

PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY

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SIR MAX HASTINGS AND THE BATTLE FOR JAPAN AT THE PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY

CHICAGO, IL – The alliance between Nazi Germany and Japan was marked by few shared efforts. When Hitler gave a pair of new U-Boats to Japan, German manufacturers protested over potential patent violations; in 1944-45, as German armies struggled to defend their own soil, the Japanese leadership struggled to accept that they could not dictate the terms of their own surrender.

The Axis powers fought separately, and in the closing years of World War II, they fell separately.

On Thursday, May 1, Sir Max Hastings will appear at the Pritzker Military Library for an interview with Ed Tracy on his new book, *Retribution: The Battle for Japan, 1944-45*. This program is free and open to the public. The presentation and live webcast will begin at 6:00 p.m., preceded by a reception for Library members at 5:00 p.m. It will also be recorded for later broadcast on WYCC-TV/Channel 20.

In his previous book, *Armageddon: The Battle for Germany, 1944-45*, Hastings described the often overlooked ferocity of the last battles of the war in Europe. *Retribution* employs a similar scope to recount the very different sequence of events that led to Japan's defeat. While most histories of the war against Japan focus only on battles in the Pacific, Hastings devotes a nearly unprecedented amount of attention to the war in China as well. His writing tours the distorted psyche of the Japanese officer class and the horrific consequences of their *bushido* spirit, with unsparing accounts of atrocities committed in China, Manchuria, and other parts of Asia, abusive treatment of prisoners, and the tense final days before they were brought to surrender.

But Hastings' evaluations of major Pacific battles and commanders also provide much for students and experts of the war to consider. He dismantles the legend of MacArthur, discards Mountbatten, and admires Nimitz; he reluctantly marks Burma as a sideshow, and carefully examines Iwo Jima, Okinawa, and the Tokyo firebombing campaign within the framework of the war as a whole. *Retribution* is a sweeping vision of the endgame plotted by Allied command in July 1944 and how it actually took place over the next thirteen months, from debate over the potential cost of a ground invasion of the Japanese mainland to the lingering final question of the war: the atomic bomb.

For many years, Sir Max Hastings was an award-winning foreign correspondent for BBC TV and the London Evening Standard, reporting from conflicts in the Middle East, Indochina, Angola, India, Zimbabwe and the 1982 Falklands War. He has written 18 books on military history and current events, including *Bomber Command*, which earned the Somerset Maugham Prize for nonfiction, *The Battle for the Falklands*, and *Overlord: D-Day and the Battle for Normandy*.

Seating for this event is limited, so reservations are recommended. Call 312.587.0234 or email events@pritzkermilitarylibrary.net.

For more information, please visit pritzkermilitarylibrary.org/events.

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About the Pritzker Military Library

The Pritzker Military Library is a private, non-partisan research library located at 610 North Fairbanks Court in the Streeterville neighborhood of Chicago, near the Magnificent Mile. The mission of the Pritzker Military Library is to acquire and maintain an accessible collection of materials and develop appropriate programs focusing on the Citizen Soldier in the preservation of democracy.

The 5,000 sq. ft. facility features over 27,000 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 190 programs including author events, one-on-one interviews with Medal of Honor recipients, and Chicago's only monthly public affairs program on military issues, *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 recorded for broadcast on WYCC-TV/Channel 20, a PBS affiliate. Programs are also available as audio podcasts on the Library website and at iTunes. A complimentary reception for Associate Members with wine and light refreshments precedes each evening program. Books are provided for purchase and signing at author events by The Book Stall at Chestnut Court.

To learn more, please visit pritzkermilitarylibrary.org.

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