

BOOK REVIEWS



In our September-October 1981 issue we gave you the names and addresses of five dealers in used and out-of-print military books. Here are two more names you can add to that list:

- RUTGERS BOOK CENTER, 127 Raritan Avenue, Highland Park, New Jersey 08904.

- Q.M. DABNEY AND COMPANY, INCORPORATED, PO Box 42026, Washington, D.C. 20015.

We believe you will find them responsive to your requests.

We also call your attention to four magazines that we think you will find interesting as well as informative. The first is *BUFFALO* (APA Communications, PO Box 879, Manchaca, Texas 78652), which is published "for the Black American Military Professional." Another is *MILITARY IMAGES* (published by Harry Roach, 706 Mickley Road, Whitehall, Pennsylvania 18052), a magazine that aims at "preserving the visual history of the American fighting man, 1839-1939."

The other two magazines are published in Israel by Eshel-Dramit Limited, PO Box 115, Hod Hasharon, Israel. They are *BORN IN BATTLE*, which carries accounts of both past and present military campaigns, and *MILITARY ENTHUSIAST*, which covers mainly military equipment and organization.

All four of the magazines will send you information on their subscription terms and prices.

We also mentioned in our November-December 1981 issue some of the books we received in recent months that we thought you should know about. Many of them should be in your local library. Here are more titles.

In the reference field, we received these excellent publications:

- *SOVIET ARMED FORCES ANNUAL, VOLUME 4*. Edited by David R. Jones (Academic International Press, 1980. 416 Pages. \$45.00). This fourth issue in this most important series contains almost 70 more pages of material than its predecessor volumes, several new sections, and many more tables and figures. Various experts in the field discuss Soviet ground forces, strategic rocket forces, airborne troops, and air force and naval efforts. This series has become an indispensable reference tool.

- *THE MILITARY BALANCE, 1981-1982* (Published by the International Institute for Strategic Studies, London. 136 Pages. \$14.00, Paperbound). This is the twenty-second issue of this very fine reference publication, one that has gained a worldwide reputation for its factual presentations. In addition to presenting its usual country-by-country statistics, the Institute spells out three troubling problems the world faces in the military area: the economic strain on many countries maintaining large standing military forces; the Soviet Union's modernization of its theater nuclear forces; and the possibility of increasing military confrontations in the so-called Third World.

- *HISTORICAL JOURNALS: A HANDBOOK FOR WRITERS AND REVIEWERS*. By Dale R. Steiner (ABC-CLIO, Santa Barbara, California, 1981. 213 Pages.) Many professional military people like to write for historical journals. The author lists information about more than 350 such journals and offers some cogent advice on writing articles and book reviews.

We also received these three outstanding publications from the Army's Center of Military History: *INTEGRATION OF THE ARMED FORCES, 1940-1965*. By Morris J.

MacGregor, Jr. (Defense Studies Series, 1981. 647 Pages. \$17.00); *THE ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT, 1775-1818*. By Mary C. Gillett (Army Historical Series, 1981. 299 Pages. \$11.00); and *VIETNAM FROM CEASE-FIRE TO CAPITULATION*. By Colonel William E. LeGro (1981. 180 Pages, Paperbound). These publications are available from the U.S. Superintendent of Documents. The Center has been putting out many fine publications over the years and you should make an effort to become familiar with its works.

On the Civil War era, we found these three books most interesting:

- *REFLECTIONS ON THE CIVIL WAR*. By Bruce Catton. Edited by John Leekley (Doubleday, 1981. 246 Pages. \$15.95). One "listens" to this book rather than "reads" it. A form of oral history, the book was prepared from tape recordings originally made by Catton some years ago for distribution to educational institutions. Catton's thoughts "listen" well, although he offers little that is new.

- *THE IMAGE OF WAR, 1861-1865: VOLUME I, SHADOWS OF THE STORM*. Edited by William C. Davis. A Project of The National Historical Society (Doubleday, 1981. 464 Pages. \$35.00). Outstanding in every respect, this book is the first of a planned five volumes. It contains more than 600 photographs, and the text is limited to what has to be said. The bulk of photographs have never before been published. Every phase of the war is covered, including the home fronts. Don't miss it.

