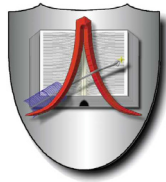


THE ABERJONA PRESS



GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS

The Aberjona Press, a division of Aegis Consulting Group, Inc. is a commercial, for-profit publishing enterprise with a values-driven outlook and vision. In other words, we do not require our authors to pay us to publish their work; we pay our authors very competitive royalties, usually including substantial, industry-standard cash advances.

We insist on particular excellence of historical research or personal recollection, and we have very high standards of prose, too. However, whether you are a first-time author or a more experienced one, be assured that our highly-professional staff of retired military developmental and technical editors and historians will work with you closely to best posture your work for the success it deserves.

We are always interested in exploring the possibilities for publication of new titles. We strongly recommend you call and speak with one of our editorial staff before you submit any written material.

GENERAL INFORMATION

All submissions must be in MS-Word format, or in some word-processed format that can be easily converted to it. If your manuscript or sample is not in MS-Word format, please be able to describe its format when you contact us. Art, photographs, and other graphic products must be submitted in .TIF format; our production chief will discuss resolution and other issues with authors at the appropriate stage.

Generally, manuscripts must be in the 300–500 page range, assuming 12-point font, double spaced text on 8½-x-11-inch paper, with margins of approximately one inch. Slightly shorter manuscripts will be considered, but please do not ask us to consider ones that are significantly shorter than 300 pages, unless you are willing to create meaningful expansions that will bring your manuscript up to the acceptable range. In almost every case, books that are shorter than this are not commercially viable with our audience.

Typically, today, we are interested in publishing books that consist overwhelmingly of text, with strong photographic and cartographic support. Usually, 10–50 photos are appropriate, and we will advise you about the number of maps we recommend to support your particular text, especially in battle and unit histories. Unlike most other

publishers, who require authors to submit camera-ready maps and diagrams, we will conduct final development of these products. We do, however, require clear, detailed sketches (at a minimum) from which our military cartographic specialists can develop first-rate, highly-professional products, a hallmark of books produced by The Aberjona Press.

Books that are primarily photographically-oriented will be considered, but are not preferred.

Unfortunately, we cannot publish color, except on the front and back covers. Based on clear market trends, our preferred book format is generally 6-x-9-inch, with laminated trade paper, full-color covers. We sometimes publish in laminated hardcover format, but we very rarely produce clothbound books with dust jackets. Given the cost of producing books in this format, we find that most readers of our genre of titles vastly prefer to save money by purchasing books in other formats that are every bit as readable and at least as durable. We also find that, in the long run, this is a much more financially satisfactory situation for our authors; by selling three times as many copies in trade-paper format, they make substantially more than if their titles were published in cloth with dust jackets at a significantly higher price!

SUBJECTS

We are ALWAYS interested in non-fiction titles about 20th-century land warfare, which fall into the following categories.

- a. *Well-written, well-documented combat memoirs.* These memoirs must be detailed and stand up under the scrutiny of a panel of experts, including, whenever possible, other veterans of the same unit as the author. Memoirs must feature significant combat participation in important battles, preferably, ones about which there have been few or no other books to date. If the memoir addresses battles that have already been written about many times before, then the memoir must, at a minimum, include perspectives that are unusually illuminating to readers.
- b. *Monographs about unusual, but significant, subjects.* Battle or campaign histories should be based largely on primary-source materials, although high-quality secondary sources may also be used. Monographs about popular, previously-heavily-studied subjects are useful only if they include new, fresh insights about their respective subjects. Certainly, especially esoteric or non-combat related subjects can have good historiographical significance, but we can only rarely publish such material.
- c. *Unit histories.* These are very quirky, very unique subjects. Please inquire telephonically to discuss the possibilities of publishing a specific unit's history. Generally, authors must have significant links to the veterans' group of the unit about which the history is being written, for both authentication and marketing purposes. Our parent organization, Aegis Consulting Group, Inc., does consider

cooperative arrangements for publishing unit histories, both those that are brought to us complete, and those that must be written or compiled. An Aegis editorial representative will be glad to discuss the work of this sort that we have done to date.

- d. *Reference books.* Reference books about units, equipment, or personalities are considered, however, they must be about unusual, yet significant subjects and/or must address subjects that have not been already (or recently) the subject of similar books. It is especially important to check your subject area for duplication of effort when proposing a reference book.
- e. *Reprints.* If you are aware of out-of-print books that have significant potential for reintroduction, we may be very interested in publishing this as a reprint. However, the copyright either must have lapsed or must be in your possession. Similarly, the publishing rights must be legally free and clear or in your possession. Please know the status of the copyright and publishing rights before contacting us with candidates for reprinting, and be prepared to forward a copy to us for our examination.
- f. *Works requiring translation.* Although we prefer manuscripts produced in English, we have the capability to translate manuscripts in Russian, German, Swedish, and French. It is very helpful to have a substantial sample of the manuscript already translated into English and available for our editorial board to evaluate.

WHAT WE CANNOT USE

At this stage of our corporate development, we can consider only non-fiction books about land warfare during the 20th century. We fully recognize the value of fiction, and are certainly cognizant of the importance of pre-20th-century military history, but we cannot effectively promote such titles, given the niche we are trying to carve out in the military-history-publishing world. Please do not send us fictional or non-20th century military material; we cannot use it at this point.

Similarly, although we recognize the great value of air and naval military history (and enjoy both a great deal in our personal reading), we cannot accept titles that are primarily about these subjects. We lack the expertise to effectively evaluate and develop the former, and do not have access to the market for either. Certainly, given the nature of 20th-century warfare, we expect that many of our titles will have sections or an otherwise significant percentage of text concerning air or naval combat topics, but PLEASE do not send us proposals or manuscripts that are PRIMARILY about such subjects. We just cannot do them justice.

CONTACT

Initially, e-mail or mail contact with some basic information is useful.

The Aberjona Press
PO Box 629
Bedford, PA 15522
E-mail: aegis@bedford.net

Include a brief summary of the book's content, why you think it would be successful in the current marketplace, the developmental status (concept only; partially completed MS.; complete MS.; reprint, etc.) and your professional curriculum vitae.

We actually prefer telephonic contact. This is usually the easiest and fastest way to exchange information, and can save all concerned a great deal of time.

Phone: (814) 623-8308

Even if The Aberjona Press is not the right publisher for your book, your query might lead to one that may be a good alternative; we frequently refer authors to other publishers. Also, our communication might result in the realization that you are the right author to write a different title in which we might be interested.

We look forward to hearing from authors whose work meets the above qualifications!