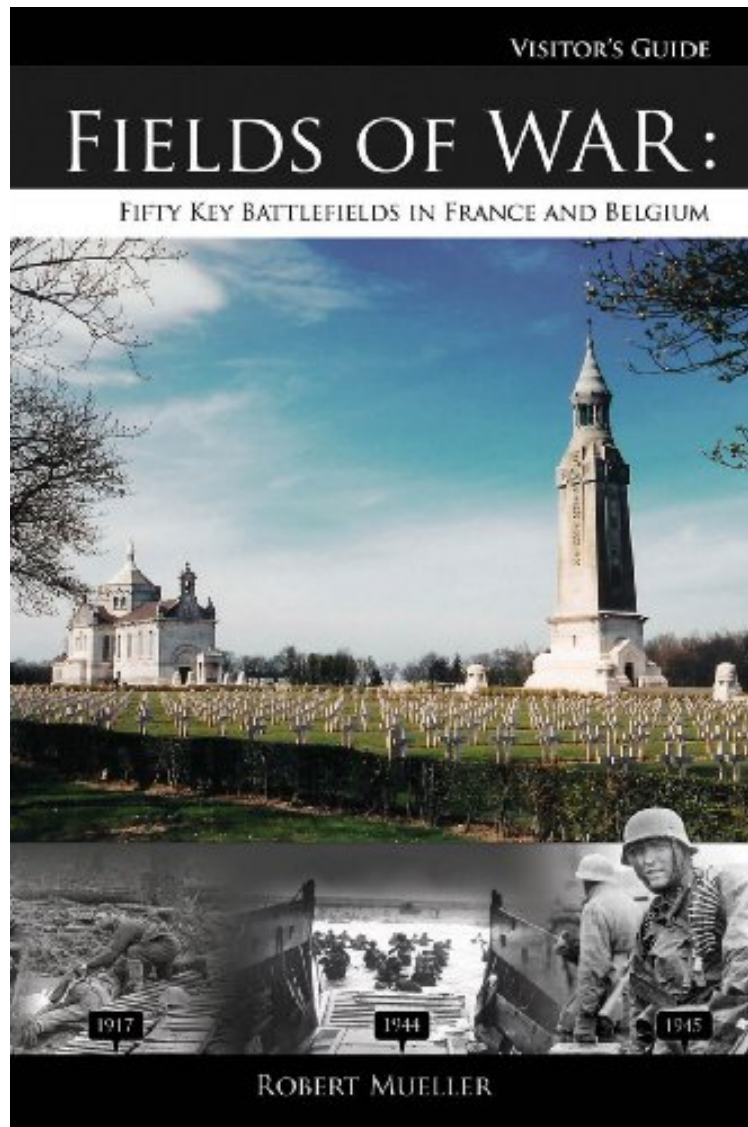


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## Fields of War: Fifty Key Battlefields in France and Belgium

*Robert Mueller*

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**Robert Mueller : Fields of War: Fifty Key Battlefields in France and Belgium** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fields of War: Fifty Key Battlefields in France and Belgium:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great book. By DietrichBook is well laid out with good maps and easy to read format. Battle for France are mainly along the Belgium and German border, with a few in middle or southern France. Each battle has a basic to very good description of the battle and what happened along with instructions on how to get to it. Really like it because it contains a few battles that are not significant to English

speaking countries but were considered significant to other countries.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Avery comprehensive guide with easy to read instructions and loaded with information on particular ...By Trevor WestmoreAvery comprehensive guide with easy to read instructions and loaded with information on particular battles. I read the guide whils tracking the directions on Google Maps and found many worthwhile points of interest that I missed whentouring the battlefields previously. A must read as part of your study if you plan to visit the Battlefields of France2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great BookBy Tina MorrisGreat information for those driving to key battlefields. Some of the driving instructions were off, or changed, but in most cases you can get to the battlefields with the information provided. Definitely recommend for those doing your own self-drive tour.

Fields of War: Fifty Key Battlefields in France and Belgium, by Robert Mueller, has been selected by the Military Writers Society of America as the 2010 Bronze Medal winner in the Travel Category. This is the thrid national book award received by Mr. Mueller, having earlier been awarded First Place in the Travel Category of the Reader Views Reviewers Choice Award 2010 and earlier named a Best Books Award Finalist by USA Book News. Fields of War is a unique and practical travel guide dedicated to bringing visitors to the sites of important historical events. It presents fifty battlefields that are within a short driving distance of Paris or Calais. Each battlefield description contains a brief historical overview and a tour of the major surviving landmarks and, in many cases, artifacts of the actual engagements. The tour routes are designed to be interesting and easy to follow with complete driving instructions. Extensively illustrated by sixty-five maps as well as forty-eight pages of historical and contemporary photographs, the book presents battlefield sites selected and organized to offer an enjoyable touring experience. It is an invaluable introduction to battles ranging from the medieval period to modern times.

