

BOOK REVIEWS



In our May-June 1983 book review section (page 47), we wrote that Simon Dunstan's *VIETNAM TRACKS* was published by Osprey Publishing Limited, a British publishing house. What we did not say, and should have, was that the Presidio Press (31 Pamaron Way, Novato, California 94947) did the American version of the book and that the Osprey version is not for sale in the United States. The Presidio Press is the sole source of the book in this country. We regret that we did not make this point clear in our May-June 1983 issue.

More good books continue to come our way. Here are some that we want you to know about:

• **ALANBROOKE.** By David Fraser (Atheneum, 1982. 604 Pages. \$19.95). The author, a distinguished retired senior British Army officer, tries hard to prove that Britain's World War II military leader was "simply the outstanding soldier of his generation, a superb professional and the prime military architect of Britain's successes in the Second World War."

He also tries to show that the real Alan Brooke did not emerge from the pages of his published diaries, which appeared in the 1950s as *THE TURN OF THE TIDE* and *TRIUMPH IN THE WEST*.

Fraser does not wholly succeed. Alan Brooke did have his problems with his country's civilian leader, Winston Churchill, who was, undoubtedly, a most difficult man to work for — and with. He did carry a heavy burden for better than five years and probably carried it as well as any other British Army officer of the time could have.

But he was hardly "the outstanding soldier of his generation." For example, he did not get along very well with his American allies and dreaded meeting with them at the numerous war-

time conferences that were conducted. (He held Dwight Eisenhower in particularly low esteem.)

He wanted to command *OVERLORD* in June 1944, but had turned down Churchill's offer in 1942 to command the British Eighth Army, pleading that he knew nothing about the desert and that he was more important to England's cause in London. He never understood the war in the Pacific and apparently could not fathom the reasons why the Americans had such great interest in that theater of operations. He did believe in defeating Germany first, but delayed a cross-Channel operation as long as he could and may well have tried to delay it even longer if the Americans had been more agreeable.

Brooke was a talented staff officer. He was not, as Fraser puts it, "a 'regimental soldier,' a soldiers' general." Outstanding soldiers of any generation must be, first of all, solid "regimental soldiers."

Fraser has written an interesting book. He does not agree with all of Brooke's decisions and personal opinions regarding individuals. But he tries too hard — by saying the same things over and over — to convince his readers that Alan Brooke, indeed, was "simply the outstanding soldier of his generation."

BILL MAULDIN'S ARMY: BILL MAULDIN'S GREATEST WORLD WAR II CARTOONS. A Reprint (Presidio Press, 1983. 384 Pages. \$12.95, Softbound). Originally printed in 1949, this collection of Bill Mauldin's cartoons wears its age well. It probably has far more meaning for

those who served in Europe and North Africa during World War II, than for anyone else.

But for any person who has the slightest interest in what the United States Infantryman went through during his training in the States and then during combat in Sicily, Italy, and France during World War II, there is no better single source of information. This is the way it was. Somebody else can put in the words.

• **THE ART OF WAR.** By Sun Tzu. Edited and with a Foreword by James Clavell (Delacorte Press, 1983. \$8.95). If you have never read Sun Tzu's precepts for success in war and politics, you should make it a point to do so now. They are presented clearly by a master writer and published in a clear and concise format.

James Clavell used a 1910 translation as the basis for this book, although there were others he could have used. His claims for Sun Tzu's sayings are not shared by all students of the art of war. But he is right when he says that today's military professional can benefit from reading and understanding Sun Tzu.

• **HISTORY OF THE ART OF WAR WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF POLITICAL HISTORY: THE MIDDLE AGES.** By Hans Delbruck. Translated from the German by Walter J. Renfroe, Jr. (Greenwood Press, 1982. 711 Pages. \$55.00). This is the third of Hans Delbruck's four volumes to be published in English. The first two — *ANTIQUITY* and *THE GERMANS* — appeared in 1975 and 1980, respectively.

This volume begins with Charlemagne's reign and ends in the early 16th century. Along the way, Delbruck discusses such subjects as Charlemagne's subjugation of the Saxons, knighthood, the Norman military organization in England, the Swiss

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.

wars, and numerous campaigns, battles, and engagements.

Delbruck's history has been recognized for a long time as a major work in the field of military history. All military professionals should become acquainted with it.

• **ATLAS OF THE ARAB WORLD.** Compiled by Michael Dempsey (Facts on File, 1983. 126 Pages). Although a series of excellent maps dominates this book, it also includes a concise gazetteer that gives numerous facts and figures for each country in the Arab world, from Algeria to South Yemen, and a series of notes that expands on the visual information shown on each of the 38 maps. This is a fine and useful reference book.

