

"World War II has been covered so extensively it is rare to find a book that breaks new ground. In *The War Beat, Europe*, Steven Casey explores a largely overlooked topic from an original perspective. Casey dives deep into the collaboration and dissent among these individuals to confront the stereotype that the media and military acted in lock-step to present a sanitized view of the war and maintain public support.... For all its deep research, historical heft, and fidelity to truth, the book has an engaging narrative flow that compels the reader on to each succeeding chapter. This is attributable, in part, to finely drawn sketches of people involved that facilitate the reader feeling as if one is in the shoes of an Ernie Pyle in combat with his beloved infantry men, or among the Writing Sixty-Ninth, getting ready to fly on a bombing run." -- Kevin Bemel, *Journal of Military History*

"This fine book works on many levels... [It] underlines the importance of a free media in wartime, but more than this it shows the need for a critical body of scholarship to probe that media's claims about itself; to unpick the threads of self-aggrandizing myth and grubby reality that make up the tapestries" -- Nicholas J. Cull, *Journal of Modern History*

"One of the last bastions of unexamined mythology [of the Second World War] was that surrounding the role of American war correspondents in the conflict. Unlike their successors...they have been portrayed as heroic, patriotic, in step with the needs of the nation, and an important part of the collective victory. Steven Casey's excellent scholarly examination of their performance in the European theater paints a much more complex picture...The core of Casey's book is his meticulous documenting of the many tensions between the US military and the media. Many incidents resonate with the present day."--Nicholas J. Cull, *Journal of Modern History*

"Clear and persuasive...This book should join the standard volumes on the media and war...and it is recommended for the interested, in and out of academe. The research is impressive, the writing engaging, and the conclusions alter the standard view of the press in the war against Nazi Germany...Perhaps the most important takeaway...is this: Though closely entwined with the military throughout the war by necessity, the press maintained its independence and pushed back in the name of truth and a free press."--Wallace B. Eberhard, *American Journalism*

"A work of historical scholarship likely to be the definitive account of its subject...Casey...has written previously on American foreign policy and public opinion during wartime, and he brings this expertise to bear on the topic, along with his considerable skills as an archival researcher and flair as a writer of narrative history...Casey writes vividly and with deep understanding."--Richard Fine, *History*

"Casey...points out that the relationship between the media and the authorities was complex and that military officials would not necessarily have appreciated sanitized reporting....Casey's book benefits from a sharp focus on U.S. correspondents in the European theater, many of whom became dedicated anti-Nazis after experiencing the Blitz in 1940-41. He reveals the stress under which they worked and also highlights the quality of their writing."—Lawrence D. Freedman, *Foreign Affairs*

"Focused on the combat dimension of war, Casey's account achieves considerable momentum, while his richly descriptive prose evokes the linguistic agility of his journalistic subjects."--Susan L. Carruthers, *Diplomatic History*

"A vivid contribution to media and military history...Casey convincingly argues that reporters were not tools of the military's public relations offices...Figures such as Eisenhower and Patton play roles

in Casey's illuminating narrative, but his focus is largely on reporters and their efforts, sometimes heroic, to get the best scoop."—*Kirkus* Starred review

“In this superbly written, massively researched book, Steven Casey sets out to examine a core assumption that emerged following World War II on the part of both critics and supporters of the news media’s performance in that conflict.” – William Hammond, *Journal of Military History*

"The text is carefully written and contains comprehensive notes....Highly recommended."--R. A. Logan, *CHOICE*

"[W]ell-researched..."--Jim Michaels, *World War II*

"Steve Casey's *The War Beat* is a wonderful chronicle of an extraordinary band of correspondents who covered the defeat of the Third Reich. Based on impeccable research, and written with flair and humanity, this utterly absorbing study chronicles the journalists who put themselves in harm's way to record the titanic struggle to preserve freedom."--Alex Kershaw, author of *Avenue of Spies: A True Story of Terror, Espionage, and One American Family's Heroic Resistance in Nazi-Occupied Paris*

"Engagingly written and full of illuminating vignettes, *War Beat, Europe* tells the story of the brave and intrepid correspondents who reported on the European front during the Second World War. Though subject to military censorship, these courageous journalists never lost sight of their fundamental obligation to keep the public informed."--Richard R. John, Columbia Journalism School

"This very impressive volume is a superbly researched and beautifully written study of US media coverage of the European theater during World War II. Its comprehensive and incisive analysis will lead to reconsideration of many standard beliefs regarding the relationship among the media, the armed forces, and the government during this conflict, as well as the individuals whose reporting and visuals helped shape the public image of the war."--Mark A. Stoler, editor of the George C. Marshall Papers

"The famed American war correspondents who covered the European theater in World War II presented to their readers back home a conflict that was tough, but triumphant. *The War Beat, Europe* shows us the competition, hardship, criticism, distrust, and patriotism that characterized the fractious cooperation between the US military and the media."--Susan Brewer, author of *Why America Fights: Patriotism and War Propaganda from the Philippines to Iraq*