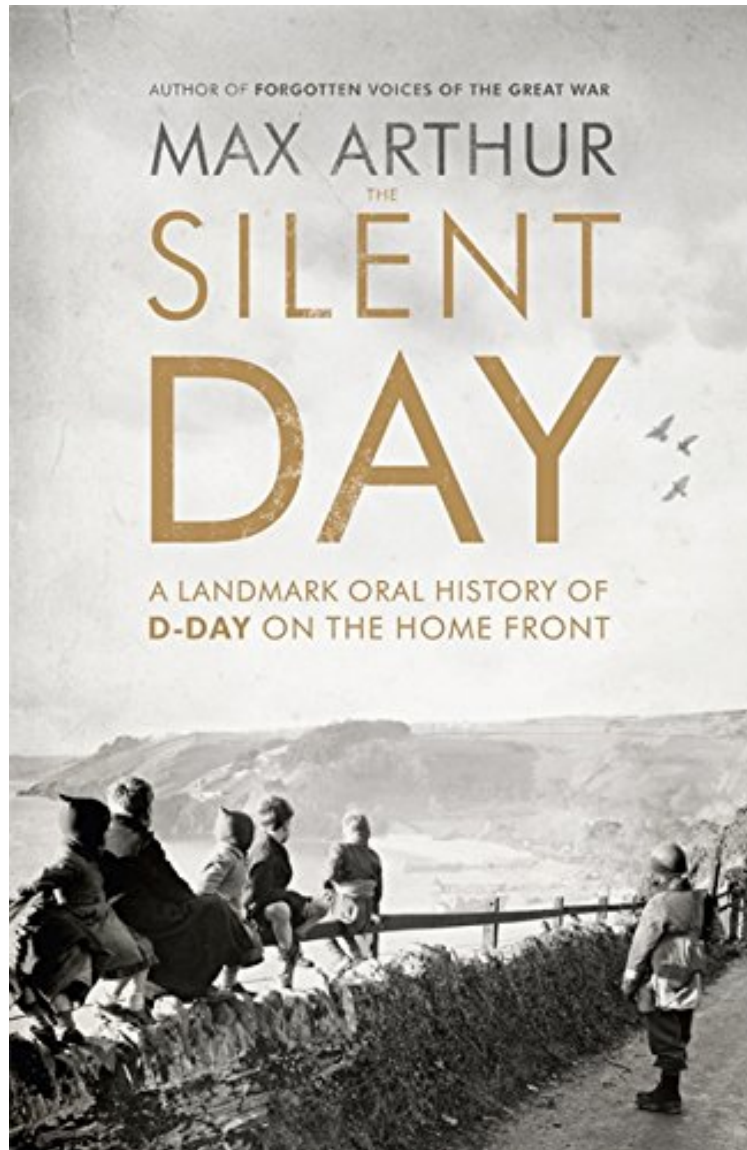


[Download] The Silent Day: A Landmark Oral History of D-Day on the Home Front

The Silent Day: A Landmark Oral History of D-Day on the Home Front

Max Arthur

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Max Arthur : The Silent Day: A Landmark Oral History of D-Day on the Home Front before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Silent Day: A Landmark Oral History of D-Day on the Home Front:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Disappointing Oral History of D-Day and its AftermathBy Dr.

Seventy years have now passed since the D-Day landings on 6 June 1944; as time passes, so fewer and fewer people remain alive to tell the tale of what happened. This is where oral histories prove so valuable, as they provide a living record of what people thought at the time the historical event happened, and what their feelings might be once the event had passed. Max Arthur's *THE SILENT DAY* offers a collection of testimonies, culled from a variety of sources, about the preparations, implementation, and aftermath of D-Day. We learn a lot about the ways in which American and Canadian troops coped with the experience of living in an alien culture; and how the British established relationships with them. We hear about the secrecy of preparation; no one knew when the actual day of the invasion was going to be until the day beforehand. And we also understand how the foreign troops' rapid departure from their British bases caused many Britons - especially children - considerable heartache. The savagery of the conflict is also recalled, and the experience of many casualties. Every aspect of the event is thoroughly covered. Then why is the book so disappointing in tone? It has the feeling of being thrown together, without any overarching framework: as a historian, Arthur provides little linkage between each chapter, preferring instead to rely on the testimonies to do the interpretive work for themselves. He has also been highly selective in his choice of material: we hear a lot about the way people reacted in the south and southwest of England to the D-Day event, but little or nothing about people in other areas. This selectivity would be permissible, if only Arthur had explained the reasons for his approach in an introductory chapter. In the acknowledgments he pays tribute to his research assistants, who have apparently done a lot of the research work on his behalf; from the way this book has been constructed, it seems as if they are the unsung heroes of this volume, while Arthur himself has taken all the credit for doing very little.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. History was made on D-Day: A Report from the People on the Home Front
By JILL LONGHOM
This was personal - I was only nine years old, but witnessed the convoys of military vehicles, heading west from my town on the south coast of England A rose was thrown from one to my mother and me; I will never forget that.
The book is a compilation of memories by the people, civilian and military, who witnessed the preparations and the final departure for the beaches of Normandy. It is gut-wrenching at times to read what they went through - the reports are from every walk of life. I have learnt a great deal from this book.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Gripping and thought-provoking read.
By MSmith
I have read a number of Max Arthur's oral histories, in particular *Forgotten Voices of the Great War*. His book on the Battle of Britain, *The Last of the Few*, I read in 2010, so I was delighted to read his latest work, *The Silent Day*. It really captures the atmosphere in the months before D-Day, and the uncertainty and fears that prevailed in the UK. It is a great read as well as being a hugely informative account of both military and civilian personal experiences at a critical time in our history.

On 6 June 1944 Britain woke up to a profound silence. Overnight, 160,000 Allied troops had vanished and an eerie emptiness settled over the country. The majority of those men would never return. This is the story of that extraordinary 24 hours. Using a wealth of first person testimonies, renowned historian Max Arthur recounts a remarkable new oral history of D-Day, beginning with the two years leading up to the silent day which saw the UK transformed by the arrival of thousands of American and Canadian troops. We also hear the views of the American troops, who quickly formed strong views of both the British military and civilian populations. Then, on that June morning, many Britain people woke up to discover that vast areas of the country, which had throbbed with life only the day before, were now empty and silent. Civilian workers found coffee pots still warm on the stove but not a soul to greet them. Many women - and children - felt bewildered and betrayed. Then, throughout that day and the days that followed, the whole population gathered around wireless sets, waiting for news. There are powerful testimonies from families of who lost loved ones on the beaches of Normandy, and dramatic personal accounts from young widows who had never had the chance to say goodbye. *THE SILENT DAY* is an original and evocative portrait of a key event in world history, and a poignant reminder of the human cost of D-Day.

Enthralling ... captures the nerve-shredding tension of the build-up to D-Day from the unique perspective of ordinary Britons at home.
Daily Mail
About the Author
Max Arthur is acclaimed for his speciality in sourcing first-hand recollections of the twentieth century, particularly the First and Second World War. He is the author of many bestsellers including *'Forgotten Voices of the Great War'* and *'Forgotten Voices of the Second World War'* which were both written in association with the Imperial War Museum. He has presented two television documentaries based on his books: *The Brits Who Fought For Spain* for the History Channel and *'Dambusters'*. Arthur was recognised in the 2013 New Year Honours with an OBE for his services to military history.