

# BOOK REVIEWS



The Battery Press of Nashville, Tennessee, is planning to reprint our two Vietnam era books — *INFANTRY IN VIETNAM* and *A DISTANT CHALLENGE*. We published the first of these in 1967, the second in 1971. The Press expects to bring out *INFANTRY IN VIETNAM* this September and *A DISTANT CHALLENGE* early in 1983. We will let you know more of the details in our coming issues.

We continue to receive many fine books. Here are several we recommend highly:

• **ROYAL UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE AND BRASSEY'S DEFENCE YEARBOOK, 1982** (Pergamon Press, 1982. 379 Pages. \$25.00, Paperbound). This exceptional handbook on military affairs, in its 92d year of publication, contains a number of articles of particular interest to today's infantryman. The two by Ian V. Hogg should be read. One of these is on weapon developments, the other on infantry support and fighting vehicles.

Hogg doubts that the selection of 5.56mm as the NATO standard caliber is a good thing. He feels this decision was nothing more than answering "the siren call of technological wizardry which seems to have more appeal than cold tactical sense." He also believes that "present-day attitudes seem to favor seizing on a novel weapon and bending the Army's tactics to suit, rather than deciding what the tactics are to be and then bending the technology to fit the perceived task."

Hogg expresses an equally strong view about the current generation of infantry fighting vehicles. The last paragraph in his piece on vehicles is worth quoting:

"Looking around the world's

APC/MICV scene at the moment, one thing seems to be apparent, and that is the paralysis in infantry thinking which has been brought on by the advent of mechanization. Unless and until the infantry makes the basic decisions on what size the infantry squad is to be, how they are to be used in conjunction with armor and what their tactical role is to be, then there is no hope of producing a satisfactory vehicle to carry them in their chosen role. Every MICV so far seen (in the West at any rate) seems to exhibit far too many elements of compromise. If only somebody, somewhere, would bang on his desk and say '*This* is how my infantry will operate, *this* is how they will be armed and *this* is how they will be transported . . .', then we might get an answer. It might not necessarily be quite the right answer, but it will be a good deal more right than some of the suggestions presently being touted."

• **HOW TO MAKE WAR: A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO MODERN WARFARE**, by James F. Dunnigan (Morrow, 1982. 442 Pages. \$14.50). This book represents a light-hearted and simplistic approach to war, to the people who fight wars, and to the results one can expect from them. Well known for his work in historical simulations, the author uses his facile pen to paint war as some sort of huge game, played by the not-so-bright for the most obscure reasons. Would you like to be a general? You can, the author believes, if you read his book. Would that the real world could be handled so easily!

• **THE EISENHOWER DIARIES**, edited and introduced by Robert H. Ferrell (Norton, 1981. 445 Pages. \$19.95). Off and on from 1935 to ear-

ly 1967 the late President and former supreme Allied commander in Europe during World War II kept a personal diary. Many of the entries are intensely personal, others are factual accounts of particular happenings. Together, the entries give us another view of the man sometimes regarded as simple-minded and shallow in his thinking. They show Dwight Eisenhower to have been ambitious, shrewd, intelligent, and moral. The editor, a professor of history at Indiana University, has added introductory sections where needed and a host of explanatory notes.

• **THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN WARS FROM 1745 TO 1918**, by T. Harry Williams (Knopf, 1981. 439 Pages. \$20.00). T. Harry Williams, who died in 1979 before he could complete his planned volume on all of America's wars, was a great classroom instructor at Louisiana State University from 1941 until his retirement just months before he died. This book, which would have been only a portion of the one that was planned, rings with his classroom presence — sharp-tongued, quick-witted, imposing (even though he, himself, was a slight man). What Williams does here amply fulfills much of his stated objective: to write "an account of our wars from the colonial period to Vietnam, comprehensive enough to give a well-rounded picture, it is hoped, and yet succinct enough to fit into a single volume." This is a good, modern introduction to our early wars, and could certainly serve as a textbook for an introductory military history course.

• **SECRETARIES OF WAR AND SECRETARIES OF THE ARMY: PORTRAITS AND BIOGRAPHI-**

**CAL SKETCHES**, by William Gardner Bell (Center of Military History, United States Army, 1982. 176 Pages. \$12.00). Although this book has had a long gestation period, it has been worth the wait. This is the first time any book has ever cataloged all of the Army's secretaries and recorded their contributions. It also traces the development of the particular office from the Revolutionary era to the present, and gives the location of the Army's headquarters from Fraunces Tavern in New York City to the Pentagon. Each of the one-page personality sketches is accompanied by either a full-color portrait or photograph and an accompanying note on the artist or photographer. The author is a former editor of *ARMOR* magazine, a man of excellent taste, and a member of the Army's military history office for some 25 years. He is now preparing a similar volume on the Army's military leaders.

