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227

CONTACT: Shelby Sledge (512) 478-2028 ext.

## Beyond the battlefield: How war shapes America

*Author, historian explores war's lasting effects on home, young soldiers*

AUSTIN, Texas – From weapons and technological innovations stemming from the Civil War, to the increased job opportunities for women and the growth of American cities after WWII, America's involvement in war has produced lasting social and cultural repercussions that have played important roles in shaping the nation.

While books about America's involvement in military engagements are not hard to find, there are far fewer books that explore the effects of war on the home-front and the life-long changes on young soldiers who serve.

In his historical fiction trilogy, "French Letters," bestselling author and historian Jack Woodville London aims to investigate the profound results of war. The latest installment, *French Letters: Engaged in War* (978-0-9821207-1-2, Vire Press, September 2010, \$15.99), tells a story from the perspective of a young Army doctor on the battlefield, in a coming-of-age novel detailing a soldier's struggle to survive the transformations that come with warfare.

"No one in World War II thought they were fighting so we could have 18 percent APR credit cards or flat screen televisions," London says. "They were fighting so things could go back to the way it was before the war. But both for better and for worse, the advances in WWII shaped every aspect of society today. Penicillin saved lives, and produced unimaginable life expectancies. Walkie-talkies became cell phones. Bombers became passenger planes. Women became executives. Families move and break up at unprecedented rates. And, as a result, we live in an overpopulated, computer dependent, credit addicted world."

*Engaged in War* is the story of Will Hastings, a young Army doctor from Tierra, Texas, who arrives in Normandy amidst the D-Day landings and soon finds himself walking a moral tightrope between saving lives and a growing urge to avenge the death of his brother, his friends and the loss of control over his life. Isolated and unaware of troubles brewing back home, his story unfolds first in the make-shift field surgery and then on the battlefield, where he is wounded and then ordered to leave the field hospital and give testimony in a military court martial. One misstep in his account could lead to the death penalty for his best friend or the prosecution of the country girl who saved his life.

The first book in the "French Letters" series, *Virginia's War* (Vire Press, 2009), takes place on the same timeline as *Engaged in War*, covering girlfriend Virginia Sullivan's experience back home in Texas while Hastings struggles on the battlefield. *Virginia's War* was a finalist for the Military Writers' Society of America's Best Historical Novel of the Year, the Williams Foundation's Willie Morris Best Novel of the South and Dear Author's Best Novel with a Romantic Element. *French Letters: Virginia's War* has been featured in the *Amarillo Globe-News*, *Texas Bar Journal*, and London has been a guest on "Great Day SA," the morning news shows on KFDA-TV and KVII-TV, out of Amarillo, Texas, and News8 Austin.

**Jack Woodville London** was born in the small West Texas town of Groom and earned his bachelor's degree from West Texas State University and law degree from the University of Texas. He is a former managing editor of the *International Law Journal* and served as a quartermaster officer in the United States Army during the Vietnam War era. London lives in Austin, Texas, with his wife. For information, please visit [www.JWLBooks.com](http://www.JWLBooks.com).

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To schedule an interview with London or receive a review copy of *French Letters: Engaged in War*, please contact Shelby Sledge at (512) 478-2028 ext. 227 or [ssledge@phenixpublicity.com](mailto:ssledge@phenixpublicity.com).