

BOOK REVIEWS



We have received a number of excellent reference books during the past several months:

• **TANKS OF THE WORLD**, 1983. Edited by General F.M. von Senger und Etterlin (Nautical and Aviation Publishing Company of America, 1983. 900 Pages. \$49.95). This is the sixth edition — and the first edition to be printed in English — of the well-known and authoritative *Taschenbuch der Panzer*, which was last published in 1976. It includes information on all armored land vehicles, which are grouped by country of development and then by classes and groups according to their roles.

The editor commands NATO's Central Command (CINCENT) and is one of the world's foremost experts on armored vehicles and armored warfare. In that respect, he follows in the footsteps of his father, who was one of Germany's outstanding armor commanders during World War II.

This edition has 731 drawings and 603 photographs, plus 12 appendixes, an excellent section on "development trends," and 13 tables. It is an absolutely essential reference book for the military professional.

• **BORDER AND TERRITORIAL DISPUTES**. First Edition. A Keesing's Reference Publication edited by Alan J. Day (Gale Research Company, 1982. 406 Pages. \$75.00). This book gives information on nearly 80 disputes and includes for each its historical origins, development, and present status. The material is arranged in five geographic sections, and each dispute is illustrated with a map of the area. The book also contains detailed subject and name indexes and a selected bibliography.

• **WAR MAPS: GREAT LAND, SEA, AND AIR BATTLES OF WORLD WAR II**. By Simon Good-

enough (St. Martin's Press, 1983. 192 Pages. \$18.95). Although this book contains 232 full-color maps, it also has numerous photographs, brief battle commentaries, and profiles of the principal military and naval leaders, all of which complement the maps beautifully. It has been divided into six sections, each representing a major combat theater, and each section is complete in itself. There is also a short bibliography and a longer index. This book is an excellent companion volume to Peter Young's **ATLAS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR**, which was published in 1974.

• **U.S. MILITARY WHEELED VEHICLES**. By Fred W. Crismon (Crestline Publishing, 1983. 472 Pages. \$34.95). Using thousands of photographs, detailed captions, and brief chapter introductions, the author, a serving U.S. Army officer, discusses all of the wheeled motor transport vehicles owned or tested for use by the U.S. armed forces, or built by private firms for use by the U.S. military services. The book is outstanding in every respect; it has 18 chapters, each devoted to a particular class of vehicle, a bibliography, and a page of technical notes. The author plans to publish a companion volume on tracked vehicles.

• **ATLAS OF ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL WARFARE**. By Arthur Banks (Hippocrene Books, 1982. 185 Pages. \$25.00). This is a reprint of an atlas that was first published in 1973 under the title *A World Atlas of Military History: Volume One — to 1500*. There are no major differences, other than the title pages, between the two

volumes. The maps cover the entire world known within its time span, with particular attention being paid to events in China, Japan, and central Asia.

• **ATLAS OF THE 20th CENTURY**. Maps by Richard Natkiel. Text by Donald Somerville and John N. Westwood (Facts on File, 1982. 256 Pages. \$29.95). Richard Natkiel is the head of the cartographic department of one of England's leading newspapers. He prepared the maps for Peter Young's atlas, which is mentioned above, and is recognized as one of England's foremost military and historical cartographers. This book, with more than 200 of his maps, shows why. At the same time, almost every map is complemented by an explanatory text and photographs. The combination is a winning one.

• **ARMS AND UNIFORMS: THE AGE OF CHIVALRY**. Three volumes. By Liliane and Fred Funcken (Prentice-Hall, 1983. Volume I, 102 Pages; Volume II, 109 Pages; Volume III, 104 Pages. Each Volume, Softbound, \$8.95). In these profusely illustrated books, the authors detail the development of the arms, uniforms, and methods of war the fighting men of Europe used between the 8th and the 15th centuries. Among their subjects are helmets and mail, bows and crossbows, tournaments and heraldic bearings, castles and forts, and Renaissance infantry and cavalry. Most of the illustrations are in full color. There is no other modern work that compares with this one; it is authoritative and useful to the collector and to the student of military history.

• **THE WARSAW PACT: ARMS, DOCTRINE, AND STRATEGY**. Edited by William J. Lewis (McGraw-Hill, 1982. 471 Pages. \$29.95). This book was published

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.

under the auspices of the Institute for Foreign Policy Analysis and carries a laudatory preface by U.S. Senator Sam Nunn. It is similar to THE WARSAW PACT ARMIES, an Austrian publication, which the editor worked on in years past and which has been issued to many U.S. Army units in Europe. It covers in detail the Warsaw Pact's land order-of-battle and reviews the Pact's arms and equipment. Of considerable interest, too, is the book's chapter on a "Model Land Campaign in Central Europe." The book is a useful work and should be known to all military professionals.