• **MODERN AMERICAN ARMOR: COMBAT VEHICLES OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY TODAY**, by Steven J. Zaloga and James W. Loop (Stackpole Books, 1982. 88 Pages.). This is an excellent reference book, one that includes not only numerous photographs but detailed line drawings of the main types of vehicles as well. One of the book's strong points is its use of solid historical data to trace the development of many of the Army's present day vehicles, and the authors' willingness to go back in time to discuss such earlier vehicles as the M26 Pershing, the M75 and M59 armored personnel carriers, and the M67 mechanized flame thrower.

• **MONTY: THE MAKING OF A GENERAL (1887-1942)**, by Nigel Hamilton (McGraw-Hill, 1981. 864 Pages. \$22.95). The dust jacket proclaims this book to be the definitive study of Bernard Law Montgomery's early life and military career through the battle of Alamein. Unfortunately, it is not definitive, but it is definitely detailed. The main subject never comes into clear focus, because the author never lets us really see the man

about whom he is writing. In fact, he spends so much time "white-washing" Montgomery's warts that he ends up doing Montgomery a great disservice. Montgomery was one of England's great wartime battlefield commanders; he was also an outstanding trainer of troops, perhaps the best that England has ever developed. He knew the British soldier better than most of his contemporaries did and he gave those soldiers the kind of leadership they wanted and needed. But he was an extremely controversial military man, and it is doubtful that he deserves all of the accolades Hamilton heaps on him. The subject deserved better at the hands of the author, and one can only hope that Hamilton's future volumes on Montgomery will be better done.

Now, here are some of our longer reviews:

**THE PAPERS OF GEORGE CATLETT MARSHALL: "THE SOLDIERLY SPIRIT," DECEMBER 1880 - JUNE 1939.** Edited by Larry L. Bland (The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1981. 742 Pages. \$30.00). Reviewed by Major David R. Kiernan, University of South Carolina.

This is the first of an intended six volumes that will include not only George C. Marshall's personal and official letters but also extracts from his speeches, statements, and tapes.

Marshall was truly a "man of letters," and the editor and his associates have succeeded in capturing the elusive spirit of this very complex citizen-soldier. This first volume, in fact, provides an insight into the character of an unusually great American who, as a professional soldier, could design bellicose contingencies and, with equal ability, insure a magnanimous peace.

General Marshall kept no diary. Therefore, the reader must appreciate the editor's challenge in attempting to

**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.

select those items that are most representative and accurate. The editors have provided a refreshing respite from the usual "kill and tell" genre of recent military memoirs. The reader is rewarded by their efforts.

**INSIDE THE SAS.** By Tony Geraghty (The Battery Press, 1981. 249 Pages. \$17.95). Reviewed by Captain F.R. Thomas, 8th Canadian Hussars.

"Who Dares Wins" is the motto of Britain's Special Air Service (SAS). Its World War II exploits such as the destruction of almost 400 German aircraft in the Western Desert made the motto a particularly apt choice. It would appear from the SAS solution to the Iranian embassy hostage-taking incident of 1980 in London that these words still have relevance for today's troopers.

In his book, Tony Geraghty covers the activities of this elite British unit from 1950 to 1980. SAS activities during these years have not always been widely publicized for a number of reasons, many of which the author makes clear. The book illustrates that the effectiveness of intervention forces does not necessarily depend on either their size or their firepower.

Of particular interest to INFANTRY readers with Ranger or Special Forces experience should be Geraghty's chapter called "How to Select an Elite." The SAS seeks soldiers with initiative, self-discipline, independence of mind, ability to work without supervision, stamina, patience, and a sense of humor. Because SAS members work in teams of four under conditions of intimacy, the overriding criterion for selection is whether an SAS instructor could "live with" the individual under observation.

Geraghty does not conclude his book in the usual sense of the word, because he feels that the SAS "is dynamic" and that its history is not ended. He predicts that the SAS story will continue to unfold as in the past largely out of the public eye. His book cannot help but interest the e

who are involved with the rapid deployment force that is now being created by the United States military establishment.

**APPOMATTOX COMMANDER: THE STORY OF GENERAL E.O.C. ORD.** By Bernarr Cresap (A.S. Barnes, 1981. 418 Pages. \$15.00). Reviewed by Benjamin F. Gilbert, Professor of History, San Jose State University.

