

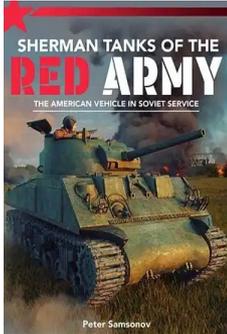
BOOK REVIEWS

Sherman Tanks of the Red Army: The American Vehicle in Soviet Service by Peter Samsonov; Horncastle, United Kingdom: Gallantry Books; 2021; 123 pages including index, photos, maps; \$19.99 hardcover.

The United States was called the Arsenal of Democracy during World War II, and with good reason. Through the Lend-Lease Program and other military-aid programs, the United States supplied its allies with significant quantities of military and dual-use hardware, ranging from destroyers to aircraft to boots to locomotives to food. For the Soviet soldier, American largesse brought the Jeep, P-39 Airacobra, tons of Spam, miles of communications wire and the ubiquitous Studebaker transport truck.

Ultimately the Red Army's spearhead was armored, and the Soviet-produced T-34 was perhaps the best tank of the war. It, however, was not alone; part of the aid the United States provided included the famous M4 Sherman tank. Peter Samsonov's quick and illustrated history of the Sherman under the Red Star is a welcome addition to the study of the American warhorse's service.

The book's author, Peter Samsonov, runs the highly informative and well-regarded Tank Archives blog (<https://www.tankarchives.ca/>). The blog publishes translations of Soviet and German documents related to armored warfare, as well as providing commentary on a variety of topics, mostly focused on World War II. Entries range from translations of production notes to in-depth analysis of the use of captured German fuel cans on Soviet armored vehicles. To say Samsonov is an expert in the field is an understatement. ***Sherman Tanks of the Red Army*** is his second book – the first was a history of the T-34's design.



The book consists of 15 chapters, with a glossary, notes and index. Chapters are short, often about 10 pages long, and amply illustrated. Indeed, the image-to-text ratio could belie some of the book's scholarly value. Each chapter is packed with descriptions of both the Sherman as a vehicle and as a weapon system in the larger context of the operation or campaign highlighted. Early chapters are dedicated to the technical nature of the Sherman, negotiations over their inclusion in Lend-Lease, trials conducted by the Red Army and modifications made to the tank over time.

Of minor note, some of the paragraphs, especially technical ones regarding maintenance and durability, would have been better presented as tables. Similarly, the maps could have been improved by format changes and the inclusion of keys to help readers understand the information presented.

With more than 4,000 Shermans joining the Red Army and proliferating across it, Samsonov has selected key events and campaigns to tell the Sherman's story in Soviet service. For Armor troops and commanders, the chapters on operational modifications and combat histories are the most valuable and engaging. The Red Army as an armored force was a learning organization that adapted to thinking and dedicated enemies in Germany and Japan. Samsonov does a solid job of interweaving the personal, often through award citations, the technical and the operational in the chapters that cover combat operations.

Readers interested in an American contribution to the Soviet war effort would do well to read Samsonov's work. Its quick, amply illustrated and documented style will appeal to both historians looking for a niche study and Armor professionals looking to learn from the past.

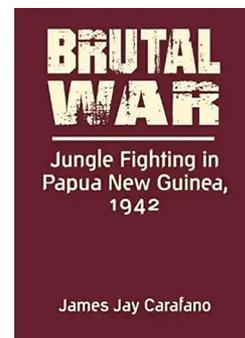
LTC TIMOTHY HECK
U.S. Marine Corps Reserve

Brutal War: Jungle Fighting in Papua New Guinea 1942 by James J.

Carafano; Boulder, CO: Lynee Rienner Publishers Inc.; 2021; 283 pages; \$55 (hard cover).

This was my paternal grandfather's war. I long wanted to know more about it. ***Brutal War*** is the book I searched for to understand PFC Samuel Jewel Heatherly's experiences in the green hell that was the New Guinea campaign.

