

BOOK REVIEWS



During the past several months we have received a number of excellent books we want you to know about. Here are just a few of them; we will mention more in our future issues:

• **FORWARD INTO BATTLE: FIGHTING TACTICS FROM WATERLOO TO VIETNAM**, by Paddy Griffith (Hippocrene Books, 1982. 156 Pages. \$20.00). The author is a senior lecturer in the Department of War Studies at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. His thesis is a simple one — despite all of the technological advances that have been made in the art of warfare, the fundamental realities of combat have not changed that much and, with only minor exceptions, the willingness of infantry units to close with their enemy has always determined the outcome of battles and will continue to do so. Griffith does not deny the importance of material resources; he believes the tank will continue to play an important role on the battlefield, but only when it is used in concert with the infantry; and he pays proper homage to the artillerymen and the aviators. His evaluation of the infantry war in Vietnam is particularly enlightening. This is one of those books all infantrymen should read and study.

• **THE QUEST FOR VICTORY: THE HISTORY OF THE PRINCIPLES OF WAR**, by John I. Alger (Greenwood Press, 1982. 319 Pages. \$29.95). A serving U.S. Army officer, the author gives us a detailed look at the development of the principles of war — where they started, how they have been modified over the years, and what they are today. Along the way he names those individuals who were most responsible for advancing the principles, and briefly discusses the in-house conflict in our Army in the mid-1970s when, for two years,

the principles were dropped from FM 100-5. Of utmost importance is the book's "chronological compendium," 68 lists from Sun Tzu's "considerations" to the U.S. Army's 1978 list of principles. As Alger explains it, these lists "provide the lengthy substantive matter contained in lists of guides intended to facilitate either the conduct or the study of war." This is another book that should be read and studied by infantrymen everywhere.

• **GREAT BATTLES OF THE EASTERN FRONT: THE SOVIET-GERMAN WAR, 1941-1945**, by Colonel T.N. Dupuy and Paul Martell (Bobbs-Merrill, 1982. 249 Pages. \$14.95). This is a straightforward, bare-bones account of 18 major battles that were fought on World War II's Eastern Front. The authors, both well-known U.S. writers on military matters, present, in addition to an account and analysis of each battle, tables of organization, statistical data, and maps. Overall, the book constitutes an excellent reference source, one that should appeal to both history buff and war-gamer.

• **FIGHTING POWER: GERMAN AND U.S. ARMY PERFORMANCE, 1939-1945**, by Martin van Creveld (Greenwood Press, 1982. 198 Pages. \$27.50). To the author, a senior lecturer in the History Department of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, "an army's worth as a military instrument equals the quality and quantity of its equipment multiplied by ... its 'Fighting Power.' The latter rests on mental, intellectual, and organizational

foundations; its manifestations, in one combination or another, are discipline and cohesion, morale and initiative, courage and toughness, the willingness to fight and the readiness, if necessary, to die." He compares the U.S. and German armies of World War II in such areas as command principles, organization, doctrine, personnel administration, leadership, and rewards and punishments to arrive at each army's "fighting power." He concludes that "the German Army was a superb fighting organization," one that in its "morale, elan, unit cohesion, and resilience ... probably had no equal among twentieth-century armies." He feels that the U.S. Army was not anywhere near as good a military instrument because of its "cruel replacement system," its "less than mediocre" officer corps, its large number of "pen pushers," and the "dearth of attention paid to the most elementary psychological needs of the soldier ..." He does admit that "when all is said and done, the fact remains that the American GI did win World War II." His comparisons are certainly open to question, and his conclusions can and should be debated. But van Creveld has produced a book that infantrymen should take the time to read.

• **UNIFORMS OF THE ELITE FORCES**, by Leroy Thompson. Illustrated by Michael Chappell (Sterling Publishing Company, 1982. 130 Pages. \$12.95). This is another excellent reference book. In it the author, a former U.S. Air Force officer, joins a former soldier in the British Army to picture and to describe the functions of the uniforms, weapons, and fighting gear worn by members of more than 40 elite military units around the world. In addition to its 32 full-color plates,

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.

the book also contains eight black-and-white photographs.

