EUROPE AT WAR 1600–1650

By the same author

EUROPE IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY (1966)

CULTURE AND SOCIETY IN

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY FRANCE (1970)

EUROPE IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY (1973)

Europe at War
1600–1650

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First published 1980 by
THE MACMILLAN PRESS LTD
London and Basingstoke
Associated companies in Delhi Dublin
Hong Kong Johannesburg Lagos Melbourne
New York Singapore and Tokyo

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

Maland, David

Europe at war, 1600–1650.

1. Europe – History – 17th centur,
2. Europe – History, Military

I. Title

940.2'3

D247

ISBN 978-0-333-23446-4

ISBN 978-1-349-16244-4 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-16244-4

ISBN 978-0-333-23446-4 Pbk

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Foreword

This is very much an exercise in story-telling. No one with a school to run, and only a modest repertory of languages, could hope to offer original research in so wide a field as the Thirty Years War; but, by going over the story each year with my pupils, and by reflecting upon it at unwonted leisure throughout the Michaelmas Term of 1975 – thanks to the generosity of the Warden and Fellows of Merton College, Oxford, the Provost and Fellows of the Midland Division of the Woodard Corporation and the Custos and School Council of Denstone College – I believe that the story may gain by being retold with a different emphasis.

I am profoundly grateful to Bartle Frere, who read the manuscript and was unfailingly helpful in his advice and encouragement.