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Cartwheel: The Reduction Of Rabaul (United States Army In World War II: The War In The Pacific)



Synopsis

The campaign described in the present volume was important to the Army as an experience in amphibious warfare and combined operations against a formidable and still resourceful enemy. It was also of critical importance in the evolution of American strategy in the Pacific. CARTWHEEL began as an uphill fight with means that seemed inadequate to the ends proposed, even though these were limited. But it swiftly brought our forces to a crest from which we were able to launch the two powerful drives, through the Southwest and Central Pacific, that crushed Japan before we redeployed the forces directed against Germany. The campaign put to the test the principle of unity of command, and also the capacity for co-operation between two theaters, one under Army, the other under Navy command, and both under forceful and dominant commanders. By ingenious and aggressive use of the ground, sea, and air forces at their disposal they made these suffice to achieve more than had been foreseen as possible, and opened up a new vista of strategy. They took a heavy toll of the enemy's resources, established the technique of bypassing his strongholds, including finally Rabaul itself, and threw him on the defensive. This book will be of interest not only to professional officers, but also to a wide variety of other readers and students. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Born in Scotland and a U.S. citizen since 1928, John Miller, Jr., was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in History by the State University of Iowa in 1942. In World War II he saw service overseas with the U.S. Marine Corps in New Zealand and in the Solomon Islands, where he participated in the Bougainville operations described in this volume. A member of the historical staff

of the Department of the Army since 1945, Dr. Miller is the author of Guadalcanal: The First Offensive in the present series, coauthor of Korea: 1951-1953, and contributor of several chapters to the 1956 edition of ROTC Manual 145-20, American Military History, 1607-1953. He has written articles and reviews for historical and military journals, and has taught history at the University of Omaha, the State University of Iowa, the Graduate School of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and The American University in Washington, D.C. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Footnotes, maps, and charts are mentioned in the text, but not included in this edition. Makes for difficult reading when the text refers to specific items in non-existent illustrations.

This official publication was well researched and well written. Its treatment of Cartwheel touches on nearly every perspective of the campaign. This covers broad and narrow strategic decisions by both sides, inter-theatre competition for resources, and issues advanced all the way to Roosevelt's resolution. Details are also provided on the effects of beach width and slope, swamp locations, bomb and artillery expenditures, runway construction, and jungle fighting. This book was commissioned to be an accurate educational resource for future professional officers and historians, as well as other readers and students. Printed in 1959, it is not readily available and those who own it should treasure it.

But for those that wish to get an understanding of how the USMC and US Army fought and won against the Japanese SNLF and Army this is a very good book. Good detail concerning the critical actions on land which led to the a victory that was a critical turning point in the war in the Pacific. And good statistical information.

This books is a strategic account of the battle for Guadalcanal. The book concentrates on the land battle. Details of the air and sea battle are brief.

Integrating the book with "Victory at Guadalcanal" (R. Lee) you can have a full view of this long and bloody operation. Important for Pacific war fans

filled with facts and descriptions for the history buff. Probably best reading for a person that has an interest in the Pacific Theater island campaign of WWII

A good, detailed account of a long and complicated series of events.

THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE CAMPAIGN I HAVE READ

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