

A Ramble Through My War: Anzio and Other Joys

Charles F. Marshall

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Some World War II books are written in fashion of simply reporting troop movements while others use graphic descriptions of combat experiences. In an informative new approach, Marshall tells a dramatically revealing story about his role in the behind front lines operation with the intelligence section, G2.

His authentically chronicled diary is supplemented with a smooth, classical style of in depth writing. Being fluent in German, Marshall is able to convey a rare insight into the personalities of the enemy. The nature and complexities of intelligence work is forever intriguing, as the war unfolds through Italy to Rome and then the invasion and thrust through southern France into Germany. Always mindful of the history of the regions, the story is laced with interesting observations.

The gathering of intelligence from captured documents and maps and the interrogation of prisoners played such a vital part in combat strategy, that the effectiveness of their use was intrinsic to victory or defeat. This makes up the bulk of the story, embellished with the personal life of the author, his travails, his sensitivities, his accomplishments and his relationships with fellow compatriots. All of it, a very moving experience for those that wish to share it.

HARRY O. LANG JR. (January / February 1999)

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