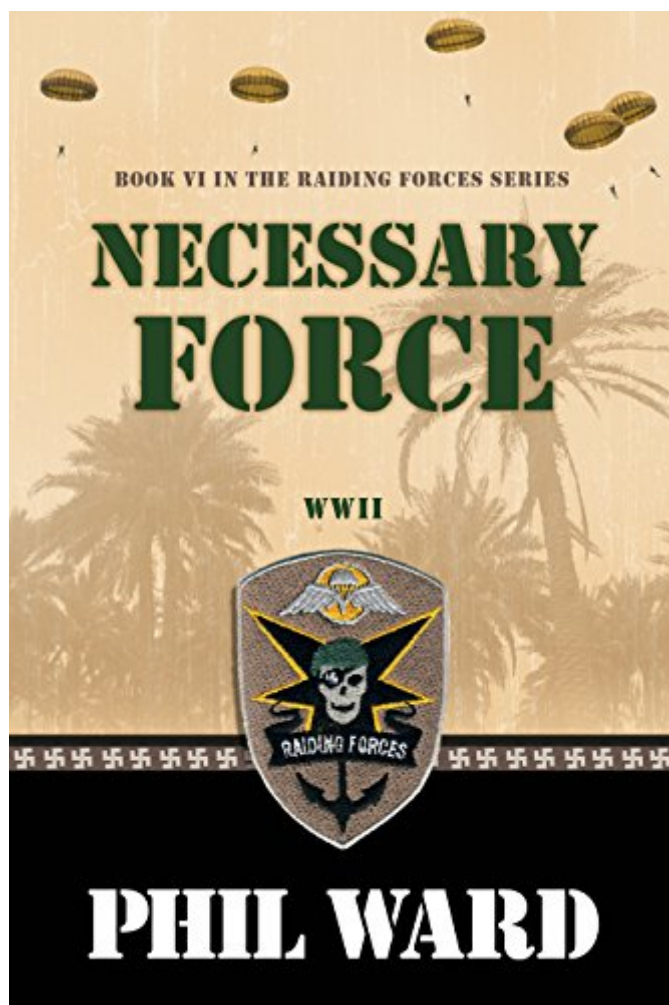


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Necessary Force (Raiding Forces Book 6)



Synopsis

Maj. John Randal is back in Book VI in the Raiding Forces Series. He travels to the RAF Base located at Habbaniya sixty miles south of Bagdad to see Lt. Pamala Plum-Martin be awarded her pilots wings from the flying school located there. RAF Habbaniya is a base that the war has passed by, senior officers at the end of their career are assigned as well as pilots who are not considered good enough for combat flying or pilots who have become combat fatigued from flying combat tours and need a rest. Maj. Randal, the MI-6 senior officer Jim 'Baldie' Taylor and Lt. Penelope Honeycutt-Parker fly into the RAF Base the same day the Iraqi rebels of the Golden Square lay the place to siege by occupying the heights just outside the perimeter wire. They find themselves in a situation that is described to Maj. Randal "in terms an American can understand – this is 1836 and you just checked in to the Hotel Alamo". What happens next is an action packed story of a battle that has been lost to history.

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Customer Reviews

Having read and recommended Phil Ward's other Raiding Forces works, Blood Wings, Roman

