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The Battle for Guadalcanal

Samuel B. Griffith

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BOOKS

Strausz-Hupé, Robert, et al. *Building the Atlantic World*. New York: Harper & Row, 1963. 400p.

In this book the authors discuss the subject of the European Community as one of the biggest problems facing the United States today. This thoughtful book provides the readers with the guidelines for assessing the rights and wrongs of the coming struggle for the future of the Atlantic Community. The authors point out that the Suez episode was NATO's greatest political crisis and that the alliance might have disintegrated had it not been for Soviet policy in Hungary. The book also points out that Europe wants many things; but most of all it wants freedom from communism. She wants an end to the wars that have torn her apart for centuries. Instinctively she knows she cannot go it alone; the trend is toward some form of interdependence with the United States. The Europeans wish to be allies, not vassals, in the Atlantic Community, and they want the weapons that will give them equality. Here is one of the great differences in attitude that must be reconciled before an Atlantic Community can be made. Nuclear weaponry is where the voices meet. Nuclear arms control within the community is the central question. Until it is solved, it is difficult to see a true community among the Atlantic Powers.

Griffith, Samuel B. *The Battle for Guadalcanal*. Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1963. 282p.

The Battle for Guadalcanal is a volume in editor Hanson Baldwin's *Great Battles of History* series. The editor has made a near perfect choice for his author. Brigadier General Sam Griffith, USMC (Ret.) is an American military man who is a savant. With the scholar's tools and techniques, General Griffith has fashioned an erudite work. His sources, both Japanese and American, are many and largely primary. From them he has written a carefully annotated account that is complete from the outset of planning at the highest level, down through all the various echelons to the joining of battle at the small unit level. The remarkable feat is that each opposing camp receives a fair share of attention in such a manner that the narration is detailed yet always clear. As a participant in the action, General Griffith knows intimately of what he writes. He fought with Edson's Raiders. His descriptions are detailed and his opinions assertive. This is no 'sea story' recounting old prejudices, but there is an unmistakable reality or quality in the telling that only one who was there could create. Of prejudices there are none. But when scholarship, experience, and hindsight all lead to conclusions, then such are forthrightly asserted. This is an uncommonly good tale told by a scholar and master raconteur.