- *THE HARDTACK REGIMENT: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE 154th REGIMENT, NEW YORK STATE INFANTRY VOLUNTEERS*. By Ma-

ji. Dunkelman and Michael J. Winey (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 1981. 211 Pages. \$19.50). An interesting account of a Northern infantry regiment from its organization in September 1862 to its mustering out in June 1865. It fought in both the eastern and western theaters of operations and was with Sherman's army on the famous march to the sea.

World War II happenings have also been the subject of a number of recently published books:

- **NORMANDY: THE BRITISH BREAKOUT.** By Major J.T. How (London: William Kimber and Company Limited, 1981. 238 Pages), and **PATTON'S GAP: AN ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE OF NORMANDY, 1944.** By Major General Richard Rohmer (Beaufort Books, 1981. 240 Pages. \$14.95). In these books, a Canadian author (Rohmer) and a British author (How) criticize the overall Allied commander in Normandy in August 1944, General Bernard Law Montgomery, for his failure to trap more of the German forces in the Argentan-Falaise area. Rohmer saw the unfolding events from the cockpit of a fighter-reconnaissance aircraft, How as a member of the British 11th Armored Division. How's narrative is particularly good for its description of numerous small unit actions, Rohmer's for presenting the problems of air-ground coordination that plagued the Allied high command at this most crucial time.

- **ROMMEL'S WAR IN AFRICA.** By Wolf Heckmann. Translated from the German by Stephen Seago (Doubleday, 1981. 366 Pages. \$14.95). A former journalist and World War II veteran, the author is quite critical of Rommel the man and of Rommel the leader. Although he wrote the book for German readers, Heckmann's narrative is useful to military professionals of all countries, because from it they can gain much from his study of one of World War II's most interesting (and perhaps over-rated) battlefield commanders.

- **THE BATTLE FOR CASSINO.**

By Janusz Piekalkiewicz (Bobbs-Merrill, 1980. 192 Pages. \$16.95). A day-to-day account of the events that made up one of World War II's greatest infantry battles. The author follows the movements on both sides, although some may not like the way the narrative runs its daily course. He does give the Polish units their due credit.

- **THE FRENCH RIVIERA CAMPAIGN OF AUGUST 1944.** By Alan F. Wilt (Southern Illinois University Press, 1981. 208 Pages. \$15.00). The author, an associate professor of history at Iowa State University, details in this book the events that led up to DRAGOON, the Allied landing in southern France in mid-August 1944, and the results of it. He feels that "while Dragoon may not have been decisive in winning the war, it was a highly significant operation," but admits that not all U.S. and British military historians agree with him. But Wilt presents a number of strong arguments to support his findings, and they just might be too strong to overcome.

- **VICTORY AT GUADALCANAL.** By Robert Edward Lee (Presidio Press, 1981. 260 Pages. \$15.95). Written in a light, almost breezy style, with many conversational bits thrown in for good measure, the author — who served with an Army unit on the island — recalls the highlights of the fighting for Guadalcanal, the first step on the long road to Tokyo.

Now, here are several of our longer reviews:

- **MOUNTED COMBAT IN VIETNAM.** By Donn A. Starry (Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1977. 250 Pages). Reviewed by Lieutenant Colonel Samuel B. Jones, United States Army Reserve.

This monograph provides an account of the operations of armored units of the U.S. Army and also describes mounted combat of the French, South Vietnamese and North Vietnamese armies in Vietnam. The term "armored" is used to refer to those units whose primary method of

fighting was mounted, and it includes tank and mechanized infantry companies and battalions, and armored cavalry and air cavalry troops and squadrons.

It was prepared between 1973 and 1976 by a task force at Fort Knox directed by then-Major General Donn A. Starry. Fresh from the Vietnam battlefields and ably qualified for the task at hand, Starry had been a member of the 1966 study group, "Mechanized and Armored Combat Operations, Vietnam," which had evaluated armored operations in Vietnam. In 1969, Starry had assumed command of the distinguished 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and had actively engaged in mounted combat operations in Vietnam.