Although the author is a descendant of General Ord, he has been objective in this study of an important but overlooked American soldier. Those who know about Ord are usually familiar only with his California career and his role in the Civil War. This entertaining biography covers virtually all aspects of Ord's career.

Ord was born in Cumberland, Maryland, in 1818. He received his military training at West Point between 1835 and 1839. Shortly after his graduation, Ord was assigned to the Third Artillery, which was then serving in Florida. He soon found himself fighting the Seminole Indians in the Everglades. Ord took part in several dangerous expeditions and won a reputation for enduring hardships.

In 1842, he was sent to Fort Macon in Beaufort, North Carolina, which he found to be dull duty — he always preferred action. In 1844 he was assigned to an artillery unit at Fort McHenry, and when the Mexican War broke out his unit was ordered to California. To Ord's chagrin, the fighting in California was over by the time his unit landed and he settled down to a routine existence at Monterey.

During the 1850s he fought in the Indian wars in Oregon and the Washington Territory. Despite his Southern birth and his pro-slavery sympathies, Ord remained loyal to the Union during the Civil War.

Early in the war he was promoted from captain to general and eventually rose to command an army and a military department. He was considered aggressive, fearless, and

skillful in managing troops. Ord was one of the best assault leaders in the Union Army, and he aptly demonstrated this proficiency during the closing days of the war at Appomattox.

With the coming of peace, Ord was made responsible for occupying the former Confederate capital, Richmond. He maintained a policy of leniency and won the respect of the Virginians. Later, he became the military governor of Arkansas and Mississippi and in 1868 was put in command of the Department of California.

Prior to his retirement from the Army in 1880, Ord commanded the Department of Texas, where he left a legacy of peace along the Mexican border. During the last few years of his life, he represented U.S. railroad and oil interests in Mexico.

The book has extensive footnotes, an extensive bibliography, four Matthew Brady photographs of Ord, and eleven maps that illustrate the Civil War battles in which Ord participated. It should appeal to readers who are interested in the Civil War and to those who like to read good biographies as well.

**UNITED STATES-SOVIET RELATIONS IN THE ERA OF DETENTE.** By Richard Pipes (Westview Press, 1981. 227 Pages). Reviewed by Captain Don Rightmyer, USAF Directorate of Soviet Affairs.

Dr. Richard Pipes was formerly a professor of history at Harvard University and director of the Russian Research Center there from 1968 to 1973. Today he serves as chief expert on Soviet affairs for President Reagan's National Security Council.

The author's best known, and perhaps most controversial, article — "Why The Soviet Union Thinks It Could Fight and Win A Nuclear War," published in 1977 — is included in this collection of his writings. It also includes seven other essays written by Pipes over a period of years.

The essays chiefly illustrate the

theme of detente and how it is viewed and pursued by the leaders of the Soviet Union. This isn't an isolated look at semantics, because Pipes lays the foundation for understanding Soviet policy by examining Russian and Soviet history, foreign policy, ideology, and global strategy.

The essays are well-written and certainly thought-provoking. Many may disagree with the author's conclusions about the motivation and perceptions behind Soviet actions, but readers should consider them and arrive at their own decisions about the USSR today.

**HANNIBAL: THE GENERAL FROM ROME.** By Ernle Bradford (McGraw-Hill, 1981. 223 Pages. \$14.95). Reviewed by Leroy Thompson, Festus, Missouri.

Unlike many ancient military historians whose training in the classics makes it difficult for them to write in English without sounding ponderous, Ernle Bradford combines sound scholarship with enjoyable prose in this book. Too many writers, when dealing with Hannibal, get wrapped up in his tactics at Cannae or Lake Trasimene while ignoring his great strategic and diplomatic skills, but Bradford treats all aspects of Hannibal's genius. He also avoids the pitfalls of marvelling at the crossing of the Alps while ignoring Hannibal's far more impressive accomplishment of keeping what was basically a mercenary army supplied and cohesive while campaigning constantly for 15 years in enemy territory.

Although Bradford's analyses of Cannae, Lake Trasimene, Trebia, Zama, and other battles are very good, his work is at its best when he covers the grand strategy of the Punic Wars and tries to discover what made Hannibal such a great general.

Interestingly enough, Bradford finds many parallels between the lives and skills of Hannibal and Scipio, who was to prove the Carthaginian's nemesis. If one has time for only one work on the Punic Wars, then this is a good choice.