• **AT WAR IN KOREA.** By George Forty (Hippocrene Books, 1982. 160 Pages. \$25.00). George Forty served in the British Commonwealth contingent in Korea and was wounded there. In this book he presents a good, concise account of the Korean War from its beginning in June 1950 to the signing of the armistice 36 months later. Numerous photographs nicely complement the narrative, which stresses the Commonwealth contribution, but does not neglect the contributions made by the United States and by the other United Nations countries.

Here are a number of other books you should know about:

MILITARY LAW. Third Edition. By Edward Byrne (U.S. Naval Institute Press, 1982. 790 Pages. \$21.95). Reviewed by Captain John T. Phelps II, Judge Advocate General Corps.

One of the most misunderstood and maligned segments of the law is the military justice system. To many laymen and soldiers, the term "military law" conjures up visions of drum-head justice, broken sabers, and arbitrary punishments. In fact, though, the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) is one of the fairest systems of law in this country. In many instances, the military defendant enjoys far more substantive and procedural rights than his civilian counterpart. And while it serves the needs of discipline, it also serves the ends of justice.

This book provides a well organized, interesting, and well written overview of the military legal system. Each chapter of the book is followed by discussion cases from the military appeals courts and a self-quiz. The questions are practical ones and are geared toward situations that commanders frequently encounter.

For both laymen and military commanders, the most misunderstood part of the military justice system is the court-martial. The procedural and substantive aspects of a court-martial are a mystery and often a source of

frustration for the commander and the soldier who must deal with the legal system in the military services. This book sheds some light on the problems with its extensive discussion of trial procedure, rules of evidence, and the roles played by the trial and defense counsels, the military judge, and the members of the court.

This book is highly recommended for legal clerks, military policemen, commanders, and all others interested in the military legal system. It dispels many of the myths that surround the system and serves as an informative guide to military law.

But the reader should remember that the law is constantly changing, and the knowledge gained from this book should be used only in conjunction with accurate and up-to-date advice from the nearest military legal office.

ATTACK AND DIE: CIVIL WAR MILITARY TACTICS AND THE SOUTHERN HERITAGE. By Grady McWhiney and Perry Jamieson (University of Alabama Press, 1982. 201 Pages. \$17.95). Reviewed by Captain Don Rightmyer, United States Air Force.

Untold numbers of books have been written about the Civil War. But one key aspect that has not been addressed thus far concerns the tactics that were

Reprint

FIRST PUBLISHED

IN 1971

BY

THE INFANTRY MAGAZINE



GRADY MCWHINEY
PERRY JAMIESON
\$17.95 A COPY
ALBANY, NEW YORK
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA PRESS
P.O. BOX 8907
TENTH AVENUE, TRENMONTH
69221

used by both sides to fight their battles. This book fills that gap in a timely and excellent fashion.

It begins with a solid chapter that analyzes the losses the Northern and Southern armies suffered, the number of generals killed, and the percentages of battles in which each army did the attacking. The authors then explain the origin of the tactics that were used and focus on the tactics used by the Southern side. The last two chapters attempt to link the fighting spirit of the leaders of the Southern armies with that of their Celtic ancestors in Europe several centuries earlier.

The book is a worthwhile addition to the literature of the Civil War and the way in which it was fought. It also serves to bring many battle narratives into much clearer focus.

THE BRITISH SOLDIER IN AMERICA: A SOCIAL HISTORY OF MILITARY LIFE IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR. By Sylvia R. Frey (University of Texas Press, 1981. 211 Pages). Reviewed by Captain Michael E. Long, United States Army.

Historians have long considered the individuals who served in the Revolutionary War armies nothing but criminals and social misfits. The author, who now serves in the history department of Tulane University, does not necessarily agree, particularly in regard to the British Army.

She presents an excellent account of soldiering as an occupation during the Revolutionary War and uses the northern campaign that ended at Saratoga and the southern campaign that ended later at Yorktown to emphasize the physical strains active campaigning imposed on the soldiers in the British ranks. They suffered a high rate of infectious diseases, which were exacerbated by the almost total lack of bathing, laundry, cooking, and dining facilities.

Of particular interest is the role played by blacks and by camp followers. The author feels that both groups were a definite part of the British Army's operational apparatus in

America and that both contributed in many and diverse ways to that army's accomplishments.

This book is an excellent example of historical research at its best and is well worth the military professional's time and study. He will also benefit from the detailed bibliographic reference section.

