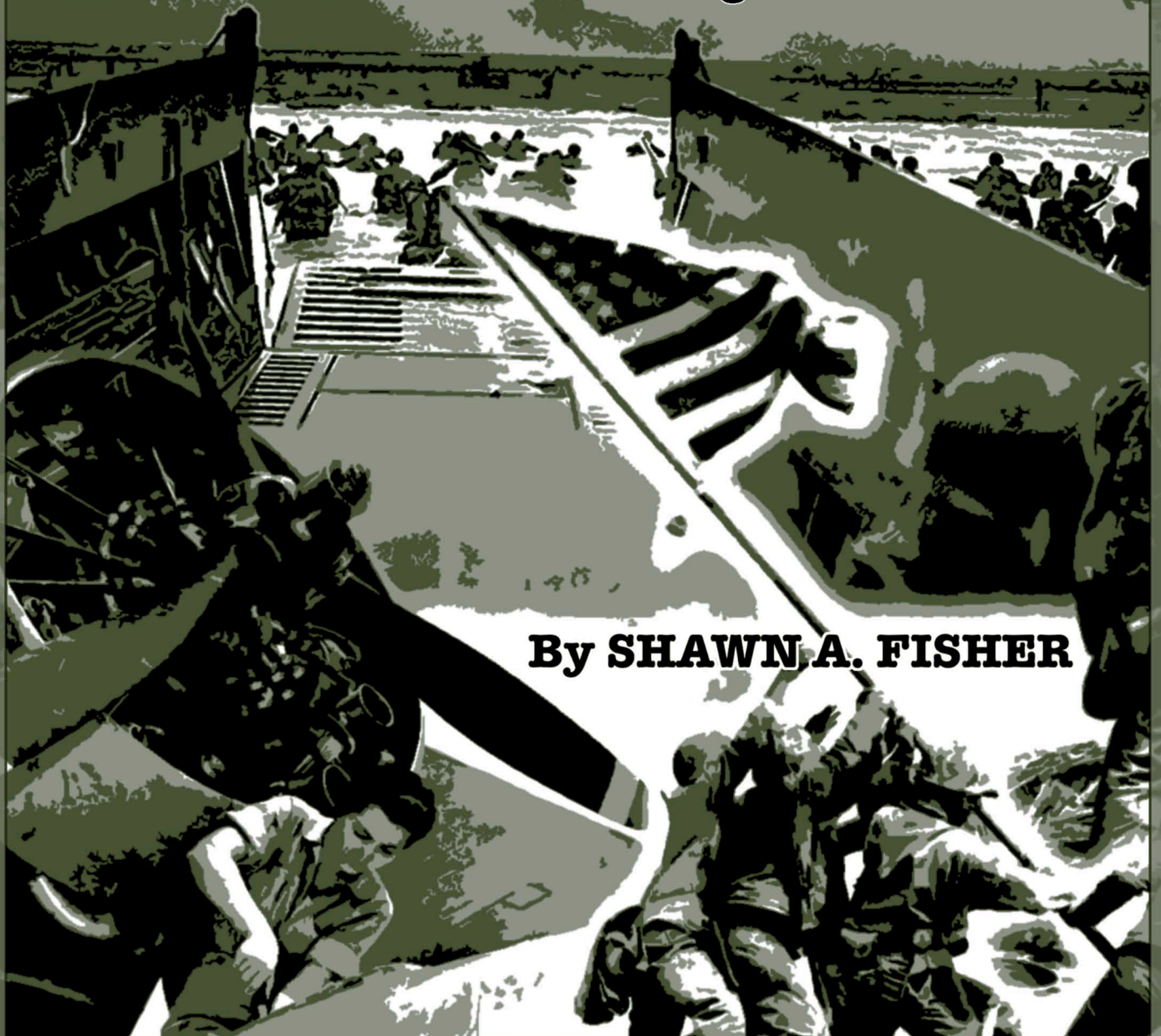


GURPS[®] WAR[™] DOGEACES[™]

On the Front Lines in the Fight for Freedom



By **SHAWN A. FISHER**

STEVE JACKSON GAMES



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ABOUT GURPS

Steve Jackson Games is committed to full support of the *GURPS* system. Our address is SJ Games, Box 18957, Austin, TX 78760. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) any time you write us! Resources include:

Pyramid (www.sjgames.com/pyramid/). Our online magazine includes new *GURPS* rules and articles. It also covers *Dungeons and Dragons*, *Traveller*, *World of Darkness*, *Call of Cthulhu*, and many more top games – and other Steve Jackson Games releases like *In Nomine*, *Illuminati*, *Car Wars*, *Toon*, *Ogre Miniatures*, and more. *Pyramid* subscribers also have access to playtest files online!

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The *GURPS WWII: Dogfaces* web page is at www.sjgames.com/gurps/ww2/dogfaces/.