Rattling around northern France on various trips, as much as I would enjoy the great culture and astonishing natural beauty I was drawn, too, to the many battlefields there, to me haunted places, sites of such horrid valor and mad history. Normandy. The Somme. Verdun. Caen. Amiens. It is a truly humbling experience. I wish I'd had Robert Mueller's book with me so that I could have done it better. Mueller's Fields of War: Fifty Key Battlefields in France and Belgium is an important, essential companion to anyone's attempt to understand and honor the vast array of human suffering, courage and sacrifice to be found in the region's hundreds of memorials, monuments and cemeteries. It is a small sample of Europe's endless warring, a slight swath arcing across just one part of one nation and a bit of another yet marked with so much war. For so many, many centuries the region, like all of Europe, has seen battle after battle, death after death, in an unending symphony of slaughter. Fields of War helps enormously to understand what happened and what a visitor can encounter to appreciate it. This excellent book charts battlefields from the Hundred Years War through the Second World War and so much in between. With maps, photographs, charts and concise explanations it guides a visitor through the blood-drenched landscape where heroism was demanded in impossible causes, sacrifice compelled for no knowable reason, where the land's ground-down communities bled for the lords and masters' insanities. Where nature reclaims the serenity of the fields of northern France and Belgium, this guide delivers us the schemes of war, how a hillock there or a trench here changed history for a brief moment. It walks us through scenes where so many of our near ancestors bled and helps us understand what it took to get from one place to another at such huge cost. It is a practical book delivering history in cool, helpful abundance. In Mueller's hands, we can almost understand what soldiers by the tens of millions saw as they looked out from their trenches, across their crossbows or through their tank slits. He directs us to the most effective museums, monuments, vantage points. He sends us through quiet lanes when the tourism maps might channel us along more beaten paths. His maps bring clarity to rolling landscapes once, somehow, full of the rage and pain of battle. He does it calmly and with the purpose to be helpful to the visitor trying to make sense of senseless things. This is a true gift. I have stood, dumb, at the cliffs of Normandy and never quite mastered who landed where. I have walked where trenches once were and never quite got the handle on what took place when armies poured forward at that very spot to their doom. I have reflected in the quiet of cemeteries marking so many battles and it was so important to me that I did so, but am sure I missed some other one, equally important, equally dizzy-making. When I return, if I am fortunate enough to do so, this book will show me ways I might not find on my own. Fifty battlegrounds within 240 miles of Paris, reflecting more than 500 years of war and tens of millions of lives lost. It is nearly too much to contain in even this substantial effort. As he must to retain his own sanity, the author professionally avoids the emotion or judgment that I feel freer to render upon so many kings, kaisers, emperors, presidents and ministers, so many bad generals and sinister politicians. Instead, he lets events tell their own story. It is a hard story indeed. --Denis Horgan, Connecticut WatchdogIt is a brave author who attempts to pack more than 600 years of military history into one volume, but Mueller succeeds in this with some skill, and the book is nicely organized in chapters covering periods from the Hundred Years War and WW2. Common sites are described as well as those less familiar, and the historical descriptions are good, and well constructed. The maps are good, and the illustrations well chosen and clear. An excellent, highly recommended companion to the battlefields of France and Belgium, and a good single volume to keep in the car. --Paul Reed, First World War historian and authorFields of War gives you not only a wealth of historical information about this part of Western Europe: the

political times countries doing battle, armies battle movements, key opponents weaponry, aftermaths consequences, it also has text boxes explaining how to take the battlefield tours ... .. Some may want to whet their appetite for the next 500 years of warfare by following the Battle of Crecy, others will zero in on a specific modern battle. Either way, Fields of War is clearly laid out, readable filled with useful details. --D. H. Brown, Military Writers Society of America

**About the Author** During his long career as an executive with a major international corporation, Robert Mueller developed a love of travel and an enthusiasm for visiting historic locations. He caught the battlefield bug when, as a child, he visited Gettysburg. Retirement brought him the opportunity to visit and study the battlefields of Europe. After five years of on-site research, he brought his well-received first work, *Fields of War: Fifty Key Battlefields in France and Belgium*, to the military literature market. His descriptive format and engaging writing style bring the history and significance of battlefield locations to life. He is a member of the Midwest Writers Association and numerous military themed internet forums. Mr. Mueller holds advanced degrees in physics and business administration. He served his military service in the US Army Signal Corps during the Vietnam era. Born and raised in Chicago, Mr. Mueller and his wife now live in one of its northwest suburbs. They have three children and two grandchildren.