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Paulus and Stalingrad

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Goerlitz, Walter. *Paulus and Stalingrad*. New York: Citadel, 1963. 301p.

This is an unusually fine account of the battle of Stalingrad as fought by the German Sixth Army under command of Field Marshal Friedrich Paulus. The stated objective of the book is to make a contribution to the history of World War II in the form of a treatise on a battle which, in the eyes of the Germans and Soviets, constituted the politico-psychological turning point of the war on the Eastern Front. It is an all-out effort to set the true facts before the German people, who, prior to the publication of this work, have heard many versions of the action at Stalingrad.

The book is divided into two parts. The first part—the shorter of the two—provides a look into the early life of Paulus: telling of his entry into the Army after being unsuccessful in getting a commission in the Navy; outlining his assignments and the major events of his life through World War I, the training between the two World Wars, and his participation in the battle for France and Poland in World War II; and concluding with his planning for, and then command of, the Army forces in the fight for Stalingrad. This is the author's summary and arrangement of the highlights as he gathered them from personal knowledge as well as from research. He develops in a most interesting way a picture of the character, educational background, and devotion to duty which causes the reader to understand why Field Marshal Paulus reached the decision to stay with his command and defend his position in Stalingrad as ordered by Hitler. The second part of the book contains Paulus' own description of major events of the war and, in particular, the Russian campaign. This part is documented by notes written by the Field Marshal during his stay as a prisoner of war in Russia following the surrender at Stalingrad. It is also supplemented by letters, dispatches, and extracts from war diaries—official and unofficial. Additionally, sketches and photographs are available in sufficient number to provide a good understanding of the situations throughout the struggle. The book concludes with a brief survey in retrospect by Paulus in which he defends his position in obeying Hitler's orders to continue the fight when all appeared lost, and at a time when his many senior associates recommended that he do otherwise. Aside from the main focus on the battle for Stalingrad, this work provides the reader with a good look at the planning for the proposed invasion of England, 'Operation Sea Lion,' in which Field Marshal Paulus played an important role. The volume will be of great interest and value to all students of the German campaign against the U.S.S.R.

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