



*The Armoured Campaign in
Normandy: June-August 1944*

Stephen Napier

24th July 2015

£25 Hardback

ISBN: 9780750962704

Hansard 16th March 1944:

**WINSTON CHURCHILL, THE
PRIME MINISTER:**

‘The next time that the
British Armies take the field,
in country suitable for the
use of armour, they will be
found to be equipped in a
manner at least equal to the
forces of any other country in
the world.’

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PRESS RELEASE

The armoured campaign in Normandy is one of controversial missed opportunities by the Allies and command problems for the Germans.

Beginning with the D-Day landings, this is a brutally frank appraisal of the planned use and actual results of the deployment of armour by both German and Allied commanders in the major tank battles of the Normandy campaign. These include operations Epsom, Goodwood, Cobra and Totalize.

The Armoured Campaign in Normandy is a critique of Montgomery's plans to seize territory and break out, and describes how they failed in the face of German resistance. It details the poor planning and mistakes of British senior commanders and how the German Army's convoluted chain of command contributed to their own defeat; these were decisions taken which cost the lives of the tank crews of both sides.

- Establishes for the first time the true number of tanks lost in Operation Goodwood and other major battles up to the closure of the Falaise Gap in August 1944
- Considers the performance gap between the German and Allied tanks and how British leaders attempted to prevent negative reports from reaching the press
- Draws on official reports, war diaries, after action reports, letters, regimental histories, memoirs of generals and recollections of tank men



Stephen Napier has studied the Second World War for more than thirty years. This work has been five years in the making and follows exhaustive research in the archives of Kew, Washington and Ottawa. He is an Englishman with two degrees (BSc and MBA) now living in Australia.