MISTER KIPLING'S ARMY. By Byron Farwell (Norton, 1981. 244 Pages. \$13.50). Reviewed by Captain Harold E. Raugh, Jr., United States Army.

In this book, Byron Farwell, the author of several previous books on the British Army, has put together the results of more than 15 years of extensive research on the British Army as it was during the reign of Queen Victoria. It is a compact volume, but in it Farwell explains in great detail the customs, traditions, and eccentricities of Britain's pre-World War I army. He describes the unique place the regiment held in the army and each soldier's undaunted loyalty to that unit.

The major drawbacks to the book are its lack of a bibliography and the absence of footnotes. Both would have been of tremendous help to the serious student of Victorian military history.

Overall, though, this is an outstanding and highly readable book. It cannot be recommended too highly, for the military historian and for the general reader.

HOME BEFORE MORNING: THE STORY OF AN ARMY NURSE IN VIETNAM. By Lynda Van Devanter with Christopher Morgan (Beaufort Books, 1983. 320 Pages. \$16.95). Reviewed by Jeanette R. Dunn, Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Although numerous first-person accounts detail the experiences of combat soldiers, prisoners of war, Government officials, and members of the news media, the significant role played by Army nurses in Vietnam has been overlooked. Lynda Van Devanter describes the experiences of these

important female Vietnam veterans.

A patriotic and rather sheltered young woman, Van Devanter went to Vietnam to serve her country. Assigned to the 71st Evacuation Hospital in Pleiku, she quickly learned the grim reality of war as dedicated doctors and nurses struggled to take care of a seemingly endless stream of casualties while battling fatigue and ignoring personal danger.

Unfortunately, Van Devanter's war did not end when she left Vietnam. Like many other Vietnam veterans, she suffered severe readjustment problems. Her work as a hemodialysis nurse provided constant reminders of Vietnam. She became deeply depressed; flashbacks haunted her. She drank, contemplated suicide, lost her job, and went on welfare. Even in therapy, Van Devanter could not talk about her Vietnam experiences.

Following a chance meeting with the organizers of the Vietnam Veterans of America, a more stable but still troubled Van Devanter became actively involved in veterans' affairs. She returned to school to complete a degree in psychology and became an expert on policies that affected female veterans. Today, she is the national woman's director of the VVA and travels widely lecturing and conducting seminars on posttraumatic stress disorder.

Written for a popular audience, the book is easy reading and is thought-provoking. But more academic studies are needed to provide a clearer understanding of the problems all Vietnam veterans face.

DEATH OF A DIVISION. By Charles Whiting (Stein and Day, 1981. 162 Pages. \$11.95). Reviewed by Colonel Robert G. Clarke, Headquarters CINCPAC.

In early December 1944, the 106th U.S. Infantry Division was put into the line in a quiet sector of the front in the Ardennes region of Belgium. It was under the control of VII U.S. Corps.

The division had only recently arrived in Europe; it had had no

previous combat experience, it had recently received some 6,000 replacements, and, for the most part, it had untried officers in nearly every command and staff position. The division was spread thinly over an extended front in heavily wooded, difficult terrain.

At the same time, the German armies were preparing to counterattack the American forces in the Ardennes area, hoping to achieve a breakthrough that would permit them to drive to the English Channel and split the two major Allied armies. The luckless 106th Division occupied the point where the major German effort was going to be made.

The German attack went off on the morning of 16 December; by the afternoon of the same day the 106th Division had been routed, with two of its infantry regiments surrounded and cut off from the rest of the division. During the first 24 hours of the German attack, the division's high command was indecisive in its actions and orders, and was confused and stunned by the ferocity of the German effort.

Eventually, the bulk of the division was lost to the Germans, and in this book, the author, a prolific writer, offers a readable account of that loss, concentrating on the leadership — or lack of it — that was involved in the disaster. He denounced the division's commander and his staff and faults the corps commander, Major General Troy Middleton, for issuing imprecise and confusing orders. He also faults the other leaders in the division, tarring them one and all with the same brush.

Unfortunately, Whiting becomes too emotional in his denunciations and misstates several facts. Still, his is an interesting book about what can happen to an untested unit when it sees its first combat under adverse conditions. World War II buffs may want to add this book to their collections.

THE AFGHAN WARS, 1839-1919. By T.A. Heathcote (Hippocrene, 1980. 224 Pages \$20.00).

Reviewed by Mitchell R. Katzberg, Dix Hills, New York.

With the ruthless invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Army in December 1979, the Russians made a classic knight's move against a key pawn in the "Great Game" in Asia. What is most surprising about the move is that it has taken so long to complete.

