

passing in review

BOOKS OF INTEREST TO OUR READERS

100-Hour War . . .

100 HOURS TO SUEZ — Robert Henriques; 206 pages; illustrated; The Viking Press, N.Y. \$3.00

This book is a synthesis of contemporary Israeli history, a battle report of the Sinai Campaign of 1956, and a forecast of things to come in the Middle East. The contents can be substantively divided into 3 parts. The first provides a resume of events leading to Israel's decision to invade Egypt. The central portion is a brilliant account of Israeli military action that drove Egypt out of Sinai in the brief period of 4 days. The last chapter is at once an evaluation of the prospects for this area, from the author's point of view, and an arsenal of thought stimulators for anyone concerned with the Middle East, i.e., US Marines.

Col Henriques does much to create an atmosphere of authenticity and credibility to his recounting of Israeli-Arabian affairs in the introduction and first chapter. This is important for certain connotations might be drawn, because of his ethnic origin, that do not hold true. He stresses that, although he is a Jew, he is anti-Zionist and not an apologist for Israel.

Of importance to the reader is the author's explanation of the methods used in gathering the material. The fact that he was not present in either Israel or Sinai during the 100 hours raises the question of authenticity. However, the access he had to Prime Minister Ben-Gurion, the Israeli Chief of Staff and commanders on all echelons just prior to and immediately subsequent to the campaign provides ample evidence that he was extremely well informed.

Prior to relating the narrative of the campaign itself the author portrays the principals involved in the action. Ben-Gurion was interviewed in detail. Gen Dayan, the 41-year-old Chief of Staff, was frequently visited and consulted. It was through Dayan's collaboration that Henriques was able to obtain the concept of the operation, the details of Israel's wild, 4-day mobilization, and knowledge of the effective ruse or cover that resulted in nearly perfect military security. Such excellent sources are not normally available to correspondents.

From the people involved, the author moves to the circumstances leading to Israel's decision to strike first.

The author's account of the military maneuver and small-unit combat action is clear, vivid and at times humorous. *100 Hours To Suez* thoroughly integrates the operation from beginning to



end and very ably details the "other means" of modern warfare . . . economic, political and unconventional.

Reviewed by Maj T. D. Hess

Ed: Maj Hess is with Extension School, MCS.

The Forgotten War . . .

DEFEAT INTO VICTORY—Field Marshal Sir William Slim; 551 pages; Cassell Ltd., London. \$3.50

Field Marshal Sir William Slim is today the popular Governor General of Australia. His book, published last year, is ample proof that he was among the best of Britain's WWII fighting generals. He is also one of their best writing generals, for this is a tremendous book. It is written in a sincere, frank, honest style by the only man who could give you such an all encompassing view of the "forgotten war," in Burma.

General Slim reached the peak of his long Army career as Commander of the British Fourteenth Army in India and Burma. A career that began in 1914 when he was first commissioned. A career which saw him fighting in WWI in France, Belgium, Gallipoli and Mesopotamia. Between the wars he sharpened his art in India. Later he polished his tactics while teaching at the Staff College in England. The tactics he taught he later expertly carried out against the Japanese in Burma.

The book is divided into 6 parts. Part I is titled "Defeat." Part VI is titled "Victory." The 4 parts in between tell you exactly how he did it. As a thought provoking postscript, a chapter is added entitled "Afterthoughts." Here, are his

thoughts on warfare of the future and how it can be related to past wars, especially with his experience as Commander of the Fourteenth Army.

Gen Slim was sent to Burma in the early days of 1942 to take over the Burma Corps, composed of the 1st Burma Div and the 17th Indian Div.

On arrival he faced chaotic conditions. His intelligence of the enemy was bad, his Corps was poorly trained and equipped for jungle warfare, units were understrength from battle casualties and sickness, there was 80 miles between his divisions, and morale of his troops was disturbingly, though understandably, low. On top of this the onrushing Japanese had air superiority and on ground they held the initiative.

From May until December 1942, Gen Slim now in command of XV Corps, began the tremendous task of preparing his divisions for their re-entry into Burma. During this period the reader follows this leader as he builds his foundations and plans for final victory.

There is perhaps only one place in the book that will cause Marine readers to raise their eyebrows. At one place he said: "We were helped, too, by a very cheering piece of news that now reached us, and of which, as a morale raiser, I made great use. In August and September 1942, Australian troops had, at Milne Bay in New Guinea, inflicted on the Japanese their first undoubted defeat on land. If the Australians, in conditions very like ours, had done it, so could we. Some of us may forget that of all the Allies it was Australian soldiers who first broke the spell of the invincibility of the Japanese Army; those of us who were in Burma have cause to remember."

Either General Slim was misinformed or he took poetic license at this point for the 1st Marine Div landed in the Guadalcanal-Tulagi area of the Solomons on 7 August 1942. During the days which followed they defeated permanently several thousand Japanese in capturing Tulagi, Gavutu-Tanambogo, and decisively defeated the Japanese on Guadalcanal at the Battle of the Tenaru. All of this could be considered as handing the Japanese an undoubted defeat, before our friends the Australians landed at Milne Bay on 25 August.

NEW BOOKS

The books listed below have been received recently by the GAZETTE for review. More detailed reviews of many of these books will appear in subsequent issues. These books may be purchased at the GAZETTE BOOKSHOP now. Association members who are interested in reviewing books should notify the Editor and Publisher.

