American interactions, starting in the skies over France in 1942 and ending with the liberation of Alsace in 1945. Fuller pays special attention to French life in the war zones, where living under constant shelling offered a miserable experience for those forced to endure it. The French stoically withstood those travails—sometimes inflicted by the Americans—when they saw their sacrifices as the price of liberation and victory over Germany. As Fuller shows, when the French did not believe afflictions brought by the Americans advanced the cause of success, their tolerance waned, sometimes dramatically.

Fuller maintains that the Allied bombing of France was an important yet often overlooked chapter of World War II, one that inflicted more death and destruction than the ground war still to come. Yet the ground campaign, which began with the Allied invasion of Normandy, unleashed enormous violence that killed, injured, or rendered homeless tens of thousands of French civilians. Fuller examines French and American records of the fate of civilians in the principal battle zones, Normandy and Lorraine, as well as in overlooked liberated regions, such as Orléanais and Champagne, that largely escaped widespread damage and casualties. Despite French gratitude toward the Americans for the liberation of their country, relations began to cool in the fall and winter of 1944 as progress on the battlefield slowed and then appeared to reverse with the German offensive in the Ardennes.

Revealing in stark detail the experiences of French civilians with the American military, *After D-Day* presents a compelling coda to our understanding of the Allied conquest of German-occupied France.

**ROBERT LYNN FULLER** holds a PhD in history from the University of Virginia. He is the author of *The Struggle for Cooperation: Liberated France and the American Military, 1944–1946*.



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