

PLAYAWAY®

"Marching across occupied France in 1944, American GI Leroy Stewart had neither death nor glory on his mind: he was worried about his underwear, which was engaged in a relentless crawl of its own. Similar complaints of physical discomfort pervade infantrymen's memories of the European theater, whether the soldiers were British, American, German, or French. Wet, freezing misery with no end in sight—this was life for millions of enlisted men during World War II.

Sheer Misery trains a humane and unsparing eye on the corporeal experiences of the soldiers who fought in Belgium, France, and Italy during the last two years of the war. In the horrendously unhygienic and often lethal conditions of the front line, their bodies broke down, stubbornly declaring their needs for warmth, rest, and good nutrition. Feet became too swollen to march, fingers too frozen to pull triggers; stomachs cramped, and diarrhea stained underwear and pants. Turning away from the accounts of high-level military strategy that dominate many WWII chronicles, acclaimed historian Mary Louise Roberts instead relies on diaries and letters to bring to life visceral sense memories like the moans of the "screaming meemies," the acrid smell of cordite, and the shockingly mundane sight of rotting corpses. As Roberts writes, "For soldiers who fought, the war was above all about their bodies."

Mary Louise Roberts is the WARF Distinguished Lucie Aubrac Professor of History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is also the Charles Boal Ewing Chair in Military History at the United States Military Academy at West Point for the 2020-21 academic year. Her books include *What Soldiers Do: Sex and the American GI in World War II France* and *D-Day through French Eyes: Normandy 1944*.

READ BY NANCY PETERSON



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Running Time: 6 Hours • Unabridged

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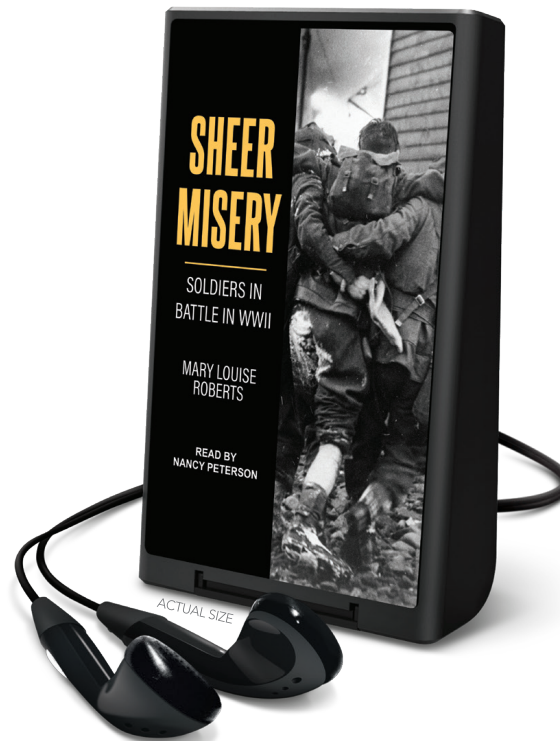
SHEER MISERY

SOLDIERS IN
BATTLE IN WWII

MARY LOUISE
ROBERTS

PLAYAWAY®

THE ALL-IN-ONE AUDIOBOOK



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ISBN 978-1-66960-804-2



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