

morning, I arrived for breakfast from a stint of tractor-driving, which began before sunrise, to find that every able-bodied man on my Negev Desert kibbutz, mostly tank crewmen and parachutists bloodied a year earlier in Sinai or the Golan, had been called up during the night and sent in the form of several complete Reserve divisions to the Golan to ensure an extension of the armistice, which the Syrian president was showing signs of ignoring. Exactly six months later, while staying at a kibbutz overlooking the Sea of Galilee, directly across from the Golan, I watched a day-long procession of Israeli armor pass by on the way to the Golan, the better to ensure the very next armistice extension. In 1973, my younger brother, a *Zahal* armored-infantry reservist, was well on his way into action in Sinai within 18 hours of being called to duty on the first day of the war.

In *The Arab-Israeli Wars*, Herzog explains completely the dire historical imperatives which have spawned an ability by a nation of 3.3 million to field a modern, incredibly well-equipped fighting army of 300,000+ within hours of a general call to arms. Granted that Israel is blessed with the ability to operate on very short internal lines (a mixed blessing, you may be certain, for meaningful strategic depth does not exist), but it would be well for the Marine Corps, with its global mission of rapid deployment, to study closely the methods of logistical pre-positioning, weapons procurement, equipment modernization and upgrading, and a plethora of other equalizers routinely employed by *Zahal*.

Some parallels between *Zahal* and the Marine Corps are well worth noting. In combat, platoon leaders *lead*; company commanders *lead*; battalion commanders *lead*. Often, Israeli brigadiers *lead*. Small arms training and cross-training are given extremely high priority; every man is a basic rifleman! The troops are generally well-motivated and uniformly well-informed. All *Zahal* officers have served in the ranks; many Marine officers are mustangs. Primary reliance is placed upon individual initiative. Planning is flexible at higher levels and open to interpretation by "the man on the spot." Levels of education throughout *Zahal* are generally very high. *Zahal*, like the Marine Corps, is an institutional elite; both have even more elite organizations within the larger elite. Once strategic

goals have been attained, air units operate more-or-less organically in close and direct support roles. Training is ongoing and progressive. (*Zahal*, of course, has the advantage of being able to call upon trained personnel between ages 18 and 55.) A major difference between *Zahal* and the Marine Corps (and indeed, all American services) is that *Zahal* makes a point of directing many of its better-educated, less socially marginal enlisted personnel into combat units.

Chaim Herzog, the Labor Party politician, came out strongly against prolonged Israeli military intervention in Lebanon. This position, however, has not restrained the sheer pride of the man in *Zahal*. Herzog allows his readers to make no mistake; the blunt Israelis have forged a superb, elegant, surgically-precise weapon of immense subtlety, power, and dedication. That weapon has but one purpose, and that is the preservation of the democratic state of which it is, sadly, the most-important and best-known institution. In *Zahal*, we Americans can see plainly the successful embodiment of the military tradition we hold most dear: the "citizen-soldier," reluctant to fight, reliable when called upon to do so, and utterly determined to triumph.

THE BATTLE FOR THE FALKLANDS. by Max Hastings and Simon Jenkins. Michael Joseph, London, 1983.*

WAR IN THE FALKLANDS—The Full Story. By Sunday Times of London's Insight Team. Andre Deutsch, London, 1982.*

EYEWITNESS FALKLANDS. By Robert Fox. Methuen, London, 1982.*

THE WINTER WAR. By Patrick Bishop and John Witherow. Quartet Books, New York, 1982, 153pp., \$5.95. (Member \$5.35)

WAR IN THE FALKLANDS: The Campaign in Pictures. By the Sunday Express. Weidenfeld and Nicolson, London, 1982.*

*No U.S. publisher identified as yet.

reviewed by Col(sel) N.F. Vaux, DSO, R.M.

Recent publication of *The Battle for the Falklands* by Max Hastings and Simon Jenkins almost certainly concludes production of the eyewit-

ness accounts by journalists from the war last year. **OPERATION CORPORATE**, as it was codenamed, was the largest British operation of war since Korea and certainly the most successful since World War II. What is more, victory was achieved with astonishingly light casualties, against apparently overwhelming odds, more than 8,000 miles away from the United Kingdom's ports and bases. No wonder that such an event has generated intense professional interest amongst the military worldwide, or that this is now reflected in the apparently endless demand for books on the subject! Not all of these are necessarily worth reading, however, since the degree of accuracy and breadth of information are usually in inverse proportion to the haste with which publications were rushed onto the street. As most of the books are also written by the handful of British journalists, reluctantly permitted to accompany the task force at the last minute, quality also varies with their military perception and experience as well as with the degree of access they achieved to commanders and major events.

