

Edward M. Almond and the US Army

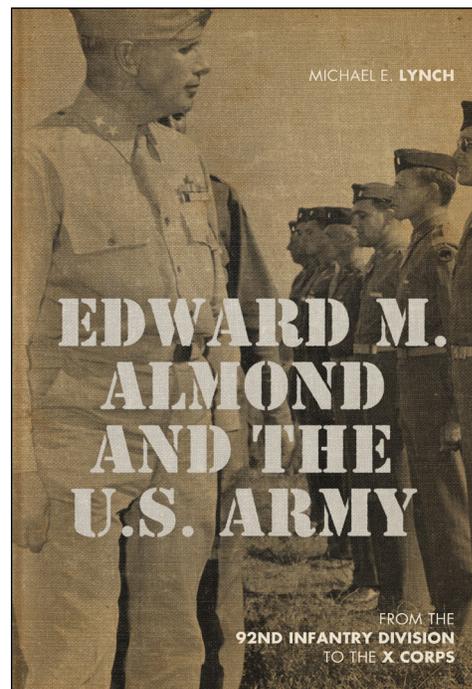
From the 92nd Infantry Division to the X Corps

Michael E. Lynch

This study presents a comprehensive look at a complex man who exhibited an unflinching commitment to the military and to his soldiers but whose career was marked by controversy. As a senior Army officer in World Wars I and II, Lt. Gen. Edward M. Almond lived by the adage that “units don’t fail, leaders do.” He was chosen to command the 92nd Infantry Division—one of only two African American divisions to see combat during WWII—but when the infantry performed poorly in Italy in 1944–1945, he asserted that it was due to their inferiority as a race and not their maltreatment by a separate but unequal society. He would later command the X Corps during the Inchon invasion that changed the course of the Korean War, but his accomplishments would be overshadowed by his abrasive personality and tactical mistakes.

This book addresses how Almond’s early education at the Virginia Military Institute, with its strong Confederate and military influences, shaped his military prowess. Michael Lynch offers a thorough assessment of Almond’s military record: how he garnered respect for his aggressiveness, courage in combat, strong dedication, and leadership and how he was affected by the loss of his son and son-in-law in combat during WWII. Following the war, Almond would return to the United States to assume command of the US Army War College but found himself unprepared for a changing world. This volume asserts that since his death, his bigoted views have come to dominate his place in history and overshadow his military achievements.

Michael E. Lynch is assistant professor at the US Army War College and research historian for the US Army Heritage and Education Center. He is a contributing author to *Drawdown: The American Way of War* and *Black History of Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, 1860–1936*.



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American Warriors series**

“An astute, nuanced examination of one of the US Army’s most confounding combat leaders. In teasing out the contradictions in Edward M. Almond’s unabashed life, with scrupulous scholarship and an unsparing eye, Michael E. Lynch also gives an insightful portrait of our twentieth-century Army.”—Rick Atkinson, author of *An Army at Dawn* (winner of the Pulitzer Prize for History)

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