• **SOVIET MILITARY POWER**, Second Edition, 1983. A Department of Defense Publication, 107 Pages, Softbound (For sale by the U.S. Superintendent of Documents). This is an updated version of the 1981 edition, which received a good deal of publicity at the time it appeared, for it presented some material that had been considered, at one time or another, highly classified. Apparently, the same holds true for this version — until recently, some of the material it contains was classified. The Department of Defense decided to bring out this updated book to show that since 1981 the Soviet Union "has pushed ahead with force modernization, expansion and forward deployment on a scale even larger than before" and that the Soviet Union's "strategic defense force is the most massive in the world." It is divided into six chapters, with each chapter devoted to a particular subject such as strategic forces, theater forces (including general naval forces and Warsaw Pact forces), and space systems. Numerous tables, charts, maps, and photographs supplement the narrative.

BOARDING PARTY: THE LAST ACTION OF THE CALCUTTA LIGHT HORSE, by James Leasor (Houghton Mifflin, 1979. 204 Pages. \$8.95). Reviewed by Rear Admiral George L. Phillips, United States Navy, Retired.

In the early months of 1943, four Axis merchant vessels — three German, one Italian — lay interned in the Portugese enclave of Goa, on the western flank of India. It was a neutral harbor and the vessels appeared idle and harmless. But Allied intelligence monitors had identified the four vessels as the sources of German language radio broadcasts to the U-boats that lurked offshore. In fact, they were sending such accurate reports of Allied ship movements that 12 Allied vessels were sunk during the first 11 days of March.

This is the story of a deed of high adventure in the best tradition of Francis Drake. It was initiated in the Admiralty in London, implemented by the cloak-and-dagger Special Operations Executive, and carried out by two British regular officers aided by a random collection of 18 over-aged, paunchy, and physically handicapped British businessmen from Calcutta. These men — planters, merchants, accountants, insurance executives — were united in membership in the Calcutta Light Horse and the Calcutta Scottish, fun-loving and semi-military units whose activities, other than one annual ceremonial parade, were seemingly confined to club dinners, parties, cocktail hours and paper chases. This was the group that planned and executed a raid on the four Axis ships in Goa.

The raid itself, after a harrowing series of narrow escapes by the members of the raiding party, was overwhelmingly successful. That it was was due to elaborate preparations, judicious bribery, and diversionary tactics. All of the Axis ships were sunk during a brisk midnight action, while the boarding party quietly faded away into the night with but minor injuries and with no hint of a neutrality violation.

Two days later, the British businessmen were back at their desks, while their wives wondered where they had acquired such sunburns.

James Leasor, an author well known for his suspense yarns, has, in this truly exciting historical account, fully matched his fictional success.

RAID: THE UNTOLD STORY OF PATTON'S SECRET MISSION. By Richard Barton (Putnam's, 1982. 283 Pages. \$12.95). Reviewed by Colonel Robert G. Clarke, Headquarters CINCPAC.

During the closing days of World War II in Europe, General George S. Patton, Jr., ordered one of his most controversial actions — he directed the 4th Armored Division to send a task force more than 50 miles behind the German lines to free the Allied prisoners-of-war at the Hammelburg POW camp. His son-in-law, Lieutenant Colonel John K. Waters, was thought to be in that camp.

The task force, drawn largely from the 10th Armored Infantry, was led by Captain Abe Baum, an experienced and very capable combat commander. Baum's force consisted of an armored infantry company, a medium tank company, a light tank platoon, an assault gun platoon, and a reconnaissance platoon, some 300 men, all told.

Unfortunately, Baum had little time to plan or to prepare his troops for what appeared to be an impossible mission. Too, he had little intelligence about the camp and did not even know exactly where in Hammelburg the camp was located. Finally, he was told that he could expect to find 300 prisoners in the camp and that he was to bring them out with him. As it turned out, when the task force finally reached the camp, there were 1,500 prisoners and Baum had to waste valuable time trying to sort out which 300 men would go out with the task force on its return trip.

This is a fast-paced book that reads like a novel, and it does capture the essence of this suicidal mission. The author was one of the prisoners at the Hammelburg camp, and he leaves his readers wondering just a little about General Patton's true motives. He does conclude, though, that those motives were honorable and that the mission was worth the costs, particularly when it is placed in the context of the overall Third Army effort.

