



War, battles, metal and coastal batteries, that is what Belgian band FireForce is bringing with them into their debut album March On that was released in March this year. This band did emerge from the ashes of a band called Double Diamond, a band that perhaps lacked the real commitment to strive for something more.

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- Flype (vocals) and I started FireForce after it was clear that the other Double Diamond guys were not interested in trying to lift the band to a higher level. We want to bring the raw power of metal back alive, not to polished,

but sheer heaviness, Erwin the guitarist of the band explains. The band grew up during the 1980s and was according to Erwin inspired by the NWOBHM bands but also US power metal and the more modern power metal.
 - When the rhythm is great, the guitars heavy, vocals who are killing...that's the real stuff, says

Erwin.
 The Belgian scene is according to Erwin very poor since organisers apparently want bands to play for nothing to very little which has ruined a lot of the metal scene in the country. But according to Erwin there are many fans in Belgium so there might still be hope then.

www.fireforce.be

MARCH ON
 As already stated March On is the debut album of FireForce and an album with which the band tried to accomplish a very pure metal sound with no compromises. And Erwin think they succeeded (no Swedish fake humility there, fortunately).
 - You will find great guitars with a great sound, good lyrics and a good production. No keyboards, just power!
 March on was produced by well known Greek musician/producer RD Lipakis who according to Erwin had a very clear vision

of how FireForce should sound, something they talked about and listened to examples. Along with Christian Smid the engineer he stood for many jokes but also very much "to the point" comments, and with RD Lipakis help the band could reach levels that they have never reached and they trusted him from the start.
 - I'm very grateful to him, he was like a 6th member! And I am glad I can call him a friend now, he explains.
 On March On the lyrics seem mainly focused on battles, wars and so on, this is according to

Erwin that history is the one thing we can learn from and still the stupidity of war are recurring time and time again and on one seem to learn from it if we are to believe Erwin. On the other hand he points out that we have to be grateful for all those people who has given their life in the line of duty for their country.
 - It doesn't matter which side you're on, or what you believed in...they all had their fears, doubts and losses, Erwin says.
 Guitarist Constantine of Mystic Prophecy is making a guest ap-



pearance on this debut album, something that has meant a lot according to Erwin.

- Constantine did a great job and added a new dimension to the band by completing the solo's when Steve had to go back home to be with his wife (she needed a surgery very quickly in the week they recorded the solos), I'm very pleased with the result. Erwin confess himself to being very pleased with the album and would buy one himself if he had the money that is, that is what he actually said.

RECEPTION AND TOURING

Hallowed did review this album, I am quite sure many other media has as well and fans will have bought the album. According to Erwin the band have received a good reception for their music, or as Erwin put it: it has been very, very good.

- We have received many outstanding reviews, he explains.

With a good reception and with a solid album behind them the band, it is quite natural to think a little about touring, not many bands do that any more, especially when it comes to new bands that has not made a name for themselves in the days when music was bought and not stolen. FireForce is not really that different from most other new bands in this regard, they have an album behind them and want to play but so far no tour is booked and they are looking to get what they can in terms of shows.

- Some shows are booked but of course we like to add some -

playing live is my reason to live, Erwin explains.

I was wondering after this which band they would most likely want to play live with, to go on a big tour or anything like that and the answer was maybe not that surprising.

- Judas Priest, because for me they are the metalband! But of course there are many more bands.

Well, yes there are many more bands around in the world but we all have our favourites and speaking of those, as usual I did an attempt to find out which

song was Erwin's favourite on March On but as the "true" metal guy he is, he said they were all great and with that I ran out of things to ask. So to round off the interview I asked my other always recurring question and that was to add something to our readers and Erwin figured it would be good with some words of encourage-

ment for all the metalheads out there.

Here's what he said: - Stay metal, never give in - fight for what you believe is right! March on by FireForce is availa-

ble wherever music is sold nowadays.