From its first page, ***Brutal War*** grips the reader in a no-holds-barred account of what was arguably the most physically challenging battlefield of World War II. New Guinea was a poorly developed area for 20th Century mechanized warfare, possessing the bare minimum in coastal infrastructure necessary for warfighting. Farther inland, the island turned into a thick jungle with extreme weather changes, near-constant rain and a litany of deadly tropical diseases, making sustained military operations nearly impossible to conduct.



Carafano provides a carefully balanced account of the battle, making heavy use of primary sources from both sides of the conflict. Readers will gain an appreciation

of the New Guinea campaign and its importance to Imperial Japan and the Allies. They will also become intimately familiar with the friction resulting from diverging Australian, United Kingdom and American national views on employing scarce military resources on New Guinea. Summed up, this is a book worthy of your time and money.

The author took a unique tack setting this book apart from so many others examining World War II. Carafano covers the Allied and Japanese strategic situations in depth to place the New Guinea campaign in perspective when compared to the larger, global war. (The actual fighting on New Guinea

proper does not make an appearance until Page 51.) This approach makes for an excellent primer on the general concepts of strategy development and in a more engaging narrative than normally found in the rather dry military texts on the same subject matter. Further, Carafano spends significant time discussing the all-important role the New Guinea people played in support of the Allied nations and Japan.

Carafano also examines the Japanese government's use of mass media, including its film industry, to ensure unquestioning support for the emperor and his expansionist policies. This proved to be one of the most interesting points of the book and one I personally would have enjoyed reading more about given the role information operations plays in 21st Century military operations.

Perhaps the largest professional takeaway found in *Brutal War* is the need for assured logistical support on any battlefield, but particularly in immature theaters like New Guinea. As with so many other military campaigns, logistics played a decisive part in determining the ultimate victor on New Guinea. Initially, Japanese and Allied forces were essentially equal in their combat capabilities. Superior Allied logistics slowly but inevitably tipped the scales toward Allied victory over Japan at the strategic, operational and tactical level as America's "arsenal of democracy" moved to a wartime footing. Doctrinal development played a critical supporting role as well, although Carafano repeatedly addresses the Allied shortfalls in jungle warfare found in pre-war and early conflict doctrinal publications.

New Guinea provided an early example for the combatants (and the unfortunate civilians caught in the war zone) on what they should expect as the Allies advanced across the Pacific until Japan surrendered in August 1945. The hostility and brutal conditions experienced on New Guinea arose again in the Philippines, Okinawa and on mainland China. The campaign's impact would be felt long after at the international, regional and even individual level, making *Brutal War* a strongly recommended book for professional study.

(Author's note: PFC Samuel Heatherly returned to the United States in 1943 and died in 1961 from disease contracted while in New Guinea.)

LTC CHRIS HEATHERLY
U.S. Army Europe-Africa

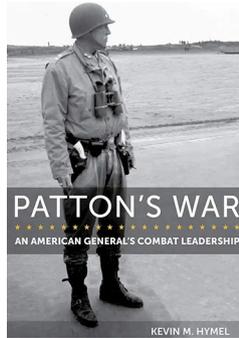
Patton's War, An American General's Combat Leadership, Volume 1 by Kevin M. Hymel; Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press; 2021; 436 pages; \$32 hardcover, \$29.99 Kindle.

Mention of the name GEN George S. Patton Jr. in military circles is all but guaranteed to start a discussion or even potential argument on his career as a U.S. Army officer. Much of Patton's actual life is buried under a veil of misinformation and myth, obscuring the actual man from being truly understood today.

Regardless of one's personal views, Patton remains among the best-known and most controversial U.S. Army generals – in no small part due to the award-winning 1970 biopic film simply titled *Patton*. When considered against his peers, Patton clearly possessed the greatest drive, battlefield intuition and zeal for combat-focused training. He also held racist views, possibly suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder and placed low importance on the paramount task of working with allies to defeat Nazi Germany.