All Infantry officers should find this book interesting as well as

informative, and they might think of how they would have handled the situation, given the conditions that Abe Baum had to face.

THE ROAD TO CONFRONTATION. By William Whitney Stueck, Jr. (University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, 1981. 326 Pages. \$20.00). Reviewed by Lieutenant Colonel C.T. Guthrie, United States Army.

In his book, the author analyzes United States policy towards China and Korea between 1947 and 1950. He points out that in 1947 United States policy makers did not view South Korea as an area that was of vital strategic importance to the United States. But because the U.S. was concerned with maintaining some sort of world-wide credibility, those same people felt that a military withdrawal from South Korea was unacceptable. Such a withdrawal, they believed, would indicate to the world a lack of U.S. resolve to sustain its commitment to world peace. Therefore, the U.S. decided to maintain a military presence in South Korea, which, according to the author, represented a major step toward war with China.

In contrast, U.S. policy makers during the same period, including Secretary of State George C. Marshall, were not concerned that the events in China represented a threat to U.S. credibility. A communist takeover in China was never viewed as being detrimental to U.S. goals in northeast Asia.

Given these basic views towards Korea and China, the author then analyzes exactly how the U.S. became involved in a war with China on the Asian mainland. He uses a wealth of source material that he supplements with interviews, oral histories, and unpublished secondary works. And he paints a comprehensive picture of the differing personalities and ideologies that came into conflict with each other during this important period of U.S. diplomatic history.

This book surely deserves a place in

a historian's library, and it certainly merits the attention of all military readers.

AUDIE MURPHY: AMERICAN SOLDIER. By Harold B. Simpson (Alcor Publishing Company, 1982. 466 Pages. \$17.95). Reviewed by Captain Michael E. Long, United States Army.

Once in a while a book is published that deserves more than just a passing glance by both reviewer and reader. This lavishly illustrated volume about America's most decorated soldier, Audie Murphy, is a fitting tribute to him. The author has done a fine job of assembling family photographs, career highlights, and post-World War II memorabilia relating to Murphy's military and acting careers.

Murphy was a true leader in every sense of the word and a credit to the Army in which he served, both on active duty during World War II and following that conflict as a member of the Texas National Guard. Murphy spent almost 400 days in combat and earned himself a battlefield commission. He garnered 33 military awards, including the Medal of Honor and every other medal for valor given by the United States. His tragic death in 1971 left this country with a legacy that will not be soon forgotten.

This is a well-written and authoritative biography as well as a handsome addition to any library.

NOVEMBER 1918. By Gordon Brook-Shepherd (Little, Brown, 1982. 448 Pages). Reviewed by Lieutenant Colonel D.A. Rolston, United States Army.

Shrouded by an early morning mist on 8 August 1918, Allied forces launched an attack against the Amiens salient. The attack met with unexpected success, the Germans being taken by surprise while in the process of rotating front-line units. The Germans not only lost miles of front, they also suffered thousands of casualties.

The real significance of this action for the Germans lay not in the loss of ground or men but in the immediate effect it had on the morale of the German leaders. What should have been only a military setback was soon transformed into a decisive political event by Ludendorff's declaration that 8 August was the "black day" of the German Army.

The author selects the Allied attack on the Amiens salient as the starting point for his narrative for two reasons. The first is the effect it had on the German high command. The second is that it serves as a convenient measuring point from which to begin an examination of the final one hundred days of World War I.

His stated purpose is to provide a panorama of the end of the war. He does this by covering the four major battlefields: the Western Front, the Balkans, Italy, and Palestine. Not only does he cover the military events in just the right degree of detail, he weaves in the diplomatic activities that were taking place and the effects the war had on Europe's ruling families.

What makes the book particularly fascinating is the author's use of many first-hand accounts gleaned from letters, journals, autobiographies, and interviews. It is recommended to all students of World War I.

THE MILITARY: THE THEORY OF LAND WARFARE AS BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE. By Harry Holbert Turney-High (Christopher Publishing House, 1981. 336 Pages. \$12.00). Reviewed by Major John C. Spence III, United States Army Reserve.

As its jacket indicates, this book is a study of the military institution as behavioral science. The author, a professor emeritus of anthropology and a long-serving member of the Army Reserve, has drawn from various social science disciplines for his analysis and methodology.