On all counts *The Battle for the Falklands* emerges as the front runner. Hastings, who was recently selected as Journalist of the Year for his Falklands reporting, is already an acknowledged military historian and veteran war correspondent. With a combination of unscrupulous initiative, coupled with an unerring instinct for impending drama, he moved around the units on the battlefield to wherever the action was. Indeed, during initial operations, I recall him somehow smuggling his giant frame into our night helicopter seizure of Mount Kent. At the end he preceded the Argentinian surrender by walking into Stanley alone for an exclusive view of the final moments of their defeat. In addition to recounting such personal coups, Hastings analyzes the strategy (with the logistics that dominated so much of that), the air and sea battles that actually determined the outcome, the interservice rivalries and relationships, as well as the awesome pressures now placed upon military commanders because today's technology of instant communication takes political influence directly onto the battlefield.

His colleague Jenkins is the political editor of *The Economist* and, as such, possesses impeccable creden-

tials to describe the complex and ever shifting, diplomatic quicksands over which the crisis gathered. The convictions, miscalculations, and conflicting aims of the leading international negotiators are fascinatingly revealed, while the particular attitudes struck in Washington, or London, or at the U.N., are often surprising, whether it is the bitter lobbying of Jeanne Kirkpatrick for Latin America, or the relentless TV appearances at American breakfast tables by Britain's shy Ambassador throughout the war.

In particular this book offers some plausible explanations for the greatest mysteries of all—*How* did Argentina fail to anticipate British retaliation? *Why* was Britain caught completely unawares by that invasion?

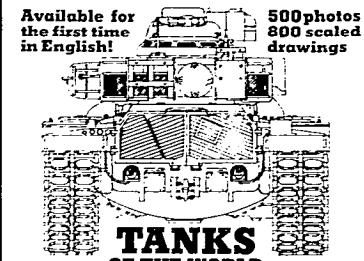
"If ever a nation was tired of colonial responsibility, this was it"—so reasoned Costa Mendez beforehand. "We simply never dreamed for one minute you would send a task force," declared a colleague afterwards. Meanwhile in London it seems to have occurred to no one at the Foreign Office that invasion was really possible, while at the Ministry of Defence, they apparently remained preoccupied with saving money by avoiding premature reinforcement. In the end such misjudgment and parsimony were to lead to "a war the British people should not have had to fight."

With more than half a dozen detailed maps, many excellent photographs and several useful appendices, the Hastings-Jenkins work is an intensely interesting book that serious students of modern military history will wish to read. Any U.S. military leaders who seek an insight into the character and capability of their British equivalent today should certainly want to do so.

War in the Falklands—The Full Story was compiled by the *Sunday Times of London's* Insight Team and was published last fall. Because of this early timing it lacks comparable research or detail into the international and strategic fields, and it fails to provide as comprehensive descriptions of most of the battles. All the same, it contains unique revelations of Argentinian events from Isobel Hilton who was there, and John Shirley, who campaigned throughout with various infantry units, and is a shrewd observer of the problems and dangers that were encountered. A

feature writer of liberal views, he must have been one of the most unlikely journalists to have been given a 'pierhead' jump to *Canberra* where, amongst commandos and paratroops, he sailed for over a month before landing. The mutual respect and friendships he established are reflected in the various personal interviews he was entrusted with by key personalities including Maj Guy Sheridan, my second in command, who led the combined Royal Marines and Special Air Service force that seized South Georgia. Shirley's account of that desperately dangerous and crucial operation is the most authoritative so far published. There is also an excellent account of the bloody infantry battle for Goose Green, while for the aviators this book contains a comprehensive analysis of air combat and the planes involved. With a functional layout into three main sections, several most informative diagrams or maps, and an interesting variety of photographs, this book is comprehensive and thoughtfully written to provide a vivid commentary on the war and the background to it.

Eyewitness Falklands by Robert Fox is the personal story of a radio reporter who sailed in *Canberra* to become a familiar voice from the task force across the world. As the accredited BBC radio representative, many of his broadcasts, some of them under fire, were syndicated to the United States and other countries to provide vivid and unique progress reports of the war. After the amphibious landings, Fox accompanied the 2d Battalion of the Parachute Regiment and experienced with them the greatest and bloodiest feat of arms of the campaign. His stark and emotional descriptions of that battle at Goose Green, where the commanding officer posthumously won a Victoria Cross, forms the best section, but his informal style and infectious humour, ever directed against bureaucracy or military inflexibility, also comes over well. Subsequently Fox accompanied the defeated Argentinians on their repatriation to obtain some unique interviews from the other side of the hill. As any sort of military history, however, the book lacks depth. The author acknowledges this himself in a forthright and rather moving preface where he explains that the book "is my account of what happened to me in the battle for the Falklands." Accepted as such,



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Editor's Choice

Infantry in Battle. The Infantry Journal, 1939. Reprinted by the Marine Corps Association, Quantico, Va., 1982, 434pp. \$8.50*

Prepared under the direction of Col George C. Marshall, USA, and first published in 1934, this book is an infantry classic. Its 27 chapters, made up of a series of brief vignettes drawn from World War I combat, illustrate tactical techniques and principles that remain as applicable today as they were 50 years ago. No infantry leader can afford to be without this one, and the price is right.