For more than a century, the drama and tragedy of this game has been played against a backdrop of intrigue, spectacular diplomatic blundering, and epic heroism. The author, a curator at the Military Academy, Sandhurst, has written an entertaining work of history, one that focuses on the 80 years during which the British tried three times to make the medieval kingdom of Afghanistan a buffer state between the northwest frontier of India and the steadily advancing Cossack armies of the Tsars.

It is an exciting story, filled with the pomp and circumstance of famous British and Indian regiments marching to do battle with a brave, resourceful, and often savage foe. It is also a story with a larger-than-life cast of characters.

To his credit, Heathcote avoids the usual pitfalls of whitewashing Britain's motives and points out that it would be an over-simplification to say that Britain fought these three wars simply to keep the Russians out of Afghanistan. He suggests, for example, that "the First Afghan War of 1839-1842 was fought not so much to keep the Russians out as to let the British in, and to install a British puppet on the throne."

In his last chapter, Heathcote compares and contrasts the British wars with the recent Russian move into Afghanistan. And while he has repeated many familiar themes, he has written an informative account about some of the most stirring events in British imperial history, events that provide today's reader with a sound background for understanding some of the events that are now taking place in Asia.

Heathcote's narrative is nicely complemented by a fine selection of old

photographs, political cartoons, and maps. Altogether, his book is a worthwhile addition to any military professional's bookshelf.

RECENT AND RECOMMENDED

THE TUNISIAN CAMPAIGN. By Charles Messenger. Hippocrene Books, 1982. 128 Pages. \$19.95.

TRAJAN'S ARMY ON TRAJAN'S COLUMN. By Sir Ian Richardson. A Reprint, with New Illustrations. London: The British School at Rome, 1982. 82 Pages. Softbound.

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE MODERN BRITISH ARMY. 2d Edition. By Terry Gander. Nautical and Aviation Publishing Company of America, 1982. 280 Pages. \$29.95.

THE GOEBBELS DIARIES, 1939-1941. Translated and Edited by Fred Taylor. Putnam's, 1983. 490 Pages. \$17.95.

PRELUDE TO PEARL HARBOR. By Roy M. Stanley II. Scribner's, 1983. 213 Pages. \$24.95.

MILITARY BADGE COLLECTING. Third Edition. By John Gaylor. David and Charles, 1983. 163 Pages. \$26.50.

THE LAST BRIGHT BLADES: A STUDY OF THE CAVALRY SABER FROM 1904 TO 1934. By Joseph William Turner. The Wagapaw Press, 1982. 45 Pages. \$8.95, Softbound.

THE GREEN HOWARDS. Revised and Updated to 1982. By Geoffrey Powell. David and Charles, 1983. 150 Pages. \$18.95, Softbound.

AMBUSH. By S.L.A. Marshall. A Reprint. Battery Press, 1983. 242 Pages. \$16.95.

THE GLEAM OF BAYONETS. By James V. Murfin. A Reprint. Louisiana State University Press, 1982. 451 Pages. \$8.95, Softbound.

HIDDEN WEAPONS. By Basil Collier. Hamish Hamilton, 1982. 386 Pages. \$35.00.

"DEAR BART": WASHINGTON VIEWS OF WORLD WAR II. By Glen C.H. Perry. Greenwood Press, 1982. 341 Pages. \$29.95.

GALLIPOLI. By Alan Moorehead. A Reprint. The Nautical and Aviation Publishing Company, 1982. 384 Pages. \$16.95.

INTELLIGENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE 1980s: CLANDESTINE COLLECTION. Edited by Ray Godson. National Strategy Information Center, 1982. 232 Pages. \$8.50, Softbound.

ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGREEMENTS: TEXTS AND HISTORIES OF NEGOTIATIONS. 1982 Edition. United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, 1982. 290 Pages. Softbound.

ALL ASIA GUIDE. Distributed by Charles E. Tuttle Company, 1983. 683 Pages. \$9.95, Softbound.

AMERICAN DIARIES OF WORLD WAR II. Edited by Donald Vining. The Pepys Press, 1982. 430 Pages. \$14.50. Softbound.

THE 8:15 TO WAR: THE MEMOIRS OF A DESERT RAT. By Peter Roach. David and Charles, 1982. 184 Pages. \$22.50.

THE NIIHAU INCIDENT. By Allen Beekman. Heritage Press of Pacific, 1982. 128 Pages. \$9.95.

BRITAIN'S BRIGADE OF GURKHAS. By E.D. Smith. David and Charles, 1983. 178 Pages. \$18.95.