Students of Patton will find that this biography's broad strokes cover familiar ground, with new material highlighting interactions with individual Soldiers or revealing his private views on other general officers (most notably Eisenhower, Bradley and Clark).

Volume 1 starts with Patton's initial role as the commanding general of the Western Task Force during the United States' initial foray into the North African Theater during World War II. From there, Hymel takes the reader on a journey across Africa to the Allies' follow-on operation in Sicily before



concluding with the D-Day landings and Patton's subsequent arrival to take charge of Third U.S. Army.

Operation Torch was America's first taste of ground combat in Africa and provided innumerable lessons-learned for the Army and Navy alike. While Patton was a seasoned veteran of the Mexican Expedition and World War I, these more recent experiences in North Africa and Sicily paid dividends in later operations across Western Europe. Similarly, Patton's performance demonstrated his leadership strengths and weaknesses while giving his superiors insights into some of the issues that ultimately led to his relief at war's end.

Throughout the work, Hymel shares Patton's accomplishments on the battlefield and failures with the press or with his own Soldiers in the infamous "slapping incidents" – underlined by his private thoughts on a myriad of subjects from his personal fears to insights on his comrades-in-arms.

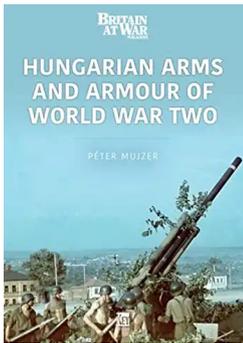
Patton's War is an exhaustively researched account but with enough errors to cause the reader distraction from an overall enjoyable book. Hymel includes many primary sources in his analysis, including Patton's own diaries, to develop a full portrait of Patton as a Soldier, diplomat and warrior. Many of these sources were previously unavailable to other authors, allowing some new ground to be covered and old conclusions from earlier biographies to be relooked.

Readers should anticipate a second and third volume in the set, although publication dates are pending.

LTC CHRIS HEATHERLY
U.S. Army Europe-Africa

Hungarian Arms and Armour of World War Two (Modern War series) by Peter Mujzer; Stamford, United Kingdom: Key Books; 2022; 96 pages; \$18.99 Kindle, \$24.41 paperback.

Most of our attention has been directed, rightly, toward the major combatants when studying World War II. We should not, however, neglect the smaller states. Their stories – in this case concerning Hungary's post-World War I rearmament and development of a domestic defense industry – can



serve as an example of regional power politics and the ability to adopt, adapt and develop organic means of military research, development and mass production under difficult circumstances.

This book serves as a brief case study of what a defeated nation, bent on reclaiming lost peoples and territories, can do despite treaty restrictions to reassert itself on the international stage. Hungary's "war within a war" in the Balkans and Eastern Europe also sheds light on the complexities of small-state relations and how their disputes can lead them to become embroiled in Great Power conflicts.

Finally, we can learn about the evolution of Hungarian armored forces as they progressed from purchasing from others to manufacturing foreign models under license to designing and building their own tanks for use in battle. Their path is one that other smaller powers have trod and continue to tread today.

Hungary entered World War I as part of the Austro-Hungarian "dual monarchy," with the Austrian kaiser also Hungary's king, theoretically a co-equal partnership and a major European power. It emerged from the ruins of war divided from Austria and from millions of ethnic Hungarians now living on the other side of the newly drawn borders of the successor states of their fallen empire. The interwar years were one continuous effort to hide what remained of their military strength from international inspection while finding the means to purchase newer and better equipment abroad.

Newly created independent Hungary inherited an officer corps, permitted and hidden military gear, doctrine and military culture from the old empire. These were the core components of their slow ascent toward military self-sufficiency. Peter Mujzer documents, with abundant photographic support, many aspects of Hungarian arms in

action. The fruits of two decades' worth of effort were tested in battle – initially with neighbors whose lands and peoples that Hungary's regent, Admiral Miklós Horthy, and his government believed were rightly theirs – and later, first as Germany's ally in the Russian campaign, then as her satellite after secret negotiations to join the Allies were discovered and thwarted.