**ROMMEL: BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS.** By Kenneth Macksey (Mayflower Books, 1979. 224 Pages. \$14.95). Reviewed by Alexander S. Birkos, Mount Shasta, California.

Ever since the 1950s there has been a steady stream of books and films about Erwin Rommel, who by now has attained near demi-god status as a World War II military leader. But his worshippers will not like what Kenneth Macksey has to say about their hero in this frank reappraisal of the man and the general.

The author, a specialist in armored warfare, traces Rommel's career, leadership, and abilities as a commander from World War I to the time of his death in 1944. Rommel comes in for some rough treatment at Macksey's hands.

To Macksey, Rommel was often lucky and too often took credit for work done by his subordinate commanders and staff officers. Macksey believes that Rommel's rough treatment of his junior officers, his open contempt for the Italians, his poor handling of the North African campaign, and his unnecessarily poor relations with Field Marshal Kesselring were the real reasons why he was relieved of his command in 1943, not his poor health.

Although Rommel was sometimes lucky and sometimes a bold tactician, more frequently he was rash in his handling of his troops and fortunate in avoiding being captured. He fared badly when he met a competent opponent such as Auchinleck but looked good when he faced an incompetent such as Richie. His personal traits left much to be desired, and he was not above finding scapegoats to cover his own mistakes. One of Macksey's strongest suggestions is that Rommel should never have been advanced beyond corps command.

For anyone who has been long exposed to the Rommel myth, this book is heady stuff. Military historians and professional officers alike will find Macksey's analyses of Rommel's battles incisive and lucid. This book certainly belongs on the shelf of anyone who has an interest in the history of

World War II and in military leadership.

**SEA POWER AND STRATEGY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.** By Alvin J. Cottrell and Associates (Sage Publications, 1981. 148 Pages). Reviewed by Dr. Joe P. Dunn, Converse College.

The three essays in this slim volume, another product of the prestigious Georgetown University Center for Strategic and International Studies address the necessity of improving American power projection in the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf.

Professor Godfrey Kemp begins with a historical survey and a philosophical discussion of the role of seapower before outlining the dangers of the Soviet challenge to traditional American access to the Gulf area. Robert Hanks and Alvin Cottrell focus on the Straits of Hormuz chokepoint in their detailed depiction of the potential instability and the political-military threats in the area.

Finally, Moorer and Cottrell discuss United States naval requirements for stemming the erosion of area stability and the protection of regional lines of communication. They call for an expansion of the U.S. facilities in Diego Garcia, Kenya, Somalia, and Oman, and for political and military support for Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Although the book reiterates familiar themes and breaks no new ground, it is interesting, timely, and worthwhile. Laymen will find it useful.

**THE EVOLUTION OF WEAPONS AND WARFARE.** By Trevor N. Dupuy (Bobbs-Merrill, 1980. 350 Pages). Reviewed by Lieutenant Colonel R.J. Rinaldo, Armed Forces Staff College.

This book is a one-volume distillation of a wealth of knowledge about war by the author of scores of books on the subject and the co-author of

*The Encyclopedia of Military History.*

The author's knowledge, as presented here, lends perspective to the way war has evolved over the centuries. With that perspective, the reader gains fresh appreciation for the complex task of integrating weapons, organizations, and tactics to obtain victory over an opponent.

Dupuy explains why these parts of the military equation have not always added up well. And the generals are not always at fault. Governments, for example, sometimes retrench from military spending following a conflict and this leads to a decline in war-making developments. At other times the interactions of personalities, peoples, armies, and weapons result in almost unbeatable fighting systems such as Genghis Khan's hordes or Adolf Hitler's Nazi war machine.

The book is not limited to the highlights of military history or to the famous and infamous captains of war. It takes us from primitive times through the nuclear era and covers nearly every important personality and military and social innovation that has had an effect on the conduct of war.

The overall result is useful to the military professional, and the latter parts of the book particularly so. In his last five chapters, Dupuy lays out his reasoned opinions about lethality through the ages, tactics, military history and theory, the timeless verities of combat, the principles of war, and the importance of new ideas in warfare as opposed to new things.

A close reading of its contents should provide much historical background and an analysis for understanding today's defense problems as well as some paths toward solutions.

#### RECENT AND RECOMMENDED

**THE 1st SS PANZER DIVISION IN THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE.** By Steven Kane. International Graphics Corporation, 1982. 36 Pages. \$3.50.

**TOY ARMIES.** By Peter Johnson. Doubleday, 1982. 144 Pages. \$22.50.