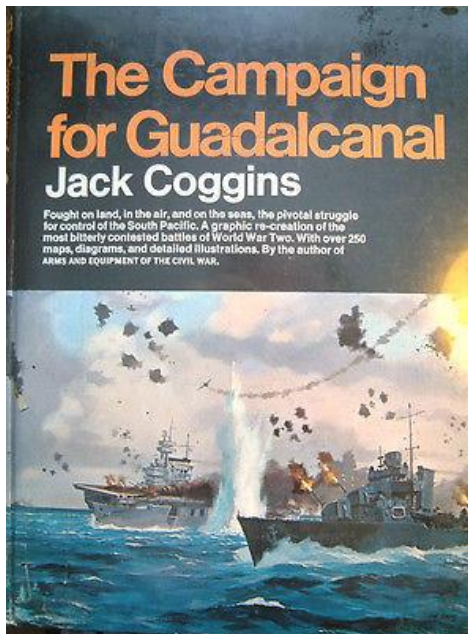


The Campaign for Guadalcanal

Review by Mike Crane

This is another great resource book written and illustrated by Jack Coggins. Moving from England (where his father had served as master rider in the illustrious Life Guards cavalry regiment) as a teenager, Coggins trained to be an artist in New York City and specialized in maritime paintings. During World War II, he served as an artist for *Yank* magazine and saw action with the Royal Air Force, the Royal Navy, the US Navy, and the US ground forces after D-Day.



Jack Coggins has also written and illustrated other works that serve as great resource books for war gamers. He became a good friend of Fletcher Pratt and helped demonstrate Pratt's naval war game as a participant. Coggins and Pratt later co-authored a book in 1941 that is said to have included a colored illustration of every type of ship in the US Navy at that time. (Jack authored more than 40 books during the next 40 years.) After the war, Pratt introduced Coggins to Isaac Asimov and their mutual interest in rockets produced a lasting friendship and many science fiction illustrations in Asimov's fantasy magazines, and a couple of influential books about rockets and space travel before Sputnik. If you are interested, you will want to Google "Jack Coggins" for more information. Enough about him and now to the book review.

If you are planning an early WWII naval battle in the Pacific, a ground battle based on Bloody Ridge, or an air battle involving the Cactus Air Force, you will find this book extremely interesting. Coggins writes about the entire Guadalcanal Campaign—including the strategic goals and the tactical objectives of both sides. He covers all aspects of the campaign, the war on the ground, on the sea, and in the air. Other books will deal with certain battles in more detail, but this book presents a general overview of the entire campaign. Coggins does all this without becoming tedious because his writing is illustrated profusely with maps, charts, and detailed drawings of arms, equipment, ships, airplanes, etc. If you are interested in the early history of the Pacific Theater of WWII, I heartily recommend this book.

The Campaign for Guadalcanal was published by Doubleday & Co., Inc. at Garden City, NY with a copyright date of 1972. The book is 8.35" wide x 11.5" tall. It has 208 pages and is full of black-and-white illustrations. It has an index, appendix, chronology, and a bibliography. It can be found in Amazon at a reasonable price in a "good" used condition beginning at \$.01.