• **SOVIET ARMED FORCES REVIEW ANNUAL, VOLUME 6, 1982**, edited by David R. Jones (Academic International Press, 1982. 433 Pages. \$47.00). Once again David Jones has brought forth an excellent and authoritative volume in this most important series of publications on the Soviet armed forces. He has made one addition that we hope will become standard in the succeeding annuals: a chapter entitled the "Soviet Military Year in Review." Also of particular interest in this book is Allen Chew's piece on the evolution of the Soviet motorized rifle division and James T. Reitz's essay, "The Soviet Security Troops — The Kremlin's Other Armies." All in all, this series continues to be an indispensable reference work on the Soviet armed forces.

Here are some of our longer reviews:

CRISES IN CENTRAL AMERICA: FACTS, ARGUMENTS, IMPORTANCE, DANGERS, RAMIFICATIONS, by Cleto Di Giovanni, Jr., and Mose L. Harvey (Advanced International Studies Institute in association with the University of Miami, 1982. 116 Pages.) Reviewed by Dr. Joe P. Dunn, Converse College.

The Advanced International Studies Institute, in association with the University of Miami, publishes special reports, occasional papers, and monographs on timely national security subjects. This brief treatise addresses an important issue: the Soviet threat in the Caribbean Basin.

The authors' point of view is clear: American economic and strategic interests in Central America are in dire jeopardy. The Soviets and their Cuban surrogates have concerted designs on the area, and Nicaragua and El Salvador are two components of the plan. While the United States appears apathetic and impotent, the Soviets are building a military challenge from the south that will constitute a threat unprecedented in our history.

The authors devote the bulk of

their book to the background and evolution of the present situation. Yet, despite their apocalyptic warning, they are rather vague about what the U.S. should or can do concerning the present situation.

The study is well written and impeccably clear. But the argument is oversimplified and the alarmist tone is a bit heavy. Nevertheless, the issue is worthy of serious public concern, and this succinct volume offers the beginning of a needed dialogue on the topic.

SENTIMENTAL IMPERIALISTS, by James C. Thompson, Jr., Peter W. Stanley, and John Curtis Perry (Harper and Row, 1981. 323 Pages.) Reviewed by Major C.T. Guthrie, United States Army.

This book is clearly one of the most accurate and interesting surveys to be published recently concerning United States and East Asian relations. Unlike many such books that tend toward over-detailed rhetoric, this one blends fact into easily read prose. The result is an informative, enjoyable, if somewhat superficial, account of U.S. relations with Japan, China, Korea, the Philippines, and Vietnam during the past 200 years.

Best classified as a survey, for no book of 300 pages can adequately examine all the complexities of U.S.-Asian relations during two centuries, the book's narrative flows easily and logically. The authors characterize their volume as "a subject in search of three authors." That statement is quite correct. There has long been a void in objective scholarly writing concerning U.S. relations with the East Asian states. And this book fills that void quite adequately.

Clearly, it is one that the general reader should pick up and peruse, although a bibliography would have strengthened it. Still, in a period of history when drastic changes are occurring throughout East Asia, this book must be considered required reading for the professional soldier.

MILITARY LEADERSHIP, by

James H. Buck and Lawrence J. Korb (Sage Publications, 1981. 288 Pages. \$22.50). Reviewed by Colonel George G. Eddy, United States Army, Retired.

Is there anything left to be said about leadership? Can it be sustained as an intriguing and beguiling phenomenon, as one writer has called it? Many people have probably concluded that we have reached our limit of both patience and endurance.

But, wait. Here is yet another treatment of leadership, just one more portion of a seemingly endless parade of opinion and conjecture.

It is divided into three sections — Leadership Theory, Contemporary Leadership Issues, and Leadership in the Field — and attempts to maintain interest in the subject even for those who believe that they have been surfeited by the avalanche of books, articles, pamphlets, reports, studies, symposiums, demonstrations, and lectures about it. (Although the book deals primarily with the U.S. Army, one of the eleven different authors addresses leadership problems in the Navy. And he concludes that the Navy's program is more facade than substance, and that it requires a complete restructuring and a clear and central definition of purpose.)

Should they really attract our attention, these eleven? Have they anything worthwhile to offer, anything especially pertinent in today's environment, anything new or substantially different from what already has bombarded our senses?

