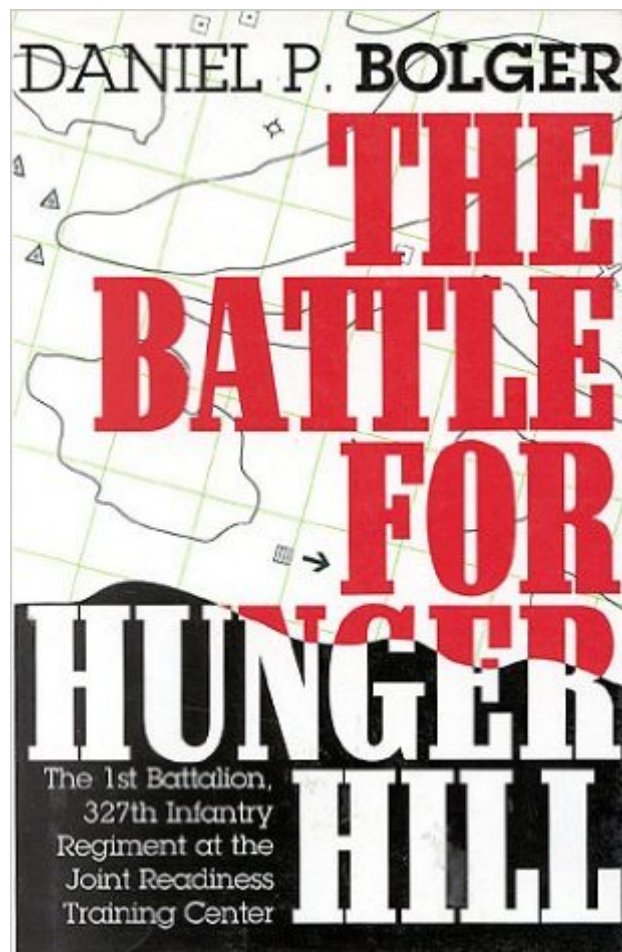


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The Battle For Hunger Hill: The 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment At The Joint Readiness Training Cente R



Synopsis

At the JRTC, soldiers are trained for war in a setting so real you can almost smell the smoke.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Hunger Hill" starts by showing how the "book solution" fails to deal with a guerilla warfare, just as it did in Viet-Nam. The second half of the book deals with a return to sound basics, and the discarding of much of the foolishness fostered upon us by Field Manuals. I took many valuable lessons from this book to apply when I go to JRTC, or, God forbid, when we fight for real. Bolger's techniques eliminate many ways we make the enemy's job easier, and make us far more effective in killing them. His well-defined focus on interacting with the local populace is reminiscent of Mao (remember, Mao won). The book's most valuable lesson is the thinking process and analysis Bolger applies to the problems he encounters, and the way he evaluates his tools, techniques, and doctrine, keeping and modifying some, casting away others, and adopting new ideas where necessary. This book is required reading for all officers in my light infantry battalion. I see why.

The Battle for Hunger Hill is a battle for training that works. 1/327 Infantry Regiment visited the Joint Readiness Training Centre in Fort Polk Louisiana twice in the space of nine months. The first time they have their training blood sprayed liberally around the training area as they fight and die according to doctrine. On the second visit they have used the doctrine as the basis for a more effective way of fighting. As a consequence they are more effective than any unit to visit the facility up to that time. Few units get the luxury of visiting Fort Polk twice with the same commander and

similar orders of battle. Experience in professional military units is condemned to a short half life as individual careers and military bureaucracy cycle soldiers through units. The key lesson in this book is what you take away from 1/327's first visit. The second visit is verification that something was learned from the first. Appropriately the bulk of the book is devoted to the first visit. Why is it not for general consumption? This book is a jargon and military concept rich environment. Check any page and it flies - 94-10, MILES, OPFOR, JRTC, "always a 90-degree bold flank", Cmd. Sgt. Maj., CLF... If you are not comfortable within this environment I suggest that this is not a book you will enjoy. To be honest I doubt that you will even be interested in it. If you are comfortable it is highly likely that you are serving or have served in the recent past. The book is written for serving soldiers. Col Bolger's lessons will save lives if they are learnt by his target audience. That makes his book valuable in the library of any soldier.

The Battle for Hunger Hill should force the US Army Infantry School as well as the gurus at Ft Leavenworth to seriously consider re-writing current doctrine for light infantry units (especially with regard to Low Intensity Conflict and OOTW). The 1-327 Infantry proves again and again throughout the text that the "cookbook solution" (i.e. doctrine applied as dogma) is often the surest way to ensure one's own defeat. Rather, HOW to think instead of WHAT to think is the surest way to secure victory. Any soldier or leader concerned with mission accomplishment and force protection through the artistic application of Maneuver Warfare (Auftragstaktik) simply MUST read this book. It is highly entertaining as well as informative. Indeed, any commander whose unit is scheduled for a rotation to JRTC should require every officer and NCO to read this book no later than twelve months out (thirty-six months out for RC units). You may go without it...but only at your own peril.

LTC Bolger has done it again! His first book became a primer for company & battalion armored operations . . . this new book is destined to be the same for the light forces. LTC Bolgar writes in a manner for those professionals who seek to perfect their profession. His analysis and ability to cut through the "fog of AAR" helps to make the lessons learned a reality instead of doctrinal jargon. While some may be critical of his findings and his motives, he is THE ONLY professional soldier on active who dares to write on the subject for public consumption. LTC Bolgar adds re-freshing openness to the often closed door society of the combat arms officer. While I do not agreed to all the concepts & changes in tactics he proposes, LTC Bolgar provides an intelligent point for all those who are combat leaders to begin thinking & discussing their profession. I dare to say LTC Bolgar is the modern day equal to S. L. Marshall. Recommended reading for ROTC Cadets & company grade

officers.

If Col. Bolger is a member of the US Army's brain trust, we're in pretty good shape. As an officer in a Light Infantry battalion, I have taken the Colonel's lessons to heart, and those lessons have enhanced my knowledge of Low Intensity Conflict. All officers assigned to light units, no matter their branch of assignment, should read his books, Hunger Hill especially.

Colonel Dan Bolger's "The Battle for Hunger Hill" is an Army battalion commander sitting down with a fellow professional and sharing his mistakes and how he got it right. He is hard hitting, open and honest. This work is best read by an Army or Marine officer or senior NCO who will likely lead soldiers or marines in battle.

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