PRINCIPLES OF PERSONAL FINANCE FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL—*Associates in Department of Social Sciences, USMA. Military Service Publishing Co., Harrisburg, Pa.* \$2.00

This book is intended to assist the serviceman in solving the ordinary and extraordinary problems in the management of his personal finances. It deals with the serviceman's financial problem, his income, travel allowances, allotments and pay accounts, taxes, renting or buying a house, savings and investment, the family budget and related financial matters.

FAMOUS FIGHTERS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR—*William Green. Doubleday, NY.* \$3.95

Detailed histories of the most famous airplanes used by Britain, the United States, Germany and Japan during WWII. The volume is illustrated with a wealth of detailed drawings and a unique collection of photographs. For the first time is told the story of the first operational jet fighter, the Messerschmitt Me 262. The foreword is by Group Capt "Johnnie" Johnson, DSO, DFC.

MEDICAL EFFECTS OF THE ATOMIC BOMB IN JAPAN—*Edited by Ashley W. Oughterson and Shields Warren. McGraw-Hill, NY.* \$8.00

Based on the 6-volume report of the Joint Commission for the Investigation of the Effects of the Atomic Bomb in Japan, this volume outlines the methods of this large-scale medical research project as well as its statistical findings and their bearing on continuing studies of the effects of damaging radiation on living organisms.

EUROPE IN COLOR—*Editors of Holiday. Doubleday, NY.* \$7.50

Here are nearly 200 of the outstanding full-color photographs of the countries of Europe that have appeared in *Holiday* during the past 10 years. The pictures were taken by some of the world's most expert lensmen. The book contains photographs of some of Europe's most spectacular scenery, with emphasis on vacationlands. Allan Nevins wrote the Introduction.

If you want a clear, concise picture of the war in Burma, and if you want a top flight soldier's thoughts on leadership and watch a master craftsman fight brigades, divisions and corps in battle, *Defeat into Victory* is highly recommended.

Reviewed by LtCol L. E. Hudgins, Jr.
Ed: LtCol Hudgins is Marine Corps representative at UK Amphibious Warfare Center, Poole, England.

Why? . . .

AT WHATEVER COST—R. W. Thompson; 204 pages; Coward-McCann, Inc., NY. \$3.50

This is the story of the Dieppe Raid. I called it a story advisedly because the author has made his account come alive with personalities. It reads like fiction and the result is an adventure story of the highest order. All warfare, in the final analysis, is an intricate fabric woven of the exploits and failures of individuals.

R. W. Thompson, the author is a war and foreign correspondent who has pursued his trade in three wars and in all parts of the globe. He has a knowledge and understanding of the military which he gained at first hand, going through the ranks to become an Army captain. In addition, Mr. Thompson had access to the official British records as well as the official report of the German commander, von Runstedt.

The organization of *At Whatever Cost* is excellent. There are 3 parts entitled "Jubilee," "Vanquish" and "Aftermath." "Jubilee" was the code name of the landing and that part of the book naturally concerns itself with getting the troops ashore. "Vanquish" was the code name for the withdrawal and a more apt one could not have been chosen. In these first 3 parts of the book, each beach is treated individually. This is an excellent method of narration because each beach was in reality a separate operation. "Aftermath," the final part of the book, relates the propaganda battle following the operation and sums up.

Almost from the first page, the military reader will want to demand, "Why?" and his frustration will grow and grow for there is no answer to be found in the book. The men who planned the Jubilee operation must have believed it would be successful. Why else did they authorize its execution? No matter how I look at it, I can find no reason for that belief. I still want to demand of the planners, "Why?"

One of the reasons for the Dieppe Raid, I was amazed to discover, was to lure the German Air Force into a deci-

sive air battle. From time to time throughout the book, this fact is mentioned and finally a chapter is devoted to "The Air Battle." As with everything else, I could only ask a weak and resigned, "Why?" From the account, I suppose this mission was successful. I'm not certain.

Reviewed by Col W. F. Prickett

Ed: The reviewer is Senior Member, Advance Base Problem, and as such has visited in England with individuals who took part in this raid.

Prisoners' Plight . . .

A RIDE TO PANMUNJOM—Duane Thorin. 303 pages. Henry Regnery Co, Chicago. \$4.00

"I am an American fighting man. . . I will trust in my god and in the United States of America." So states Executive Order 10631 dated 17 August 1955.

The author, Ens Duane Thorin, an enlisted Naval pilot during WWII, and a helicopter pilot during the Korean War, was captured in early 1952 as a result of an unsuccessful rescue mission behind enemy lines. His book is a novel about American prisoners of war in Korea.

Riding in a truck with fellow prisoners of war in September 1953 towards the "Gateway to Freedom" at Panmunjom, Sgt Wolfe, the leading character in the novel, has time to think about the behavior and conduct of his many fellows during their time as a prisoner of war. The flashback technique utilized by the author provides for an interesting narrative, although this technique of introducing and describing the various persons in the novel does, on occasion, lend itself to a somewhat rambling overall story. However, the sincerity, realism and frankness of the description and conduct of each of the prisoners of war, as well as the insight into the personal characteristics of each, more than overcome this factor. Interwoven throughout the novel are the descriptions of the techniques and methods of "brain washing" employed by the captors. Of particular interest is the manner in which seemingly little events on the part of the captors do—after many cumulative events—affect each prisoner as he approaches that certain point. Realistically described are the methods employed by the prisoners themselves to counteract the actions of the captors.

Reviewed by LtCol J. R. Blackwell

Ed: LtCol Blackwell, a friend of the author, is an instructor at Senior School, MCS.