

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910963158403321
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Titolo	From the Normandy beaches to the Baltic Sea : the Northwest Europe campaign, 1944-1945 / Alan J. Levine
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Westport, Conn. : , : Praeger, , 2000 London : , : Bloomsbury Publishing, , 2024
ISBN	9798400654848 9780313001703 0313001707
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (236 p.)
Disciplina	940.54/21
Soggetti	World War, 1939-1945 - Campaigns - Western Front
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [207]-213) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover -- FROM THE NORMANDY BEACHES TO THE BALTIC SEA -- Contents -- Introduction -- 1 Prelude, Planning, Preparation -- PLANNING OVERLORD -- THE ALLIED COMMAND TEAM -- THE GERMAN COMMAND -- ALLIED AND GERMAN COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS -- MORALE AND ATTITUDES -- ALLIED MORALE AND ATTITUDES -- THE EASTERN FRONT 1943-1944 -- THE MEDITERRANEAN -- THE STRATEGIC AIR OFFENSIVE -- GERMAN DISPOSITIONS AND DEFENSES -- ALLIED AIR PREPARATIONS -- THE DECEPTION PLAN -- THE FINAL PLAN -- 2 The Normandy Beachhead -- THE CAEN FRONT -- THE HEDGEROW BATTLEFIELD -- THE AIR AND SEA BATTLE -- THE MULBERRIES AND THE GREAT STORM -- CHERBOURG -- THE FIGHT FOR CAEN -- ST. LO -- 3 The Liberation of Western Europe -- MORTAIN -- FALaise -- THE INVASION OF SOUTHERN FRANCE -- THE GERMAN DEFEATS IN THE EAST -- EISENHOWER'S DECISION AND THE STRATEGY AND LOGISTICS OF THE PURSUIT -- THE SUPPLY CRISIS -- THE GREAT DRIVE -- RESUMING THE DRIVE -- 4 The Fall Fighting on the German Frontier -- THE GERMAN RECOVERY BEGINS -- AIRBORNE INVASION: OPERATION "MARKET-GARDEN" -- PATTON'S ARMY IN LORRAINE -- THE WESTERN FRONT, SEPTEMBER 1944 -- THE GERMANS' MISSED OPPORTUNITIES -- LOGISTICS AND STRATEGY IN THE FALL -- OPENING ANTWERP -- "THE ISLAND" AND THE SALIENT -- AACHEN AND THE HUERTGEN FOREST --

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Sommario/riassunto

A brief, yet complete history of the Allied campaign for the liberation of Europe from the Normandy invasion to the surrender of Germany, this study describes not only what happened, but why it happened. While an enormous amount has been written about this campaign, most of it focuses upon a single army or an individual battle. This book stresses a true inter-Allied and all arms approach with a balance of both strategy and tactics; accounts of effort by land, sea, air forces; as well as the strong influence of logistics. Levine deals extensively with the German side, particularly morale issues, and he includes the role played by Canadian forces-a topic usually neglected in American accounts. Rapid changes in warfare rendered the character of the battles of 1944-1945 quite different from battles earlier in the war, and Levine finds that old-fashioned fortifications often had an unexpected and formidable impact on the fighting. Logistics played a central role in the struggle, and supply problems would continuously plague the U.S. Army during this campaign. Levine considers whether the war could have been won in 1944, and he discusses the lost opportunities on both sides. Casting new light on some familiar subjects and recounting many neglected issues, this book places the campaign within the larger context of European events in both the east and the Mediterranean.