Basically, Starry's monograph provides a chronology of mounted combat in Vietnam beginning with the operations of the French Army and the South Vietnamese Army followed by a description of the build-up of U.S. armored forces in Vietnam. It examines and explains how armor operations were conducted until the close of the conflict. These descriptions are followed by Starry's personal reflections.

General Starry's thesis is clear: mounted combat is possible in tropical, underdeveloped countries even when the front lines are not clearly defined. He passionately believes in the capability of well-trained and well-led armor units. In fact, the major criticism of the monograph is that he sometimes overstates his case. This may stem from his natural enthusiasm for armored cavalry and for other armor units, but it does obscure the broad perspective.

The U.S. Army must prepare for future challenges, and any study of previous experiences can help. For this reason I recommend this monograph not only to combat arms officers but to logisticians as well.

THE VIETNAM WAR: THE ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE CONFLICT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. Edited by Ray Bonds. A

Salamander Book (Crown Publishers, 1979. 248 Pages. \$17.95).

Fourteen knowledgeable and highly qualified historians join Ray Bonds to produce what must rank as one of the better histories to date of the war in Vietnam. Among those historians are Bernard C. Nalty and Charles B. MacDonald, both formerly with the Army's Center of Military History; William Lee Hammond, now with the Center; and Ray L. Bowers, from the Office of Air Force History.

The book has 24 separate essays, an index, a chronology of the war's main events, a list of the key individuals, and a foreword by General William Westmoreland. Its large size lends itself admirably to the accompanying graphics — hundreds of photographs, numerous drawings, and a multitude of maps, tables, and charts.

This is an excellent publication, and it should be regarded as a standard reference work on the Vietnam War.

ON A FIELD OF RED: THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL AND THE COMING OF WORLD WAR II. By Anthony Cave Brown and Charles B. MacDonald (Putnam's, 1981. 718 Pages. \$19.95). Reviewed by Colonel James B. Motley, United States Army.

The authors contend that those who believe the Cold War began with the end of World War II make a "serious inaccurate historical assumption." They believe the Cold War began in January 1919 in the aftermath of the Bolshevik Revolution when Lenin proclaimed the formation of the Communist International (Comintern), whose task was to fight a secret war against the capitalist states using highly trained subversives to overthrow those governments and to establish the "dictatorship of the proletariat."

The authors have drawn heavily on a mass of material that has recently been made available; they also discuss a host of actors. They divide their

book into three main parts and include a six-page bibliography and extensive endnotes.

Unfortunately, the book is marred by two obvious deficiencies: There are many typographical errors, and the authors apparently accept their new material in an uncritical and unquestioning fashion.

Regardless of these shortcomings, the book does provide additional insights into the relationship between the United States, other Western powers, and the Soviet Union. It is a most relevant book for the serious student of Soviet politics.

BENEATH THE EAGLE'S WINGS. By John Curtis Perry (Dodd, Mead, 1980. 253 Pages. \$12.95). Reviewed by Major C.T. Guthrie, United States Army.

Serious military historians and casual readers of history as well will find this book enjoyable and informative. The author is associated with Harvard University's Japan Institute and is eminently qualified to discuss the subject of the occupation of Japan by United States forces.

He believes the success the U.S. enjoyed in its occupation policies was gained despite its ethno-centrism, racism, and general ignorance of the Japanese culture; he also believes that the U.S. and Japanese interactions during the occupation period, which ultimately led to an almost total change of direction for the Japanese nation, represent a high point of U.S. history.

The author was exceptionally thorough in his preparatory efforts, and he includes extensive footnotes and a comprehensive bibliography for the serious history student. He also presents a pleasing, highly enjoyable writing style that belies the wealth of factual historical information he includes in his book.

His book represents a significant contribution to academic literature on the Japanese occupation. It demands your utmost consideration. That the book is so pleasurable to read merely adds to its value.