Hungarian soldiers fought with a mixed bag of Italian, German, Swedish and domestic armor, the latter including tanks such as the Turan and assault guns such as the Nimrud, that often held their own in battle with Russian troops in the early stages of the war. Both Turan and Nimrud were armed with Swedish Bofors 40mm cannon, manufactured domestically under license. Italian tankettes, of a kind already shown to be inferior during the Spanish Civil War, were shifted from the Army to police and border-guard duty in favor of Turans, Nimruds and other more capable vehicles. These in turn, late in the war, gave way to loaner German armor, initially panzer Mark IV tanks and Sturmgeschutz Mark III assault guns, with a few Tiger Is turning up toward the close of hostilities.

Mujzer's efforts encompass the full range of Hungarian arms and armor. While he devotes most of the book to tanks, artillery pieces and their prime movers – armored trains and other major systems – he also covers crew-served weapons and small arms. A fairly complete picture of all weaponry used by Hungarian troops in their border skirmishes with Romania, Yugoslavia and other neighbors, and later against the Soviet Union, emerges in less than 100 pages.

Though a small state, Hungary's ability to rearm after catastrophic defeat and dismemberment, in the face of treaty restrictions, international inspections, war debt and an austere economic situation is impressive. Drawing on centuries of military tradition, they set about the task they chose with effort and zeal, accomplishing much. The complex web of international direct purchases, license agreements and the genesis of their own modern defense-production capacity after evaluating foreign military equipment is a

case study in what even a minor power is capable of when united and skillfully led.

The interlocking web of fraught relationships Hungary had with her neighbors is also an example of how small-state conflicts can influence the actions of major powers. This book should be of interest to anyone interested in this, as it is a treasure trove of often granular information for military history and armored-vehicle enthusiasts.

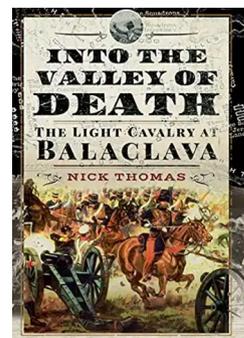
SFC (RETIRED) LLOYD A. CONWAY

Into the Valley of Death: The Light Cavalry at Balaclava by Nick Thomas; Havertown, PA: Pen and Sword Books; 2021; 357 pages, including appendices, endnotes, bibliography and index; \$42.95 (hardcover).

Nick Thomas' *Into the Valley of Death* weaves together firsthand accounts to provide a detailed telling of the Charge of the Light Brigade during the Battle of Balaclava. While this battle is likely familiar to many because of Alfred, Lord Tennyson's poem, "The Charge of the Light Brigade," Thomas' book provides a riveting retelling of the fateful charge. Thomas puts the reader on the ground and in the action by telling the story with the words of the men who rode into that valley Oct. 25, 1854.

Into the Valley of Death centers on the events of the charge itself. Thomas opens with a brief overview of the Crimean War as well as the initial engagements between British and Russian forces. From there, Thomas quickly moves into the personal accounts of the charge. Readers move across the Valley of Death with the Light Brigade and charge headlong into the Russian guns. Thomas captures the confusion and disintegration of the brigade as the cavalrymen fight to secure the guns and are ultimately forced to retreat to British lines.

Thomas closes the main body of his



work by providing some conclusion to critical debates surrounding the Charge of the Light Brigade. His conclusions focus on the role of key players. He strives to highlight the confusion in orders between Field Marshal FitzRoy Somerset (1st Baron Raglan), the commander of British forces, and the commander of the cavalry, Field Marshal George Bingham (3rd Earl Lucan). Thomas also examines the poor working relationship between Lord Lucan and Lieutenant-General James Brudenell (7th Earl Cardigan), the commander of the Light Brigade. Lastly, Thomas looks at the often-debated impact of Captain Edward Nolan, the aide-de-camp who carried the orders that led to the ill-fated charge.