For this reviewer, though, it was difficult to determine whether the

book is intended for the lay reader or for the serious scholar. If for the latter, the book has significant shortcomings. Too frequently, for example, the author makes certain assumptions, cites certain examples, but fails to provide any documentation for them. Other errors abound as well, particularly when the author discusses military personnel and military organizations.

Still, it is an interesting and innovative idea to analyze the principles of war in terms of anthropology, economics, and human psychology. The author's anthropological approach to the military as an institution is well-taken. The author observes that "men start wars. Men fight wars. Men win or lose, and it is men who suffer." One definition of anthropology, of course, is "The science of man and his works." And above all else, the author does write in an interesting and varied style.

A GENERAL'S LIFE: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY, by General of the Army Omar N. Bradley and Clay Blair (Simon and Schuster, 1983. 752 Pages. \$24.95). Reviewed by Lieutenant Colonel William A. dePalo, Jr., United States Army.

This superb book is, in reality, an authorized biography of General Omar N. Bradley rather than a bona fide autobiography.

General Bradley began work on this volume in 1971 but died after only one-sixth of it had been completed. Clay Blair, a former military editor for *TIME* and *LIFE* magazines and Bradley's collaborator in the endeavor, undertook the task of completing the book. He used the first person pronoun throughout as though Bradley himself were writing the entire text. The result is a remarkably smooth-flowing account of the life of one of this country's most distinguished military leaders.

This is not simply a rehash of Bradley's earlier memoirs, *A Soldier's Story*. Rather, it is the story of the General's life from his school-boy days in Missouri to his chairmanship

of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Too, for the portion of the book concerned with World War II, Blair had access to newly declassified documents that had not been previously available for public use. Also in this portion, Bradley and Blair have focused less on the details of the campaigns in which the General was involved and more on the personalities of the Allied commanders who most influenced the ultimate victories in Africa and Europe.

Bradley's candid appraisals of his superiors, subordinates, and peers, notably Patton, Montgomery, Eisenhower, Simpson, and Hodges, make fascinating reading. His interminable squabbles with "Monty" and the British press over Allied strategy and over the relative contributions of the various Allied powers are treated in detail and with admirable objectivity.

The account of Bradley's service after World War II is equally well done, although it lacks the on-the-scene brilliance of his war-time experiences. Much of the story is told through the messages and correspondence that flowed between Bradley, the Army staff, and the commanders in the field. Again, Bradley pulls few punches when he describes the effectiveness of those military commanders he admired (Ridgway and Van Fleet) and those he did not (MacArthur and Walker). Bradley's view of the Korean War from his perspective as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs is particularly interesting.

On the whole, this is a first-rate addition to the growing number of biographies of prominent World War II military personalities. Besides being eminently enjoyable reading for casual consumption, it is of significant value to the student of military history.

FIGHT FOR THE FALKLANDS, by John Laffin (St. Martin's Press, 1982. \$5.59, Softbound).

WAR IN THE FALKLANDS: THE FULL STORY, by the *Sunday Times* Insight Team (Harper and Row, 1982. \$14.95). Both books

reviewed by Leroy Thompson, Festus, Missouri.

Quite often, the books that are rushed into print after a historic event are a bit scant on scholarship and detail, being geared to the popular market. To some extent this is true of both of these works on the South Atlantic war, though each has some redeeming characteristics.

The second of the two listed books, for example, is especially strong on the behind-the-scenes "combat" undertaken by the British ambassadors to the United Nations, to the United States, and to the European Economic Community. John Laffin's book, on the other hand, brings the author's sound knowledge of military subjects to his discussions of the conflict's principal battles. Laffin's book also has an interesting discussion of the use of propaganda in war and a thought-provoking analysis of Britain's future options in the Falklands.

Unfortunately, neither book has a thorough operational history of the war. Perhaps that will have to wait for the memoirs of some of the participants. Naval and air operations are covered only superficially, leaving this reviewer, at least, craving more information about the performance of many weapon systems never before tried in combat.

Both books are well worth reading, though, because they offer good overviews of the war, including the logistical and political as well as the military aspects. Both also do a reasonably good job of acquainting the reader with the historical background to the conflict. They are recommended as the best reading matter so far available on the recent war, but with the understanding that the definitive work has yet to be written.

FIRE OVER ENGLAND, by H.G. Castle (David and Charles, 1982. 254 Pages. \$22.50). Reviewed by Lieutenant Roy P. Houchin II, United States Air Force.

Aerial bombardment during World War I is a seldom addressed subject,

so this book is of considerable interest. It is enjoyable, comprehensive, and enlightening; it covers not only the German raids carried out over England but also the British reaction, both political and military, to those raids.