THE UNKNOWN BATTLE: METZ, 1944. By Anthony Kemp (Stein and Day, 1980. 250 Pages. \$10.95). Reviewed by William M. Brooks, Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina.

Anthony Kemp is a distinguished expert in the field of military architecture and fortifications. He is also the founder and chairman of the International Fortress Study Group.

Here, he presents us with a very good book that deals with three controversial but related subjects: the strategy and tactics of the Metz campaign; the argument between Generals Montgomery and Patton over the priority of supplies; and the military value of stationary fortifications.

In the late summer of 1944, General Patton's Third U.S. Army was before the Moselle and Lorraine plateaus; it was poised to pursue the retreating Germans into the Saar and back to the Rhine River. But its tanks were out of fuel and its lines of supply were stretched to their utmost across the plains of central France.

Patton hinted to his subordinates that there was a conspiracy to rob him of his chance to "end the war in '44." But, as the author explains, it was Montgomery's abortive effort to take the Rhine bridges in the north that received priority and, therefore, condemned Patton's army to sit on the sidelines and to wage a war for which its commander had neither the talent nor the inclination.

Securing a bridgehead over the Moselle River, though, and occupying the city of Metz, which Patton was determined to do, meant capturing a series of fortresses that were impervious to even the heaviest air and artillery bombardments. In fact, it was these fortresses, built nearly 50 years before, that enabled a weak but determined German force to resist and, for a time, to stop the Third Army. The battle for Metz, then, became the last time in the history of modern warfare when supposedly outdated fortresses played a decisive role against a mechanized army.

The Metz campaign was fought

chiefly by infantrymen, artillerymen, and engineers. Both sides struggled with inadequate supplies, a lack of reserves, and appalling weather. Whether the battle should have been fought is a matter of opinion, and the reader is left to make up his own mind. The author concentrates his efforts on criticizing the tactical direction of the fighting. He believes, for example, that many lives were wasted in futile attacks on fortified positions.

If there was any glory in the battle, it belonged to the junior officers and enlisted men on both sides. It was a classic example of the horrible face of war.

Colorfully written and loaded with first-hand accounts, Kemp's work lacks only in photographs. He has written a fine account of a campaign too long forgotten.

GRANT: A BIOGRAPHY. By William S. McFeely (Norton and Company, 1981. 592 Pages. \$19.95). Reviewed by Colonel Robert G. Clarke, Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

This is an outstanding volume, lucidly written, thoroughly researched, well-documented, and finely drawn. The author is a professor of history at Holyoke College and his narrative is a splendid account of a man whose career dashed back and forth between anonymous failure and vast public acclaim. Grant was one of our nation's most improbable heroes — a common man, but one who possessed uncommon qualities that could be called forth at critical times.

Grant's career is generally well known — his service during the war with Mexico, his problems after the war, his leaving the Army in 1854, and his failure at business from then to the outbreak of war in 1861. A little more than three years later, though, Grant was a Lieutenant General commanding the Northern armies. He saw clearly that the war required a total effort on the part of the Northern people, and he had a clear appreciation for the geography,

demographics, and logistics involved.

He carried out his final plans for the destruction of the Confederacy with consummate energy and skill and was eventually hailed by the men he led and the people of the country as their greatest military hero. After eight years as President of the United States, he retired to write his memoirs.

The author concludes that Grant "had no organic, artistic, or intellectual specialness. He did have limited though by no means inconsequential talents to apply to whatever truly engaged his attention. The only problem was that until he was forty, no job he liked had come his way — and so he became a general and president because he could find nothing better to do."

This is a special book and it belongs in your library if you are at all serious about history.

FLYING BOMB: THE STORY OF HITLER'S V-WEAPONS IN WORLD WAR II. By Peter Cooksley (Scribner's, 1979. 208 Pages. \$12.50). Reviewed by Captain Don Rightmyer, USAF, Directorate of Soviet Affairs, Washington, D.C.