Page References

Rules and statistics in this book are specifically for the *GURPS Basic Set, Third Edition*. Any page reference that begins with a B refers to the *GURPS Basic Set* – e.g., p. B102 means p. 102 of the *GURPS Basic Set, Third Edition*. Page references that begin with CI indicate *GURPS Compendium I*. Other references are CII to *Compendium II*, VE to *Vehicles*, W to *WWII*, W:HS to *WWII: Hand of Steel*, W:IC to *WWII: Iron Cross*, and W:RH to *WWII: Return to Honor*. The abbreviation for *this* book is W:D. For a full list of title abbreviations, see p. CI181 or visit the updated web list at www.sjgames.com/gurps/abbrevs.html.

INTRODUCTION

As this book goes to press, the United States stands poised for a new war. By the time that you read this, the fighting may well be over, and we will know what balance of glory, justice, and bitter regret that it held in store. For now, though, this unpopular decision has spawned a surge of criticism of this nation and its approach to global conflict.

Some of these critics, at home and abroad, have accused the nation of romanticizing and inflating its role in past wars. They point out that, at the end of WWI, Germany already was reeling when U.S. troops arrived at the 11th hour. This is true. What they omit is that the Entente powers were reeling, too, and the Kaiser's men still held almost everything they had conquered. They could have, probably would have, held out for a costly negotiated peace if the United States had not set aside a commendable sense of discretion for a commendable sense of valor.

Similar accusations target the nation's part in WWII. By that fateful Sunday in Hawaii, Poland and France had fallen, the Battle of Britain had been won, and Hitler's panzers had closed on Moscow. Soviet and British troops already were giving their lives to turn the tide – at Stalingrad and El Alamein – when the first U.S. riflemen finally joined the fight against the Nazis. In some minds, every U.S. battle would play out an almost foregone conclusion. The stakes would be more about *when* the Axis powers would fall, not *if*. Other men, not Americans, had died to strip most of the “if” from the equation, at least in Europe, but the United States would claim most of victory's glory.

All this, too, is true. It's also incomplete. Putting aside the fact that U.S. industry and financial credit had propped up the Allied cause from the start, this indictment of U.S. motives misses a simple, telling truth: After the attack on Pearl Harbor, not a single American soldier died in defense of his country. Not one. Every single Englishman, Russian, and Frenchman gave his life knowing – and only after – the peril to home and country was immediate and real. Americans fretted over an invasion – just as we fret about another terrorist masterstroke now – but then as now the hyperbole was less about the reality of the hour than our fear for an unforeseeable future. It was about getting pumped up to take care of business early. It was about dying for their grandchildren – us – rather than their children.

They were not heroes, the men who did this, not in the classical sense. Many of them entered their first battle with visions of valor and glory; few held on to those ideals for their second. They were ordinary, frail men doing a grinding job and bitching about it every step of the way. Only their fatigue-hollowed features drooped more than their grimy battledress, making “dogfaces” one of the more heartfelt nicknames that they used for themselves. They hated every minute of it, but they pushed on, fueled by a red, white, blue, and olive-drab mindset that their neighbors, then and now, only thought they fully understood.

The author would like to dedicate his book to these men. I think he already has, in the clear-eyed yet loving portrait found herein.

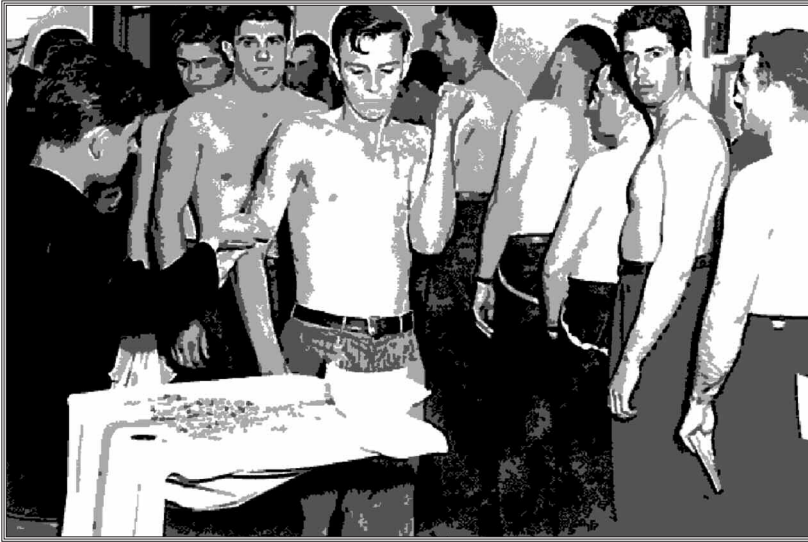
– Gene Seabolt

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The grandson of a D-Day veteran, Shawn Fisher is a former Army infantryman who teaches history while pursuing a graduate degree in history and education. His previous work can be found in *Pyramid* and *GURPS Best of Pyramid 1*, *Who's Who 1*, and *WWII: Hand of Steel*.

When not feeding his obsession with WWII, Shawn devotes his spare time to paintball, wargaming, and recreational shooting. He lives with his wife, Jennifer, and daughter, Elizabeth, in Searcy, Ark.

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