Candle and Guerilla Command, reading his latest offering Necessary Force was a no-brainer. It was an entertaining read with a quick page-turning pace. Like Mr. Ward's previous Raiding Forces novels, Major John Randall is the main protagonist. Major Randall is an American ex-pat commissioned into the British Commandos during World War II. And, once again he is surrounded by beautiful women and cut-throat killers. I really like the character's Mr. Ward creates. Mr. Ward pushed the bounds of "suspension of belief" in his earlier works and he does so again in Necessary Force. The story revolves around Major Randall going to the RAF base at Habbaniya, Iraq for R&R following his combat exploits in Ethiopia (see Blood Wings, Roman Candle and Guerilla Command) just as four top level Army and Air Force officers, known as the Golden Square, seized power in Iraq via a coup d'État and the Iraqi Army puts the airbase under siege. Major Randall is asked to put together a strike force to counter any Iraqi offensive moves. After reading his earlier works, I must admit it has gotten easier to go along with Ward's offered premise. After all it is a work of fiction. An aspect of Mr. Ward's writing that I enjoy is that he sets his stories in real, but little known campaigns of World War II. Like the British campaign to retake Ethiopia featured in Ward's previous trilogy and now with Necessary Force, the British campaign to retake Iraq, which I assume will also be a trilogy. Ward's Raiding Forces Series aren't really stand-alone stories. You have to read the entire trilogy to get the complete story. Ward's story-telling is good enough to support such trilogies and without breaking the story up into bite-size pieces it would be too much to digest at once. And, I guess it's also good marketing in today's e-book world. The one thing I didn't like and the thing kept Necessary Force from getting a 5-star rating from me was a technical mistake made late in the book. SPOILER ALERT. Ward has Randall and company raid an enemy artillery position made up of a pair of 3.7mm howitzers. There's no such thing as a 3.7 mm howitzer. First off there has never been a 3.7mm weapon. The smallest is 5mm which is about .20 caliber pistol, not a cannon. So I think it was a misprint. The weapon in question was probably a 3.7cm or 37mm cannon. During World War II a 3.7cm was a standard anti-tank and anti-aircraft gun, but it still wasn't a howitzer. This oversight did not take away from the story, but I expect a writer with Ward's combat experience and research skills to pay closer attention to the details, especially for the asking price of the book. Mr. Ward writes entertaining novels, if you like W.E.B. Griffin's Corps series you will enjoy Phil's Ward's Raiding Forces series and I recommend Necessary Force.

Another great installment of the "Adventures of MAJ John Randal and Raiding Forces." I've followed Phil Ward's series since its premier, "Those Who Dare." Phil's created a great serial of stories that would appear to be great fantasy, but are actually based on real operations, events and

personalities. Much like the Shaara's or Stephen Pressfield, he has written a series of stories that put the reader inside of the events. This volume takes place as the previous four did, in a theater that quietly influenced the larger strategy of the Allies in World War II, and about which little has been written previously. Previously writing about the British campaign in East Africa and Abyssinia, Randal's adventures take us in this volume to Iraq to a sleepy RAF base suddenly surrounded by mutinous Iraqi brigades ready to overrun the British and side with the Axis forces. Instantly, the small garrison are at the center of a strategic gambit for the precious oil reserves that could fuel the Nazi war machine. Great summertime reading, I devoured it in a weekend and am anxiously looking forward to the release of Ward's next book, "Private Army."

I am an avid fan of Phil Ward and this series. Like all of the previous books, this one does not disappoint. The beginning starts with a review of where all of the main characters are at. I really liked this as not many authors do it. It helped to refresh where the saga left off at the end of the last book. The rest of the book builds anticipation with each passing page. Once again, the picture of battle that is painted is vivid and complete. If I had to find one negative it is that, unlike the previous books, this book didn't really wrap up the story at the end. Kind of leaves you hanging. That being said, I fully expect Phil will pick right up where he left off in Book 7, Private Army. Thanks for another great book Phil! I read it in a day and will likely read it again. Already looking forward to the next installment for Major Randall.

If you have read the previous five books this review will not be an interest to you, because you already know what a super series this is if you have not read the first five book, do your self a favor and start with book one and hold on for a great reading experience. You will finish book one and want to move on to book two. By the time you start reading book six you will be very pleased you started on this series. Don't miss any of the book in this series. Great reading.

Another thumbs up Phil Ward is right on track keep it coming . Dead on for small group tactics gorilla hit and run is well defined.

Phil Ward is to World War II what Edgar Rice Burroughs is to the African Jungle. He knows how to weave a tale and keep you sucked in from start to finish. My only criticism is that eventually much sooner than later I'm going to run out of books to read in this series.

This series about Raiding Forces is superb!

If no one had told me that this was fiction, I would've easily believed the account to be reality! The author throws in just enough funny stuff to help you know the difference. Other than that, the story in every little detail is very accurate. It's fast moving, action packed and amazing to see the operation unfold and be carried out. I am waiting for the next book with great expectations.

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