Beyond the narrative that Thomas constructed, *Into the Valley of Death* also provides multiple appendices that provide the reader with more detail. The appendices include the citations for medals received during the charge, full personal accounts and tables that account for each rider that took part in the charge. These appendices demonstrate the lengths Thomas went to build a narrative based upon firsthand accounts.

By far the greatest aspect of *Into the Valley of Death* is that it is built upon the firsthand accounts of the men who fought in the battle. Thomas laces together multiple perspectives so that the reader is fully immersed in the events. The reader feels the tension build as the brigade moves across the valley. The accounts capture the terror as man and horse are cut down by the Russian guns. Thomas' extensive use of these personal accounts truly brings the charge to life and provides readers with an accurate understanding of it. As mentioned previously, the author also includes an entire appendix dedicated to the full accounts of key personnel which provide the reader with further insight in the charge.

Readers should be aware that *Into the Valley of Death* only provides a brief overview of the events leading up to the charge. While it is helpful, it is likely not enough for readers unfamiliar with the Crimean War. Readers may find themselves overwhelmed by the speed with which events are covered in the overview. It will likely require

readers to do more research outside the book to gain a solid understanding of the circumstances surrounding the battle itself. Further to this point, it would have been very beneficial for the book to include some maps to assist with the reader's understanding of the terrain and physical locations of critical events.

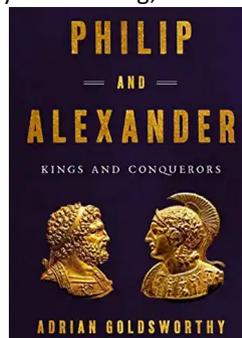
Into the Valley of Death is a worthwhile addition to any professional library. Although readers may need to research additional context to support their situational understanding, the telling of the charge itself is truly captivating. The personal accounts put the reader in the charge and among the guns. If a reader is looking for a work outside their normal reads, consider *Into the Valley of Death* to learn more about one of the most famous cavalry charges in history from the men who were there.

MAJ BRYCE W. EAST

Philip and Alexander: Kings and Conquerors by Adrian Goldsworthy; New York: Basic Books; 2020; 609 pages; hardcover \$29.99, paperback \$16.28, Kindle \$19.99.

Alexander of Macedon earned his superlative for conquering much of what was, at the time, the known world. However, conquest alone was not his only mark of greatness. The attention Alexander paid to cataloging and maintaining his army's legacy included bringing historians with him on his campaigns.

After only two years as king, Alexander departed Macedon on an epic campaign to defeat the "king of kings" (Persian emperor) and found his own empire. The presence of dedicated historians on Alexander's campaigns help shine more fidelity on his reign than on his father's, King Philip II, but Adrian Goldsworthy's effort to piece together history allows modern readers a coherent understanding with input from all sources. Goldsworthy's academic



contribution manages to offer a timeless theme both simultaneously unique and valuable in this era.

Philip's tireless efforts to build an army were what enabled the risk-seeking and adventurous Alexander to conquer the known world. This is the first demonstrated linkage of the framework and time required to build an expeditionary army.

Napoleon is supposed to have advised that those in the pursuit of becoming a "great captain of history" should "study over and over again the campaigns of Alexander," and he considered Alexander the first among the greats. What Napoleon shared with Alexander is not just cunning, boldness and a lifelong study of history, but they also both inherited an already well-seasoned army full of exceptional marshals who understood their profession.

Alexander achieved one of his early victories at Issus as his army unimaginatively but methodically advanced down a slope toward a river, all while adjusting their formations within sight of enemy forces. In other armies, what would be seen as marching into an enemy's engagement was actually Alexander employing the hallmark Macedonian discipline that Philip drilled into these men for a decade. Alexander's expeditionary phalanxes, and notably their training glidepath, would provide the framework for centuries of formations.

