

ten mines accounts for an American platoon of 42 men. The reader will observe, in fact, that the author has little good to say about the soldierly qualities of the Allies—it was, he seems to feel, their preponderance of materiel that won the war.

By way of justifying this review, it should be said that Mr Shaw's book is built around three soldiers, two American and one German. The book picks up all three (along with assorted girl friends) in 1938 and carries them into 1945 and Germany, where all three come together in a fairly disastrous fashion. A considerable amount of space is devoted to anti-semitism and sex, both topics being, of course, in the prevailing fashion.

The author, Irwin Shaw, seems to have been a combat correspondent during the war. He has written several plays and short stories before, this being his first novel.

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The Eisenhower Story . . .

CRUSADE IN EUROPE—Gen Dwight D. Eisenhower, 599 pages, index, illustrated, charts. New York: Doubleday and Company, Inc. \$5.00

That the invasion of Europe in World War II was a crusade, in the traditional sense of the word, a battle with the powerful forces of evil, is the burden of Gen Eisenhower's personal account of the war in his own story, *Crusade in Europe*. The revelation of the man that becomes evident in the words of the former Supreme Commander of the Allied military forces betokens his firm conviction that only by the utter destruction of the Axis would a decent world be possible. Throughout the entire course of the war, and in all his dealings with the various facets of the conflict, Gen Eisenhower displays this deep rooted conviction that this was a crusade. Therefore, he has no tolerance for the time honored tradition that all professional soldiers are really comrades in arms and that the conquering commander should receive a conquered general; never once until the surrender at Reims did he even speak to a German general.

Of the many who have written and perhaps will continue to write about this greatest war that the United States has ever fought, certainly no one can possibly speak with the authority and conviction of Gen Eisenhower. For it was his leadership and his judgment of men and of facts in the procession of events from the preparation for invasion to the victory that was decisive. And yet there is a surprising paucity of "I's" in *Crusade in Europe* and nothing of malice; in fact the author's modesty and tolerance is disarming. Although the work is authored by a man who never had written a book of general interest, it has already been appraised by historians as both great history and a great book. That it is such a book is due in great measure to the fact that it is

the personal work of an author whose greatness in the field of command was distinguished by his modesty, tolerance, and frankness. *Crusade in Europe* is much more than a history of the war in Europe. It is the General's own, intimate narrative of a great piece of the world's history which he personally helped to fashion, and his account of its events is a comprehensive, stirring, and impartial one, full of revealing anecdotes and compelling incidents.

It is monumental task to incorporate within the covers of a single volume the story of America's contribution to the greatest conflict in Europe, and the story of the largest and most intricate assault ever to cross the sea is fraught with many memorable historical episodes which merit volumes in themselves. However, the alliance of many peoples into a massive striking force, the coordination of the modern weapons of land, sea, and air into a single dagger of destruction, the development of the ground strategy for this great undertaking, the epic of planning and plotting—all are told in *Crusade in Europe* in simple, yet brilliant and forceful words.

Military readers as well as civilian readers can learn much from Gen Eisenhower's account of how the United States went about fighting its greatest war, about the value and necessity for cooperation among the arms of the service and among the fighting forces of allies. The study of the operation against Sicily and Salerno, described as the greatest amphibious attack in history, is a careful, critical, and valuable analysis of this method of warfare. The treatment of the concept and the early history of air support as envisioned by the air forces and army proponents, as well as by the British, merits the attention of all students of this vital aspect of modern warfare.

The picture of Operation Overlord as presented by Gen Eisenhower is an historical documentation of the development of this supreme and magnificent enterprise and one which compels the interest and attention of the reader with the weight and vitality of its words. For the reader feels that in the narrative he is being given a personally conducted tour of the operation in the vanguard of the forward echelon which is, indeed, the case.

Particularly notable throughout the book are the delightful sketches of the great figures in the international drama, sharp, incisive portraits of such historical personages as Roosevelt, Churchill, Patton, Montgomery, and Marshall. Pungent episodes and incidents, simply told anecdotes and facts, and descriptive passages and paragraphs bring these leaders and associates into focus so sharply that the reader feels projected into their realm. The portraits of the lesser men who march across the stage of operations are clear and revealing and all the characters are there in proper perspective—individualistic military characters, brilliant commanders, contributing civilians, and the individual soldier—not just men-

tioned in passing, but set off in sparkling recollection by their former commander.

