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# Finding Your Father's War : A Practical Guide to Researching and Understanding Service in the World War II Us Army

Jonathan Gawne

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"This inclusive volume is indispensable to those researching World War II servicemen and women. Gawne's detailed, yet straightforward treatment of topics ranging from unit organization to historical records is a must for anyone attempting to understand service during World War II."

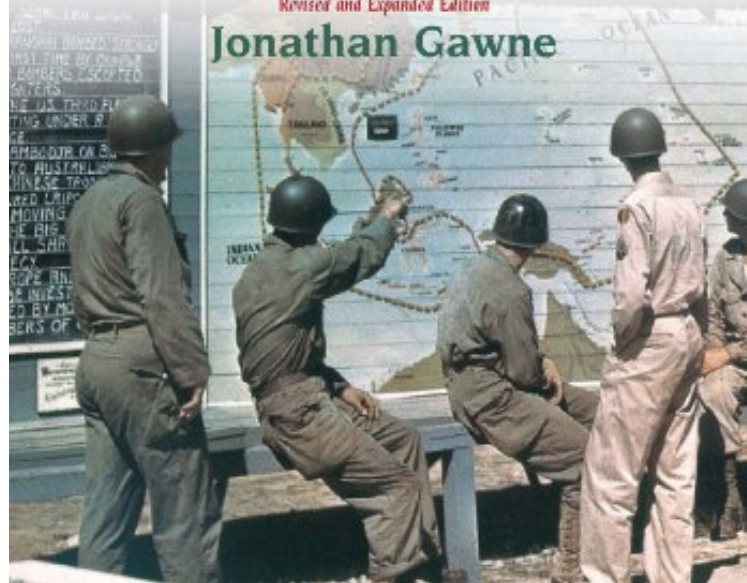
—Robert J. Dalessandro, Director, U.S. Army Center of Military History

## FINDING YOUR FATHER'S WAR

A Practical Guide to Researching and Understanding Service in the World War II US Army

Revised and Expanded Edition

Jonathan Gawne



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**Jonathan Gawne : Finding Your Father's War : A Practical Guide to Researching and Understanding Service in the World War II Us Army** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Finding Your Father's War : A Practical Guide to Researching and Understanding Service in the World War II Us Army:

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War II, this book is a must! This book helped me identify my father's unit, his military rank, where he was stationed and when. Because his records were destroyed at the National Archives in 1973, I had no place to turn for help in understanding the memorabilia I did have. This book explained everything clearly and included important pictures. I am so appreciative to the author for taking a very complex subject and making it easy for the WWII novice. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good info By Somewhere in KS Helped a great deal finding out how my Dad's unit was attached to the main 5th Army in Italy. Very interesting 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Most Helpful Resource I've Found By M. Burns This is an outstanding book! It brings together information on so many aspects of a search for WWII information it has become invaluable to me. I found the most helpful aspects included the many full color pictures, the charts of organization, and the explanations of the many documents I found in my father's papers. Some of the sample documents and forms were small reproductions and did require a magnifying glass to see clearly but the information was so helpful, I didn't mind. The book also gives clear information on where various documents are located and how best to access those sources. Having this book months ago would have saved me hours of time. My only disappointment is that there is no index. When I go back to the book to refresh myself on a topic, it is not always easy to find what I am looking for through the Table of Contents. I would hope any future editions would include a good index. That one complaint aside, I think this is an excellent book and I would recommend it highly for anyone searching for records.

Originally published in 2006 and selling through three printings, this invaluable guide has been revised and updated for a new edition. In this work, leading military historian and researcher, Jonathan Gawne, explains and shares the techniques he uses to research archives, libraries, veteran associations, and myriad other sources of information to track down wartime careers. The book provides an overview of the Army in World War II, from the basics up. It goes on to explain how to find information from such sources as discharges, uniforms, paperwork, the National Personnel Records Center, National Archives, other facilities, and what you can expect from veterans organizations (and how to find them). The book also helps you to assemble the data you have collected and piece together the story of your relatives' wartime service. Detailed appendices also give information on such things as insignia of ranks and branches, listing of common MOS's, a breakdown of each division by sub unit, with a brief history and a listing of their campaigns, a capsule history of each campaign, and a bibliography of useful books on various campaigns and units. Color illustrations of campaign ribbons, decorations, insignia, and rare photos accompany the detailed text.

focus is on researching individual and social history. Using this book will help you write a family history narrative. (Genealogy Book reviews) a great read not only for genealogists wishing to research an ancestor, but also for those who simply have an interest in the United States Army during World War II written so that anyone, even those with no military background, can understand, yet also includes more advanced information detail is phenomenal a must read reference book for any professional genealogist or military historian (APGQ) a fascinating book no veteran post should be without it. (DAILY TIMES) very practical useful guide to assist all those whose relatives served in the wartime US Army. very well illustrated Finding You Fathers War is highly recommended for all those who find themselves in need of assistance in doing research on World War II. (JOURNAL FOR AMERICA'S MILITARY PAST) a useful book for anyone trying to establish the history of any US veteran during WWII. (MILITARY TRADER) a thoroughly comprehensive guide to the U.S. Army in the World War II period covers an enormous range of subjects (NYMAS) a terrific guide that details how to go about researching and understanding the lives of a generation of servicemen that answered their nations call when the world was at war. (ON POINT) About the Author Jon Gawne is considered one of the leading experts on the history of American Army uniforms and equipment in both world wars. His numerous articles for Militaria Magazine have covered everything from the shortage of winter clothing during the Battle of the Bulge to the history of dog tags. His writings have been translated into many languages, including French, Italian and Czech, and are equally popular in both Europe and the US. He has been a technical consultant for films and museums. He lives in Massachusetts with his wife and a small spoiled dog, in a house overrun with books, documents and military memorabilia.