

who is shot at, Vic had some close calls.

The novel finds Vic as a small boy in Italy. It brings him to America and to manhood. In college he meets and immediately falls in love with a campus queen he later marries. The narrative then follows him through a succession of assignments that turn him into an expensively-trained and efficient officer.

Eventually, Vic finds himself a replacement in the European theater. He enters the fight at Omaha Beach and has few dull moments until a serious wound causes him to be evacuated shortly before V-E Day. He is the idol of his subordinates and a rock of stability in a firefight, but often misunderstood by his superiors.

Vic's training is put to the test by the fanatical Nazi storm troopers who often face the two different battalions he commanded. As the dust jacket says, this is a novel of faith put to the test of war. The reader can decide whether Vic's training and faith stood up under the test.

Reviewed by Major Dennis D. Nicholson, Jr.

High-level Strategy . . .

STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR COALITION WARFARE: 1941-1942 — Maurice Matloff and Edwin M. Snell, 382 pages, illustrations, appendices, index and charts. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.: Department of the Army.

\$3.25

Strategic Planning for Coalition Warfare, 1941-1942 begins with a brief resumé of the development of U. S. planning for war in the years before 1940. The account discloses that it was in this period, in the mid-thirties, that differing conceptions of our national requirements and capabilities in the Pacific area developed between the War and Navy Departments which, like a recurring theme in a musical score, were to successively reappear in the efforts of the two departments to settle on a harmonious strategy.

The history then moves into the period following the fall of France, and the struggles to adapt ourselves to the completely changed international situation in military power.

In the meantime, the Pacific situation was coming to a boil. While faced with the necessity of planning

under nebulous assumptions for entry into war in the Atlantic, and expecting that our main effort would be in that direction, the staff was faced with the probability of an early war in the Pacific, an area in which we would have to carry the principle burden of combat.

On 7 December 1941, although many of the problems became less academic in nature, they became more complicated with the swift progress of the Japanese forces. Accepting a strategic defensive in the Pacific did not lessen the problems of providing any defense at all.

The history proceeds with its story of the planning of the first year of war, covering the calculating and recalculating which eventually resulted in the landings on Guadalcanal in August, and in North Africa in November.

It closes with the opening of a new series of discussions as to what course should be taken in following up the successful landings in North Africa.

To Marines particularly, an interesting item is mention of certain of the planning factors used in the 1942 planning for the western France landing then being considered for 1943. One of the big problems was a shortage of landing craft. The plans called for landing craft to boat at one time an assault force of 77,000 men, 18,000 vehicles and 2,250 tanks. This is at the rate of one vehicle per four men boated for the first trip of the landing craft.

For those interested in how national strategic plans are made, unmade and then remade, this volume presents a well-documented and well-organized body of information.

Reviewed by Colonel S. R. Shaw

Asiatic Travelogue . . .

A YEAR OF SPACE — Eric Linklater, 273 pages. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company. \$3.50

Called an autobiography on the flyleaf, this book runs the gamut of emotions from the beginning to the end. One meets Lord Wavell in a moment of great humor, King George V engaged in the pleasure of duck hunting, a little child in Korea who is cold and very hungry, and hundreds of other characters who make you laugh and cry in turn.

The story, if such a term may be

applied, is that of the author who has been requested by the British Government to go to Korea and make a report on naval operations, and also look at the ground troops. The result is an extended tour of roaming over the eastern half of the world. Linklater has that unique touch of making everything so correct in its particular niche that one is apt to miss the dry humor connected with it. The book is a work of deliberate understatement which is so deftly done it nearly is overlooked.

If you like the world or any part of it then this book will please you.

Reviewed by 1stLt Paul E. Wilson

The Long Fight . . .

THE CHINA TANGLE—Herbert Feis, 445 pages, with maps. Princeton, N. J.: Princeton University Press. \$6.00

The struggle for power in China, a struggle still going on under the Communist regime, is more than 30 years old. The Chinese Communist Party became a member of the Kuomintang in 1923 and remained there until expelled in 1927. Chiang Kai-shek emerged as the leader of the National Government and from 1930-1935 open attempts were made to wipe out the strength of the Communist opposition. With the Japanese invasion of China the opposition forces in China joined in battle against the common foe. However, in spite of some co-operation between the Chinese Nationalists and Communists, particularly in 1937-1938, there was no actual unification of either the civil or military authorities of the two parties.

The story of the relations between the United States and China during the last war reveals an interesting mixture of facts and hopes. The United States wished to provide China with the support necessary for the struggle against Japan. Unfortunately there was not enough material to fill all requirements. Since the defeat of Germany had priority, the Pacific theater had to accept far less than it wished. Britain was also unwilling to accord to China recognition as a major power.

The problems which faced Chiang Kai-shek were multiple. There was Japan to be defeated but not at the cost of the strength he needed to continue the struggle against the