In the light of the present developments in the Berlin stalemate, Gen Eisenhower's chapter on Russia after the close of the fighting invites careful reading. In spite of his admiration for the Russian soldier, as a fighting man, and for the Russian people whom he describes as "generous," the General is outspoken in his appraisal of the character of Communism. He emphasizes that the United States and the Soviets are, ideologically, in diametric opposition, that Communist fanaticism is undermining the freedom of mankind by tearing down all governmental structures based upon individual freedom, and that the compelling necessities of the moment leave us no alternative to the maintenance of real and respectable strength not only in our moral position and economic power but in military preparedness. The General's concluding words to this chapter immortalize what should be the thought of all Americans at this time. He says, "If the men and women of America face this issue as squarely and bravely as their soldiers faced the terrors of World War II, we would have no fear of the outcome. If they will unite themselves as firmly as they did when they provided, with their Allies in Europe, the mightiest fighting force of all time, there is no temporal power that can dare challenge them. If they can retain the moral integrity, the clarity of comprehension, and the readiness to sacrifice that finally crushed the Axis, then the free world will live and prosper, and all peoples, eventually, will reach a level of culture, contentment, and security that has never before been achieved."

The General's treatment of the "stormy petrel" figures whose cantankerous individuality sometimes necessitated the employment of supreme diplomacy, is both fair and benevolent. His differences with Patton, Montgomery, and Churchill at times were irritating and serious, and they might well have taxed the patience of a less endurable leader. Yet, the General displays his deeply human and understanding regard for the opinion of others, being careful at all times, however, to assure that he was the Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces. This characteristic honesty on the part of the Supreme Commander is evidenced in his frank treatment of the mistakes that were inevitable, and he assumes the responsibility for the reverse of the Battle of the Bulge and the errors of the Tunisian campaign. And there is no bitterness souring the General's memory of these crises. His differences with the British over matters of strategy, his dealings with personalities in vital issues, and his concern over blunders in planning and tactics all betoken his calm, collected, and superlative judgment.

The author has produced a work that is a polished product replete with excellent cartography and impelling illustrations. Its footnotes have been arranged together

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with a glossary, appendices, and index in the back of the book. As a matter of English prose, the General has demonstrated that in his hand the pen is, indeed, as agile as the sword. But *Crusade in Europe* was not written in the ordinary way. Rather it is characteristically individual in that its quarter million words were dictated by the former Supreme Commander to two secretaries, and two military experts were employed to check every fact, date, name, and circumstance. The result is, surely, a scholarly, personal, unsentimental saga of democracy's crusade of conquest, from the heart and mind of an heroic leader who brought to successful realization the hopes and dreams of millions on two continents. RPMacG

Picture Book . . .

HIT THE BEACH!—Your Marine Corps in Action—Maj William P. McCahill, USMCR, Consulting Editor. 386 pages, illustrated. New York: William H. Wise and Company \$4.95

Here is a book for the souvenir gatherers who want to add a photo album of Marine exploits to their collection. It contains some 700 captioned photographs, most of them official Marine Corps and many we have seen before.

Beginning with a foreword by Gen Clifton B. Cates, the book continues with "Mobilizing the Marine Corps for World War II" by Gen Thomas Holcomb, "Guadalcanal" by Gen A. A. Vandegrift, "Tarawa" by LtGen Julian C. Smith, "The Marianas Campaign" by Gen Holland M. Smith, "Iwo Jima" by LtGen Harry Schmidt, "The Okinawa Campaign" by MajGen Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr, and "Marine Corps Aviation" by Col Clayton C. Jerome. Photographs of other Marine campaigns are included in their chronological order but are not given the emphasis they perhaps deserve.

These brief one and two page accounts of certain campaigns and other topics by prominent marines divide the photographs into logical sections. Simple sketch maps are used to illustrate the campaigns mentioned.

A section of photos and sketches of Marine activities from Tun Tavern to Shanghai 1936, a list of Congressional Medal of Honor Marines of World War II, and biographical notes on the Marine generals authoring sections of the book complete this work.

This book does not live up to the jacket blurb (but what book does?) and it is not one for which the professional marine will go out of his way to add to his library. Also the quality of paper and photo reproduction hardly justify the price asked.

Maj McCahill, the consulting editor, was a Marine public relations officer with the 4th Division and CinCPac during the war. He also authored *First to Fight* which was published early in the war.

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