I believe they do offer something useful and pertinent to today's Army. While there may not be anything especially new in the book, it does reiterate certain basic leadership needs. For example, the authors generally agree that there is a need for more stability in leadership positions, for stronger efforts to promote unit cohesiveness, for more sensible relationships between resource allocations and task priorities, for greater technical competence coupled with the highest degree of integrity, and for more appropriate links between the systems and the humans who must use them. In addition, the

authors believe the lower levels should be given sufficient latitude to display their initiative and resourcefulness when these systems do not work because of the confusion and disruption that characterizes the battlefield.

One author is also concerned that military leadership tasks are becoming segmented into three categories: the direct combat role of the heroic leader, the various organizational and administrative functions, and the specialized skills of the military technologist. But who does what, and when, and in what sequence? Is it possible for one man to function effectively in all three roles, or do we need to nurture three different types of leaders?

It is quite apparent after all has been said that the eleven authors believe that achieving the status of an effective leader must be regarded as inordinately difficult.

CAMERA AT SEA, 1939-1945 (United States Naval Institute Press, 1978. 192 Pages.) Reviewed by Rear Admiral George L. Phillips, United States Navy, Retired.

This is a masterpiece of the naval cameraman's art, one of the finest photographic histories yet published of the combat navies of World War II. Produced and edited by the staff of the British journal *Warship*, it is made up of contributions from nine naval historians and analysts, who provide the comments and captions for the spectacular pictures, which have been winnowed from official files. It is a remarkable presentation of wartime life at sea, with battle scenes, ship sinkings, mighty fleets at anchor, huge convoys in passage, suicide planes, and shipboard life. Its scope is all-inclusive: ship types, weapons, living conditions, men at battle stations and in moments of relaxation.

With the battleships all but gone from the sea, and with the cruisers

modified in function, the navies shown here will never be seen again, now gone the way of the Gatling gun of 1898, the monitor of 1862, and the observation balloon. Their places in the battle line have been taken by rocketry, missile ships, nuclear weaponry, atomic-powered and armed submarines, frigates, and destroyers, and, with these, a more remote and frightful sort of ungallant combat.

This is a book to cherish. For the veteran of a bygone age, it will reawaken old memories of friendships shared, of long days of tired vigilance, and of dangers passed.

AMERICA ARMS FOR A NEW CENTURY: THE MAKING OF A GREAT MILITARY POWER, by James L. Abrahamson (The Free Press, 1981. 253 Pages. \$17.95).

During the last 20 years of the 19th century and the first 20 years of the 20th, the United States military estab-

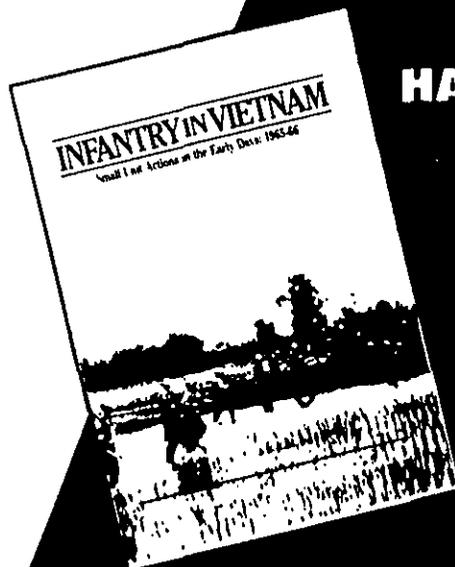
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ishment underwent far-reaching changes. Some were caused by outside influences — world politics, in particular. Others were generated by internal pressures brought about by such visionaries as Alfred Thayer Mahan, Tasker H. Bliss, William H. Carter, Stephen B. Luce, Emory Upton, J. Franklin Bell, Arthur L. Wagner, John McAuley Palmer, and Bradley A. Fiske.

The author, an associate professor of history at the U.S. Military Academy when he wrote this book, concentrates his attention on the various philosophical arguments that were used to support the reformers in the services and on the outside events that gave impetus to the reform movement.

He admits the results were not always good, but he feels that the reformers did "set American military policy upon the proper path during the decisive period when the nation and its armed forces came of age."

THE BOER WAR, by Thomas Pakenham (Random House, 1979. 718 Pages. \$20.00). Reviewed by Captain Harold Raugh, 2d Infantry Division.

This is a compelling narrative of the last British imperial war, which was fought at the turn of the 20th century. The author spent eight years researching this monumental study, which is probably the most objective and the best-researched account of the Boer War ever written; it is definitely the most complete and enlightened since the eight-volume official history was completed in 1910.