Another exceptional father who was overshadowed by his son was the "Soldier King," Frederick William I of Prussia, whose heir added enough exploits in the second Silesian War to earn his honorary title. Frederick the Great benefited from his father's obsessive drilling of his formations, whose lock-step marching in cadence with drums earned the Prussians a reputation for exacting automation. Without the well-developed discipline of this inherited army, it is likely Frederick would have been defeated many times over in the Seven Years' War.

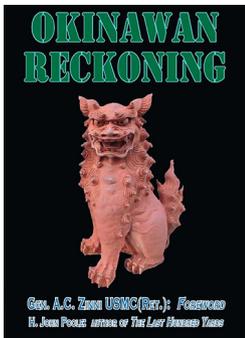
While Goldsworthy does not make this obvious connection, it is no coincidence that Frederick's continued exploits mirror those of Alexander's Persian conquests. Although likely

apocryphal, Diogenes' sifting through human bones to sarcastically say to Alexander that try as he might, he couldn't distinguish Philip's bones from that of a slave provides Goldsworthy a tried method of searching for reliable history in the graves of battle sites. Goldsworthy sifts through the inherent and often conflicting ambiguity of ancient history by focusing on actual battlefield locations to provide a chronological, combined narrative of this father-son duo that consequentially impacted world and military history as decisively as the army of Macedonia did on the battlefield.

Goldsworthy's text should be required reading for students of military history that will benefit from discovering the inherent linkage between creating an expeditionary army that can be deployed decisively for extended campaigns.

CPT ZACHARY MATSON

Okinawan Reckoning by H. John Poole, foreword by retired GEN A.C. Zinni; Emerald Isle, NC: Posterity Press; 2022; 360 pages; \$14.95 paperback.



John Poole has done it yet again. Reading Poole's books is a must for every tactician, and this is no exception. The latest in a long list of Poole

classics focuses on the tactical aspects

of the last World War II large-scale operation on Okinawa.

As with other books in Poole's growing repertoire, it is best if the reader has a little background in the history of maneuver warfare and the distinctions between the generations of warfare as described by William S. Lind in his 1989 *Marine Corps Gazette* article, "The Changing Face of War." Whether you support the concept or not, it is the basis of Poole's framework. It is helpful in fully understanding the lessons he derives from this classic 82-day battle and his comparisons between second- and third-generation warfare.

Within the pages of his latest endeavor, Poole dives into the Japanese defenders' effective use of micro-terrain to negate the United States' advantages in firepower. As with his other works, he weaves together a great deal of relevant research and historical analysis from many well-documented sources in a compelling instructional and thought-provoking narrative for the practitioner of warfare.

Ultimately it is the engagement that decides a battle that contributes to the campaigns and eventual achievement of identified objectives of a war. These engagements are determined at the squad, fire team and sometimes individual level, as proven many times throughout the Okinawa ordeal.

This book will provide small-unit leaders with excellent material for professional-development sessions with their Soldiers using a map to discuss actual events and possible solutions.

However, most readers will benefit from a good Internet search for some more readable and detailed maps that are not as readily available within the book. Practitioners will find themselves poring over sections while referencing contour lines and locations on Okinawa to visualize the rich details within the pages. The microterrain-centric tactical level of the lessons require searching out a few good contour maps on-line at times to fully appreciate the lessons presented.

Okinawan Reckoning places yet another exclamation point on the detrimental effects overemphasis on long-range warfare has on recognition and investment in the short-range skills that infantry requires at the tactical level to compete with determined adversaries. Throughout the book, Poole reaffirms that Western affinity for firepower-centric second-generation warfare continues to hamper practical small-unit tactical proficiency. He continually asserts the supremacy of third-generation maneuver warfare as demonstrated by the Japanese on Okinawa as the preferred method of adversaries to counter this firepower approach.

Discovery learning during the conduct of warfare is a deadly method of teaching. Learning from historical examples compiled and critically analyzed by authors like Poole can greatly aid today's small-unit leaders in absorbing hard-won lessons from generations past. As with his other books, it is a must-read for the Soldier who wants to understand what it takes to fight and win at the individual and fire-team level.

LTC WILLIAM AULT