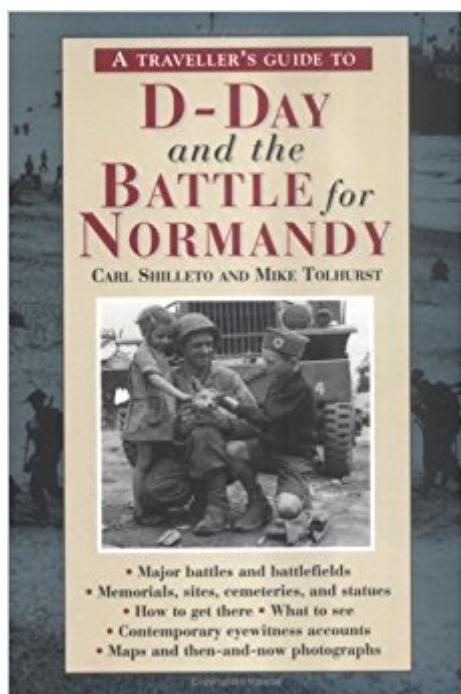


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# D-Day And The Battle For Normandy (Traveller's Guides To The Battles & Battlefields Of WW II)



## **Synopsis**

This text provides information about museums, sites, memorials, statues and cemeteries in relation to D-Day and the battle for Normandy. It gives details of how to get to them and what to see, and with the aid of maps and photographs it gives the reader a comprehensive account of the major battles. It also helps the reader to understand what it was like to have endured the ordeal of combat through contemporary eyewitness accounts. The book covers the period from June to August 1944 when the allies stormed the shore, fought their way through the brocage country of Normandy, and eventually broke through the Avranches gap. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

These insightful new titles represent a good start to a unique travel series that attempts to re-create some of the fiercest and most critical battles of World War II through photographs, maps, eyewitness quotes, and captivating narratives. Shilleto (The Fighting Fifty-Second) and Tolhurst (The Battle of the Bulge) reconstruct the scenes and mood of the crucial battles of Normandy, France, and tell the reader where to go and how to get there, providing information on museums, monuments, cemeteries, memorials, and statues. Whiting, a distinguished military writer and historian who saw combat himself, describes battles in which the resolve of the Allies was tested and a revitalized German army emerged amidst an elaborate system of defenses, eventually loosing to a superior allied force. He captures the flow of events and sentiments as he guides the

tourist through selected sites on a battlefield 400 miles long and 70 miles deep. Both guides retain a historical sensitivity that one hopes will be a hallmark of the entire series; even though they are intended for tourists, they still succeed in fully conveying the ordeal of combat. Historically enlightening, touristically informative, educational, thorough, and enjoyable, these books are recommended for all libraries. DEdward K. Owusu-Ansah, Murray State Univ. Lib., KY Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I bought this book for my honeymoon- my new husband and I went on an extensive driving tour of Belgium and France. While one of us was driving, the other one was reading the history of WWII. We visited a few spots in the book, saw some wonder sites and, finally made our way to Omaha Beach. I know it doesn't sound like a romantic honeymoon but we were both moved stories in the book and the location. We walked down to the beach, having read the account of the soldiers who landed on that beach and what they went through. Wow, it was so meaningful. Had we just visited the beach and museum, I never would have had the same experience. I highly recommend this book.

This is a very handy book and series for visiting the Normandy Battlefields. It does a "Then and Now" comparison and description of the area. I had the good fortune of having a PhD in American Military History, Retired Colonel Professor at West Point as my tour guide, but this series of handbooks gave me additional insight and information on some of the actions at Normandy and the "Break-Out" towns, and some small actions. I would have liked it more if it included "Betancourt Manor" where Lt Dick Winters of 506th PIR, 101st Airborne Div., of "Band of Brothers" fame destroyed the German 105 MM cannons at Normandy, and some other areas made famous on video.

Whilst the descriptions of interesting WWII sites seem to be relevant and accurate, I cannot help wondering why the book also includes some flimsy and inaccurate (out of date?) travel advice about how to get from the UK to Normandy. It would seem that the traveller these days has plenty of other sources for ferry-, chunnel- and airline information. No e-mail addresses are given for any of the organisations listed. Was this text maybe written in the pre-e-mail era and never updated? When I get to Normandy, I'll find out if the rest of the text is also outdated :-(

What makes this book stand out for me is the eyewitness reports, which are dotted throughout as

you read this account of the D-Day landings. They bring alive the personal experiences of those who fought and help the reader appreciate the sacrifices made. The book is a nice mix of the history of this particular military campaign, and what the traveller to Normandy can hope to see today. This means the book is a good read for either the armchair military buff or the interested tourist. Lots of photos and clear maps also add to this very good and highly readable book.

This is a great guide to take with you on a trip to Normandy. I carried it with me throughout my tours and was able to read aloud about the events that took place-standing on Omaha Beach and reading about the various divisions that struggled where I stood was of great value to myself and my husband. The eyewitness accounts bring it to life as well. If you plan on touring the D Day beaches and sites, bring this one with you!

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