The author discovered a veritable treasure trove of unpublished, primary sources. These included the lost archives of the British commander-in-chief in 1899, Sir Redvers Buller; his battle letters, for example, were found under a billiard table in his home. Pakenham also used the private papers of the War Minister and other cabinet members, as well as a hitherto lost million-word secret journal written by the War Office Intelligence Department. Addi-

tionally, he recorded and then used the war memories of 52 veterans of the Boer War, including three South Africans.

The book is highly recommended to all readers, even to the most casual. Undoubtedly it will prove to be the definitive account of this last British imperial war.

ANTITANK: AN AIRMECHANIZED RESPONSE TO ARMORED THREATS IN THE 90s, by Richard E. Simpkin (Pergamon, 1982. 320 Pages. \$45.50).

The author, a retired British general officer who spent most of his military career in the Royal Tank Regiment, almost, but only almost, leaves his beloved tanks behind and takes to the air to seek the ideal military formation for the future.

After devoting his first 20 chapters to possible weapon and weapon system developments, he advances the view that the future battlefield will be dominated by independent helicopter operations, both in the offense and in the defense. He outlines a concept of operations and develops an organizational model. He even advances the theory that, because of the world situation, the major military powers might need two armies, or "two types of combat force, backed by common supporting arms and logistic services." He also strongly favors the creation of "composite battalions" and "airmech divisions," each of the latter containing 22,500 men, 1,216 armored vehicles, 470 helicopters, and a host of other goodies.

Simpkin advances some interesting arguments, although his love for the tank is undiminished. It would do infantry officers a world of good to read what he has to say in this book and in his two previous books on tank and mechanized infantry warfare, and then to ponder a few moments on what the future might hold.

SUPPLYING WASHINGTON'S ARMY, by Erna Risch (Center of Military History, Department of the

Army, 1981. 470 Pages. \$13.50).

Erna Risch, who for many years was a historian for the Quartermaster Corps, has done a splendid job with this volume, one in the Center of Military History's special studies series. She concludes that the Revolutionary Army's supply offices have been maligned unfairly and that they did perform "an essential role in the war." Yes, she says, there were abuses and waste and corruption. But not one battle was lost by the American armies because of a failure of supply, even though some military operations had certain restrictions imposed on them by supply deficiencies.

In some ways, Risch's story is a fascinating one, because it tells today's military professional a good deal about his beginnings. Too, logistics has always been important to the conduct of war, and Risch shows us just how important it was to our Army's founding fathers.

RECENT AND RECOMMENDED

THE NAPOLEONIC WARS: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY. By Michael Glover. First published in 1978. Hippocrene Books, 1983. 240 Pages. \$14.95, Softbound.

THE MEMOIRS OF FIELD MARSHALL THE VISCOUNT OF ALAMEIN, K.G. A Reprint. A DaCapo Paperback. DaCapo Press, 1982. 508 Pages. \$9.95.

RETURN TO FREEDOM. By Samuel C. Grasho and Bernard Nulting. MCN Press, 1982. 178 Pages. \$14.95.

SKYRAIDER: THE DOUGLAS A-1 "FLYING DUMP TRUCK." By Rosario Rausa. The Nautical and Aviation Publishing Company of America, 1982. 224 Pages. \$17.95.

PANZER BATTLES: A STUDY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF ARMOR IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR. By Major General F.W. von Mellenthin. Seventh Printing. University of Oklahoma Press, 1982. 393 Pages. \$12.95, Softbound.

BRICKBATS FROM F COMPANY. By Milo L. Green. Edited by Paul S. Gauthier. Gauthier Publishing Company, 1982. 407 Pages. \$20.00.

G.I. JIVE: AN ARMY BANDSMAN IN WORLD WAR II. By Frank E. Mathias. University Press of Kentucky, 1982. 227 Pages. \$17.50.

MESSERSCHMITT ACES. By Walter A. Musciano. ARCO Publishing, 1982. 224 Pages. \$17.95.

WORLD WAR II ALMANAC, 1931-1945: A POLITICAL AND MILITARY RECORD. By Robert Goralski. A Perigee Book. Putnam's, 1982. 486 Pages. \$10.95, Trade Paper.