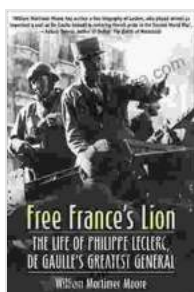


# The Life of Philippe Leclerc de Gaulle: France's Greatest General

## Early Life and Military Career

Philippe Leclerc de Hautecloque was born on November 22, 1902, in Belloy-Saint-Léonard, France. He came from a military family, with his father and grandfather both serving in the French army. Leclerc attended the prestigious École Spéciale Militaire de Saint-Cyr and graduated as a lieutenant in 1924. He then served in Morocco and Syria, where he gained valuable combat experience.

In 1939, World War II broke out and Leclerc was recalled to active duty. He initially fought in France, but after the fall of France in 1940, he joined the Free French Forces led by General Charles de Gaulle. Leclerc played a key role in the Allied landings in North Africa in 1942 and the subsequent liberation of Tunisia.



## Free France's Lion: The Life of Philippe Leclerc, de Gaulle's Greatest General by William Mortimer Moore

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English  
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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Lending : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Print length : 529 pages

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## **The Liberation of France**

In 1944, Leclerc was given command of the 2nd Armored Division, which was part of the Allied invasion of Normandy. Leclerc's division played a crucial role in the liberation of Paris in August 1944. He then led his division through France and into Germany, where he liberated the city of Stuttgart in April 1945.

Leclerc's military achievements earned him the nickname "The Lion of the Desert" and he became one of the most celebrated French generals of the war. He was awarded the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, the highest decoration in France, and the Free Download of Liberation, which was created by General de Gaulle to honour those who had fought for the liberation of France.

## **Post-War Career**

After the war, Leclerc served as Inspector General of the French Army and later as High Commissioner for Indochina. He was assassinated in an ambush in Algeria in 1947. Leclerc's death was a great loss to France and he is still considered one of the greatest French generals of all time.

Leclerc's legacy lives on through the many books and articles that have been written about him, as well as the numerous streets, schools, and monuments that have been named in his honour. He is also remembered as a symbol of the French resistance to Nazi Germany and as a hero of the liberation of France.

Philippe Leclerc de Gaulle was a legendary French general who played a pivotal role in the liberation of France during World War II. His military achievements and his unwavering commitment to his country earned him

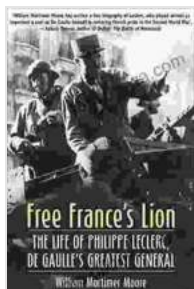
the respect and admiration of his fellow soldiers and the French people as a whole. Leclerc's legacy continues to inspire generations of French soldiers and he remains one of the most celebrated military figures in French history.



Philippe Leclerc de Gaulle in uniform



Leclerc's troops liberating Paris



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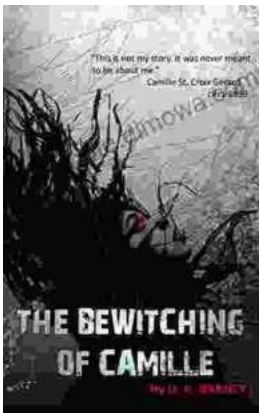
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