

Simultaneous Release with Hardcover

Available September 20, 2005 on **UNABRIDGED** Audio

Will Irwin

The Jedburghs

France, 1944, and the Secret Untold History of the First Special Forces

The first full history of the pioneering Special Forces units of World War II-dropped behind German lines into France to assist with the D-Day landings-told by a former U.S. Special Forces colonel with unique access to surviving veterans

Known as the Jedburghs, these Special Forces were selected from members of the British, American, and Free French armies to be dropped in teams of three deep behind German lines. There, in preparation for D-Day, they carried out what we now know as unconventional warfare: supporting the French Resistance in guerrilla attacks, supply-route disruption, and the harassment and obstruction of German reinforcements. Always, they operated against extraordinary odds. They had to be prepared to survive pitched battles with German troops and Gestapo manhunts for weeks and months while awaiting the arrival of Allied ground forces. They were, in short, heroes.

Will Irwin has selected seven of the Jedburgh teams and told their stories as gripping personal narratives. He has gathered archival documents, diaries and correspondence, and interviewed Jed veterans and family members in order to present this portrait of their crucial role—a role recognized by Churchill and Eisenhower—in the struggle to liberate Europe in 1944-45.

This is narrative history at its most compelling; a vivid drama of the battle for France from deep behind enemy lines.

KEY POINTS:

- 80,000 hardcover first printing, September 2005 release (Da Capo Press)
- The story of the Special Forces in World War II has never fully been told before. Information about them began to be declassified only in the 1980s.
- *The Jedburghs* finally tells their story and offers a new perspective of D-Day itself.

MARKETING/PUBLICITY

- National advertising
- National publicity
- 5-city author tour
- Military base tour with connections to Special Forces
- Jedburgh appearances

A Note from WILL IRWIN:

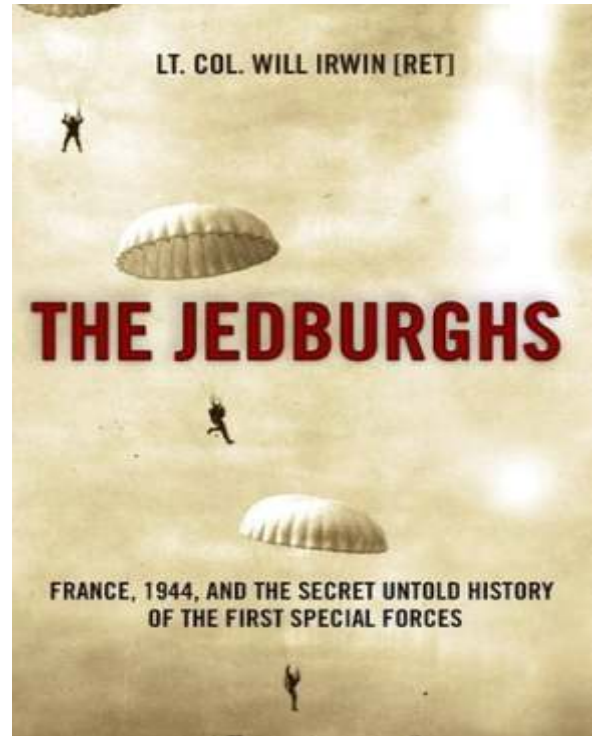
I began writing to many of the Jeds or interviewing them whenever an opportunity presented itself. Eventually, I spoke or corresponded with more than sixty Jedburgh veterans—American, British, and French. An early concern I had was in how well the aging Jeds could recall events that happened so long ago. But they remembered—boy, did they remember. And I knew that these were stories that more people needed to hear.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Will Irwin retired from the United States Army in January 2000 after a career of more than twenty-eight years, half of that in Special Forces. He received a B.A. in history from Methodist College and a master of military arts and sciences degree from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. He has done graduate work in modern European history at the University of Kansas and has served as a research fellow at the RAND Corporation. He now works as a defense contractor. Born in Iowa, Irwin lives in Valrico, Florida.

ABOUT THE NARRATOR:

An *AudioFile* Earphones winner and Audie Award Finalist, **Patrick Lawlor** is also an accomplished actor, director and combat choreographer.



Read by Patrick Lawlor

RUNNING TIME: 10.5 hours - Unabridged

CATEGORY: MILITARY HISTORY

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