

THE DRILLMASTER OF VALLEY FORGE

PAUL LOCKHART READ BY NORMAN DIETZ

"Baron de Steuben has finally found the biographer he so richly deserves—and what a terrific biography this is."

—DORIS KEARNS GOODWIN, author of *Team of Rivals*

The image of the Baron de Steuben training Washington's ragged, demoralized troops in the snow at Valley Forge is part of the iconography of our Revolutionary heritage, but most history fans know little more about this fascinating figure.

A failure in midlife, Steuben uprooted himself from his native Europe to seek one last chance at glory and fame in the New World. In America he managed to reinvent himself—making his background quite a bit more glamorous than it really was—but redeeming himself by his exceptional service and becoming, in a sense, the man he claimed to be.

Steeped in the traditions of the Prussian army of Frederick the Great—the most ruthlessly effective in Europe—Steuben taught the soldiers of the Continental Army how to fight like Europeans. Steuben shaped the army that triumphed over the British at Monmouth, Stony Point, and Yorktown. After the Revolution, he was instrumental in creating West Point and in writing the "Blue Book"—the first official regulations of the American army. His principles have guided the American armed forces to this day.

Paul Lockhart is a professor of history at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. He is the author of *Denmark, 1513–1660: The Rise and Decline of a Renaissance Monarchy* and *Frederik II and the Protestant Cause: Denmark's Role in the Wars of Religion, 1559–1596*. Paul earned his M.A. and Ph.D. from Purdue University.

Norman Dietz was named one of *AudioFile* magazine's fifty Best Voices of the Century, and several of his recordings have been *AudioFile* Earphones Award winners. He has recorded over 100 audiobooks, including the *New York Times* bestseller *Human Smoke* by Nicholson Baker and *Touch and Go* by Studs Terkel.



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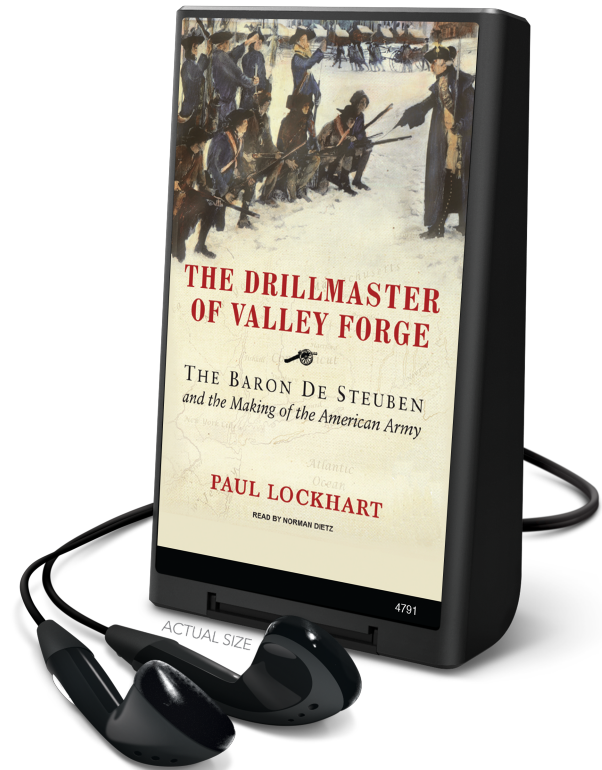
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