



# Knights of Freedom

*With the Hell on Wheels Armored Division in World War II,  
A Story in Photos*

**By Lt. Col. Frederick C. Brems USAR (RET)  
With Fred G. Brems**

Includes: 643 Illustrations, 597 Photos, 43 Maps

Stackpole Books is proud to announce the January 2024 release of *Knights of Freedom* (334 pp • 978-0-8117-7376-8 • \$29.95 • Paperback) by **Lt. Col. Frederick C. Brems USAR (RET)** and his son **Fred G. Brems**. Lt. Col. Brems was drafted in 1941, six months before Pearl Harbor. A tanker almost from the start, he saw action in World War II with the 66<sup>th</sup> Armored Regiment in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Division, nicknamed the “Hell On Wheels” division by George Patton himself. One of the most renowned units in American military history, the 2<sup>nd</sup> AD served in North Africa, Sicily and Europe, where Brems saw action around Aachen, during the Battle of the Bulge, the advance to the Rhine, the surrounding of the Ruhr Basin and the Northern Germany campaign. He was with the 2<sup>nd</sup> AD as it marched into Berlin as the first U.S. unit to occupy the city. Brems, who rose up the ranks to command a platoon and then a company of Sherman tanks, photographed it all. Through never-published photos, supplemented by firsthand accounts from Brems, *Knights of Freedom* follows the 2nd Armored through some of the toughest fighting of World War II. It is a visual feast depicting American tank combat from close range.

Visit the [Knights of Freedom website](https://knights-of-freedom.com/) for additional photos, printed material not included in the book, enlarged photos from the book, and full-color maps and photos! < <https://knights-of-freedom.com/> >

**Frederick C. Brems** was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1941, serving as a tanker throughout World War II with the 2nd Armored Division and other units. He received the Bronze Star and the Silver Star. Once the war ended, he returned to his civilian life in the paper industry, rising to lead the firm he joined as a young man. He continued in the Army Reserve until 1967, attaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He passed away in 2014.

**Fred G. Brems**, inspired by the multiple accounts related by his father over the years, became a lifelong student of military history and an avid collector of military models. Brems is an educator, researcher, writer and photographer who held professional staff positions in U.S. embassies and schools in both the U.S. and overseas. He has an M.A. from the University of Maryland and a B.S. from Georgetown University. Fred and his wife, Susan, live in Durham, North Carolina.

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