



Seven Stars: The Okinawa Battle Diaries of Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr and Joseph Stilwell

By Nicholas Evan Sarantakes

Texas A & M University Press. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Seven Stars: The Okinawa Battle Diaries of Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr and Joseph Stilwell, Nicholas Evan Sarantakes, Battle diaries are essential for understanding what generals are thinking as they work their way through the fog of battle. Nicholas Evan Sarantakes juxtaposes the diaries of two very different generals who both fought at Okinawa: Lieutenant General Buckner, a by-the-numbers man who favored the use of artillery and tanks to reduce entrenched positions, and General Stilwell, a prickly outsider who preferred maneuver to set-piece battles. Sarantakes identifies individuals, includes explanations of important events alluded to by the generals, and provides glossaries of main characters and military terms. The result is a record of how Buckner and Stilwell came to grips with the problems of command on a wartorn island at the end of a long logistical tether. With the background information provided by Sarantakes, the diaries of these men become accessible to the reader. Buckner is the more restrained, a Southern gentleman whose career was average and whose diary entries are interspersed with letters to his wife. He shuttles between forward command posts and shipboard conferences, noting how much rain...



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