

**AFTER THE  
BATTLE**

# AFTER THE BATTLE

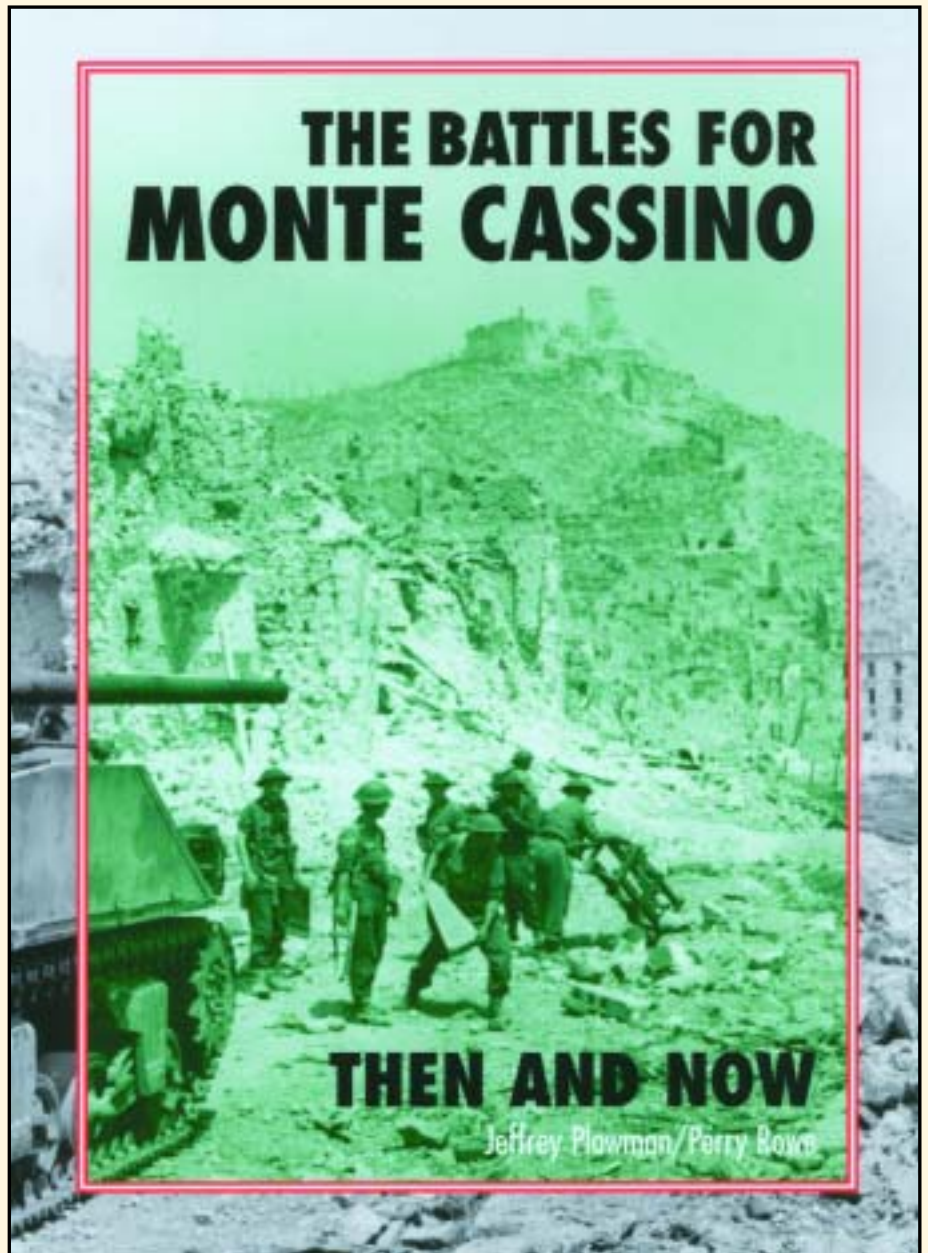


## COMING SOON

The Battles for Cassino encompassed one of the few truly international conflicts of the Second World War. A strategic town on the road to Rome, the fighting lasted four months and cost the lives of more than 14,000 men from eight nations. Between January and May 1944, forces from Britain, Canada, France, India, New Zealand, Poland and the United States, fought a resolute German army in a series of battles in which the advantage swung back and forth, from one side to the other. From fire-fights in the mountains to tank attacks in the valley; from river crossings to street fighting, the four battles of Cassino encompass a series of individual operations unique in the history of the Second World War.

Authors Jeff Plowman and Perry Rowe have spent several years studying the conflict together and walking the battlefield to take the hundreds of comparison photographs which are the *raison d'être* of all *After the Battle* publications. Photographs have been selected from archives and private collections around the world to present a balanced view, combined with maps, orders of battle, citations and detailed captions.

The Cassino battles, epitomised by the controversial bombing of the monastery which towers menacingly over the battlefield, stand at the centre of the Italian campaign. The dogged defence by a 100,000 men of the German XIV. Panzerkorps under General Frido von Senger und Etterlin, facing a greater multi-national force, was only routed in the end by a gallant French flanking manoeuvre, with the Poles marking the final victory by hoisting their national flag over the ruins of the Monastery.



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## AFTER THE BATTLE BOUND VOLUME 37

A major two-part feature covers the French port of Cherbourg. Jean Paul Pallud leads us through its wartime history: from its take-over by the Germans in 1940; its use as a naval base by the Kriegsmarine, and the battle for its capture in 1944.

Another account researched by Tony Colvin centres on the German port of Wilhelmshaven which, during the Nazi era, became the largest state-owned dockyard in the world. The birthplace of the *Tirpitz* before the war, after the war the Royal Navy went to great lengths to destroy its future potential as a naval base.

In the Pacific, Justin Taylan visited Bougainville to seek out Japanese tanks still in situ on the island, and Martin Morgan tells us of the day when Japan mounted an attack on California.

The dangers of dealing with high explosives are highlighted by David Green in his feature on the accident which occurred at the Royal Australian Engineer Training Centre at Kapooka in New South Wales, and by Chris Ransted who researched the wartime career of the Earl of Suffolk, killed in May 1941 while leading an experimental bomb disposal unit in Britain.

We also cover three significant events which took place in 1944.

Carl Rymen investigates the murder of members of the 6th Airborne Division at Hérouvillette in June, and Jean Paul tells us of a remarkable discovery in Chartres — an M5 light tank still buried at the side of the road since it was knocked out in the battle for the town in August. The following month, Lela Caryannis was executed in Greece together with 71 of her undercover organisation, her remarkable story being told by her adopted grandson.

Nearer to home, Marjorie Scott describes the work of The Women's Land Army; Andy Saunders looks into the fate of a missing Canadian airman; Roger Morgan brings us up to date with Operation 'Mincemeat', and Karel Margry relates the story of the secret school for Polish agents of the Special Operations Executive.

Finally, Nikolai Bodrikhin corrects the record covering the raising of the first flag over the Reichstag in Berlin, the rightful soldier having died in January 2008.



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