



GHOST ARMY OF WORLD WAR II

JACK KNEECE

In 1941, the U.S. began to form a hand-picked army to fight in Europe. What made it different is that its troops were composed of artists, actors, meteorologists, and sound technicians, and their true mission was not to fight, but to deceive the German army.

Information about the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops was classified top secret until 1996. Following the declassification, Jack Kneece interviewed many of the key personnel involved in this elaborate ruse, including fashion designer Bill Blass.

Until the bombing of Pearl Harbor, many Americans were opposed to becoming involved in the war in Europe, and the military was ill-prepared to fight, with only 130,000 enlisted troops and equipment left over from World War I. One solution was to create a special force that gave the illusion of 30,000 heavily armed men. In fact, there were only 1,000.

German soldiers referred to them as the "Phantom Army," because one moment they were in one place, and the next, they were attacking their flanks or from the rear. This small army duped the Germans successfully in 21 separate operations during World War II, many of which took place within a few hundred yards of the front lines.

Jack Kneece is a career journalist who was the first to interview Bobby Baker during the Baker/Lyndon Johnson scandal of 1967. His article appeared on the front cover of the *Washington Post*. He has written for a number of newspapers and wire services across the country and helped start Singapore's new afternoon newspaper.

Paul Woodson has lived in both the U.S. and England, received a BFA in acting at Boston University, and has been acting and singing since the age of thirteen. He has recorded over seventy audiobooks, many in the historical romance and Highlander genres, as well as fantasy, thrillers, classics, and young adult titles.

READ BY PAUL WOODSON



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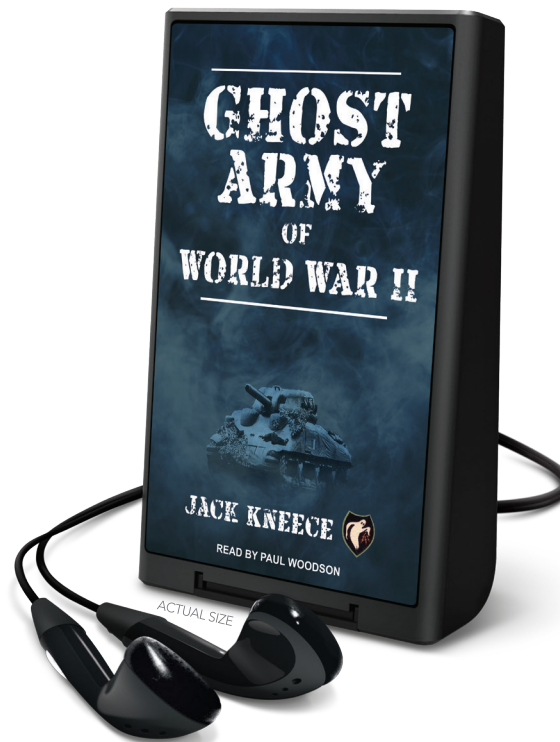
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