* Member's price. Add \$1.00 for postage and handling charge for the first book, \$5.50 for each additional book. Payment may be made by check, by Visa or Master Charge, or we will bill you upon shipment. Allow 2-6 weeks for delivery. Prices are subject to change.

it makes compelling and most enjoyable reading.

The Winter War by Patrick Bishop and John Witherow is another journalistic double. Again, both authors were reporting directly to their prestige newspapers during the fighting, and Bishop actually spent most of his time with the Marines of 42 Commando. What they have actually created in this short paperback, however, is a discerning and most intelligent review of "the players and scenery" that made up the Falklands epic. The major role is therefore played by British "bootnecks," or Army "toms" (paratroops), and the unerring sensitivity of the authors for quaint military jargon, the development of jungle rules, and the social contradictions of military leadership in Britain's all-professional forces are entertainingly revealed. For anyone who wishes to comprehend what it was like to take part in that bizarre voyage to a war at the end of the world where, even in this 20th century, sheer survival from the elements posed as great a problem as the enemy arsenal, this is the book to read. Apart from anything else *The Winter War* confirmed the word "yomp" in the English language. As this was invented by Marines, that has to be a plus!

For those who prefer the visual impressions, *War in the Falklands: The Campaign in Pictures* by the *Sunday Express* provides quite outstanding montage of the major events. Through more than 150 pages is displayed a collection of riveting, harrowing, ma-

jestic, and sometimes exquisitely beautiful pictures, almost all of which were taken by the combatants at the time. It is here that the potential devastation in air or sea combat are instantly apparent along with the dejection of defeat, the elation of victory, the grimness of exposure, the pathos of death. Anyone in doubt that this was a real war, with significant lessons to be learnt, should certainly glance through it; while many more will find it a sobering re-creation of what may have to be faced at the shortest notice—as we did.

† Col Vaux commanded 42 Commando during the Falklands operation. As the result of a recent exchange tour at Quantico, he is well known to many U.S. Marines.

FORGED IN FIRE: Strategy and Decisions in the Air War over Europe 1940-1945. By DeWitt S. Copp. Doubleday and Company, Inc., Garden City, N.Y., 1982, 481pp., \$19.95. (Member \$17.95)

reviewed by Capt R.C. Peithman

"No army produces more than a few great captains."

Gen George C. Marshall

From that observation, DeWitt S. Copp titled the first volume of his history of U.S. Army aviation, *A Few Great Captains*, which was published in 1980 under the auspices of the Air Force Historical Foundation. (See

MCG, Aug80, p.66.) Tracing the lives of a handful of pioneering airmen, principally Frank M. Andrews, Henry H. Arnold, Ira C. Eaker, and Carl A. Spaatz, he wrote of their fight to gain acceptance of the doctrine of strategic air power and to gain independence for the fledgling air corps from War Department control and domination. The first volume concluded with the onset of the German blitzkrieg. Now *Forged in Fire*, the second volume in the series, continues the story from 1940 through April 1945, the end of the war in Europe. The captains, now generals, are joined by the major political and military leaders of the period, especially Gen George C. Marshall, who supported their theory of strategic bombing.

The emphasis on strategic bombing is pervasive through the entire book. Any efforts to reduce the bomber forces in England or delay the daylight bombing of Germany are viewed with a jaundiced eye as if victory through air power was a sacrosanct concept. The political battles fought by the air corps leaders to bring about the buildup of adequate forces and acquire long-range escort fighters are presented in great detail.

Extensively researched, *Forged in Fire* concludes with the planning undertaken in April 1945 to: (1) move forces to the Pacific Theater; (2) gain independence for the Air Force (which took another two years); and (3) forestall the dissolution of air power such as had occurred in 1918 after the last war. This provides the lead-in to volume three of the history, as yet unpublished.

The current volume can be read separately, but to completely understand the personalities and background of the four main characters, *A Few Great Captains* should be read first. A good understanding of the chronology of events of World War II is necessary because Copp assumes that the reader has a background on the timing of the events and concentrates on the personalities and reasons for the events.

An excellent book that keeps the reader's attention throughout, *Forged in Fire* is recommended reading for all who want to understand the background for events of the late forties during the unification fight and when the principal antagonists in the battle for defense dollars were the carrier admirals and the strategic bombing generals.