The author discusses the German high command's decisions and subsequent policies and emphasizes their results. His book does suffer from a lack of footnotes, even though several long quotations are documented and reference is made to a number of primary sources. There are simply too many not-so-common facts that need documentation. Unfortunately, this causes the reader to be quite cautious about the author's facts, or opinions, whatever they may be.

Still, for the reader who is interested in early aviation bombardment and in the defensive measures used against that action, both anti-aircraft weaponry and aircraft, this is a good source.

The numerous photographs, drawings, and maps and an extensive appendix are welcome additions to an interesting and flowing narrative.

U.S. DEFENSE PLANNING: A CRITIQUE, by John M. Collins (Westview Press, 1982. 337 Pages. \$30.00). Reviewed by Colonel James B. Motley, United States Army, Senior Fellow, The Atlantic Council of the United States.

This book grew out of Congressional concern for this country's defense planning apparatus and out of the need to "thoroughly examine the procedures and structures for U.S. strategic policy and planning." It shows how policy inputs, domestic and foreign, from the White House, the National Security Council, and the State Department affect defense planning, as does Congressional participation. It also discusses in detail the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the abilities of the incumbents to produce sound military strategies.

The author, a retired Army officer, is a senior specialist in national

defense at the Congressional Research Service. He cautions the reader that his critique does not dwell on the strengths of the defense planning system but explores problems with an eye to pursuing improvements in that system.

Contrary to many studies in which the authors define the problem but offer no solutions, Collins provides a number of specific corrective actions that would improve defense planning. Some of these, he suggests, could be accomplished in a simple and timely fashion and with little fanfare.

Because of the comments that have been made recently regarding the reform of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the increased awareness and concern that the American public has expressed on major defense issues, this is a timely and informative book. It should appeal to the policymaker, the serious student of national security, and the general reader.

"BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION": THE AMERICAN CONQUEST OF THE PHILIPPINES, 1899-1903, by Stuart C. Miller (Yale University Press, 1982. 340 Pages. \$25.00). Reviewed by Benjamin F. Gilbert, Professor of History, San Jose State University.

The cession of the Philippines to the United States by Spain in 1898 disappointed native expectations for immediate independence. Accordingly, Filipino insurrectionists proclaimed a republic, and eventual friction between them and U.S. military authorities culminated in open hostilities on 4 February 1899.

Regular and Volunteer troops under Generals T.M. Anderson, Wesley Merritt, Arthur MacArthur, Elwell S. Otis, Lloyd Wheaton, and Henry Lawton defeated the insurgents and drove them into northern Luzon. The Filipino capital, Malolos, fell on 31 March and the native government under Emilio Aguinaldo withdrew to Tarlac.

In November, Tarlac was captured and the insurgent forces then disintegrated. Aguinaldo fled to an almost

inaccessible area of northeastern Luzon but was captured by General Frederick Funston in March 1901. In Samar an entire company of American Regulars was surprised and massacred at Balangiga. Besides Aguinaldo, the principal insurgent leaders were Gregorio del Pilar and Antonio Luna. Their troops, undisciplined and poorly armed, were easily defeated, but they could easily fade into the countryside and then fight again.

Guerrilla warfare continued throughout the archipelago until April 1902, when the last important chieftain surrendered.

United States military leaders had difficulties in ending the guerrilla warfare, and opposition to the war itself developed on the home front. In a lively style the author portrays the frustration of the American people during an undeclared war. A professor of history and social science at San Francisco State University, he used such primary sources as the imperialist and anti-imperialist collections in the Widener Library of Harvard University, and the papers of Admiral George Dewey, Theodore Roosevelt, Elihu Root, and William Howard Taft, all in the Library of Congress. He also relied on the papers of the soldiers and the regiments that served in the Philippines that are in the U.S. Army Military History Research Collection at Carlisle Barracks and on many contemporary newspaper and periodical accounts.

The book is a searching study of the nation's reaction to its first major overseas involvement in Asia. The military aspects of the war are not emphasized, but the book stresses how the generals, the common soldiers, and the public reacted to the war.

RECENT AND RECOMMENDED

IRAQ AND IRAN: ROOTS OF CONFLICT. By Tareq Y. Ismael. Syracuse University Press, 1982. 226 Pages. \$12.95, Softbound.
CHANGING U.S. MILITARY MANPOWER REALITIES. Edited by Franklin D. Margiotta, James Brown, and Michael J. Collins. Westview Press, 1983. 267 Pages. \$25.00.