The story of the V-1 and V-2 (Hitler's "revenge" weapons) during World War II is an interesting look at advanced weaponry and a prelude to the space efforts of the thirty years that followed the end of the war. Even though both machines were primitive in design and suffered high failure rates, they were quickly snatched up by the Soviet Union and by the United States after the war because of the wealth of technical information.

The author promises to tell that story in his book, but he fails miserably. What actually appears in the 150 pages of narrative is a collection of newspaper and personal accounts of life in England under the shadows of Hitler's "flying bomb." The author promises a non-technical account in his preface but then devotes twelve pages to a detailed discussion of the innermost workings

of the V-1. This detail is necessary only if you plan to build one.

Finally, the book is poorly written and organized, although its appendices might be of interest to modelers and museum curators. In sum, the dust jacket calls the story of the V-weapons a largely untold one; this book does little to change that.

MERC: AMERICAN SOLDIERS OF FORTUNE. By Jay Mallin and Robert K. Brown (Macmillan, 1979. 216 Pages. \$14.95). Reviewed by Leroy Thompson.

Few authors could treat this subject with as much knowledge and experience as these two men. Robert K. Brown, who publishes *Soldier of Fortune* magazine, has probably done more with his publication to foster public interest in and awareness of contemporary soldier-adventurers than all the other media combined. Jay Mallin, who is affiliated with Brown's magazine, is an expert on Latin America and terrorism.

Their book, therefore, is an apologia but not an apology for modern mercenaries. They obviously admire the courage and fighting ability of the men they write about but they do not gloss over the character flaws and psychological quirks that explain why some men choose to be warriors outside of the conventional military system.

By treating individually a few of the more prominent modern American professional adventurers, the authors manage to give the reader an insight into the breed. One of the most obvious misconceptions that the book clears up is the myth that men become mercenaries for money. Virtually every individual mentioned in this book had some incentive other than pay; in many cases, belief in a cause was the only motivation.

I recommend this book for students of modern brushfire wars or wars of liberation, because it contains many never before published narratives of the fighting in Angola, Rhodesia, and Nicaragua. Lovers of adventure who happen to be profes-

sional soldiers should also find this an interesting work.

THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMIES: THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOVIET AND THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMIES. By Jonathan R. Adelman (Greenwood Press, 1980. 230 Pages). Reviewed by Dr. Joe P. Dunn, Converse College.

Jonathan Adelman of the Graduate School of International Studies at the University of Denver contends that Soviet and Chinese civil-military relations have not been adequately explored. A survey of his excellent selective bibliography, including works in both English and Russian, calls this proposition into question. Nevertheless, Adelman has written a significant study that places him in the company of those — John Erickson, Raymond Garthoff, Samuel Griffith, and the like — who have written on the subjects in question.

The author focuses on the civil war experience that followed the revolution in each country. Therein, he believes, lies the difference between the Red Army and the PLA. The Soviet Army has been apolitical and has played only a small role in the policymaking process. It has never been invoked as a role model for society. Few Soviet generals have achieved significant political power.

Conversely, the PLA has been at the center of Chinese politics. The Chinese Politburo has always contained several high ranking military men, and the political leadership must cultivate the military to remain in power. Not even Mao was exempt. During and following the Cultural Revolution, the military services were the decisive political force in China, and they remain formidable today.

This is a fine study in comparative communism and civil-military relations. It is packed with details about the two armed forces and includes valuable tables. It is well documented and tightly written. In sum, it is a first-rate contribution.

NAM: THE VIETNAM WAR IN THE WORDS OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO FOUGHT THERE. By Mark Baker (William Morrow, 1981. 324 Pages. \$12.95). Reviewed by Lieutenant Colonel Richard J. Rinaldo, Armed Forces Staff College.

When the tocsin sounds, the job of soldiers is to hurt people and break things. There was plenty of both in Vietnam. But to believe Mark Baker, that's all there was.

Few of the oral histories in this book go further than to rehash the worst of the war and its aftermath for the Vietnam veteran. For the most part, the book is a dirge of the lost and the forlorn — doped-up crazy losers doing war crimes and atrocities. It joins a genre — up to now mostly made up of novels — that depicts the war and its warriors as sad, sick, and sickening.

