

# PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY

*more than a library...it's an experience*

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## **RICK ATKINSON TO APPEAR AT THE PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY** *New York Times best-selling Liberation Trilogy continues with "The Day of Battle"*

**CHICAGO, IL** – In 1943, after their victory in North Africa, the Allied forces made their next move: into what Churchill called “that soft underbelly” of the Axis beast, Sicily and Italy. It was one of the campaigns that won the war, but the cost to soldiers and civilians alike would be catastrophic.

On Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, best-selling author Rick Atkinson will appear at the Pritzker Military Library to discuss the new second volume of his Liberation Trilogy, *The Day of Battle: The War in Sicily and Italy, 1943-1944*. This program is free and open to the public. The presentation and live webcast will begin at 6:00 p.m. A reception and book-signing for Library members will precede the event at 5:00 p.m.

*The Day of Battle* is not a book of strategy and tactics – it is a book of the real people whose lives were swallowed up in the conflict, and the heart-wrenching losses that came hand-in-hand with every triumph. It is a story of the decisive battles that were won, the tragic mistakes that were made, and the human drama that lay at the foundation of both. Atkinson interweaves portraits of Eisenhower, Patton, Roosevelt, and Churchill with unforgettable images of regular soldiers confronted with the transformative effect of fear and violence on their own natures.

“Someone once observed that the first duty is to remember,” Atkinson has said. “I believe that, just as I believe in the power of this tale and the enduring allure of those who people it. Much of this is about keeping faith with them.”

The first volume in Atkinson’s Liberation Trilogy, *An Army at Dawn*, won the 2003 Pulitzer Prize in History for its brilliantly researched, deeply felt narrative of the Allied campaign in North Africa.

Rick Atkinson, an award-winning editor and journalist at *The Washington Post* for more than twenty years, has covered conflicts in the Persian Gulf, Somalia, and Bosnia. He is also the author of the recent best-seller *In the Company of Soldiers*, which followed the men and women of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division in Iraq, and has recently returned from Afghanistan and Iraq. He is a graduate of the University of Chicago.

Seating for this event is limited, so reservations are strongly recommended. Call 312.587.0234 or email [events@pritzkermilitarylibrary.net](mailto:events@pritzkermilitarylibrary.net).

For more information, visit [www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org/events](http://www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org/events).

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### **About the Pritzker Military Library**

The Pritzker Military Library is a state-of-the-art private research library located at 610 North Fairbanks Court in the Streeterville neighborhood of Chicago, near the Magnificent Mile. The 5,000 sq. ft. facility features over 25,000 historical, reference, biographical and rare books on military subjects, over 800 original antique military posters and prints, and other military artifacts from private donors and the collection of COL (IL) James N. Pritzker, ARNG (Ret.). Since opening in October 2003, the Library has produced over 170 programs including author events, one-on-one interviews with Medal of Honor recipients, and Chicago's only monthly military affairs panel program, Front & Center with John Callaway. Evening programs in the Library's McHenry Atrium are presented free of charge in front of a live audience, broadcast live on the internet, and archived as part of the Library's collection. Library programs are typically broadcast on WYCC Channel 20, a PBS affiliate, and are also available in podcast format at iTunes and Yahoo!, among others. A complimentary wine and cheese reception for our Associate Members precedes each evening program. Books are provided for purchase and signing by The Book Stall. To learn more, please visit our website at: [www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org](http://www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org).

The Pritzker Military Library is a short walk from the CTA Red Line (Grand). Public parking is conveniently located at the corner of Fairbanks and Ohio. The library and gallery are open to the public Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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