Unlike *Everything We Had* by Al Santoli, published about the same time, the first person accounts in this compilation are not identified. This leads to a lack of credibility for the book as a whole.

There are a few good stories and the author seems sincere in his efforts to tell what it was like for the soldier in Vietnam. Unfortunately, Baker is not a veteran. So his internal caliper for truth does not measure well. In any event, the result is, to use one of his favorite words, "wasted."

RECENT AND RECOMMENDED

DEFENCE BY MINISTRY: THE BRITISH MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, 1944-1974. By Franklyn A. Johnson. Holmes and Meier, 1980. 234 Pages. \$42.50.

THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF FOREIGN POLICY BEHAVIOR. Edited by Charles W. Kegley, Jr., and Pat McGowan. Sage International Yearbook of Foreign Policy Studies, Volume 6. Sage Publications, 1981. 300 Pages. \$9.95, Paperback.

VICTORY WITHOUT WAR. By Lieutenant Colonel Charles McGinn, United States Air Force, Retired. Hwong Publishing Company, 1980. 149 Pages.

FRTZ: THE WORLD WAR I MEMOIRS OF A GERMAN LIEUTENANT. By Fritz Nagel. Edited by Richard A. Baumgartner. Hunting-

ton, West Virginia: Der Angriff Publications, 1981. 160 Pages. \$6.95, Softbound.

OUR WAR: AUSTRALIA DURING WORLD WAR I. By Brian Lewis. Melbourne University Press, 1980. 328 Pages. \$26.00.

WAR IN THE OUTPOSTS. By Simon Rigge and the Editors of Time-Life Books. Little, Brown and Company, 1981. 208 Pages. \$12.95.

THE ON-YOUR-OWN GUIDE TO ASIA. Revised Fifth Edition. Edited by John Doll and Terry George. Charles E. Tuttle Company, 1981. 383 Pages. \$4.95, Paperback.

ALL-ASIA GUIDE. Completely Revised 11th Edition, 1980. Distributed by Charles E. Tuttle Company. 682 Pages. \$7.95, Paperback.

HOW LITTLE IS ENOUGH? SALT AND SECURITY IN THE LONG RUN. By Francis B. Heober. National Strategy Information Center, Inc., 1981. 58 Pages. \$5.95, Paperback.

P-47 THUNDERBOLT AT WAR. By William N. Hess. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1980. 160 Pages. \$17.50.

MISSILES OF THE WORLD, 3d Edition. Michael J. H. Taylor. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1980. 152 Pages. \$14.95.

THE LUFTWAFFE IN THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN. By Armand van Ishoven. Scribner's, 1981. \$29.95.

ALPINE ELITE: GERMAN MOUNTAIN TROOPS OF WORLD WAR II. By James Lucas. Jane's Publishing Incorporated, 1980. 226 Pages. \$19.95.

DOUGLAS MacARTHUR: THE PHILIPPINE YEARS. By Carol Morris Petillo. Indiana University Press, 1981. 301 Pages. \$17.50.

SOVIET BLOC MERCHANT SHIPS. By Bruno Bock and Klaus Bock. U.S. Naval Institute Press, 1981. 269 Pages. \$29.95.

INSIDE AND OUT: HOSTAGE TO IRAN, HOSTAGE TO MYSELF. By Richard Queen. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1981. 286 Pages. \$13.95.

AN AUSTRALIAN ARMY CADET UNIT, 1945-1977. By K.G. Mortenson. Victoria, Australia: Gerald Griffin Press, 1979. 415 Pages. \$21.00.

THE 4TH MARINES AND SOOCHOW CREEK. By F.C. Brown, et al. The Military Journal Special Number 3. International Graphics Corporation, 1981. 27 Pages. \$2.50, Paperbound.

NOTE TO READERS: All of the books mentioned in this review section may be purchased directly from the publisher or from your nearest book dealer. We will furnish a publisher's address on request.