

BOOK REVIEWS



The first issue of a new periodical that should be of great interest to the military professional has recently come our way. It is titled **CURRENT MILITARY LITERATURE** and will be published on a bi-monthly schedule by The Military Press in Oxford, England.

It contains comments on and abstracts and citations of selected articles from more than 100 military and defense periodicals — including **INFANTRY** — published in countries throughout the world.

Subscription information is available from The Military Press Limited, 92a Church Way, Iffley, Oxford OX4 4EF, England.

Another new and most interesting periodical is **JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY**, the first issue of which appeared in mid-January 1984. It takes the place of the previously published **JANE'S DEFENCE REVIEW**, and covers military happenings throughout the world in a highly readable and straightforward manner. Subscription information is available from Jane's Publishing, 286 Congress Street, Russia Wharf, Boston, MA 02210.

Here are a number of fine reference books we had received within the past few weeks:

• **JANE'S INFANTRY WEAPONS**, 1983-1984. Ninth Edition. Edited by Ian V. Hogg (Jane's Publishing, 1983. 903 Pages. \$140.00). Although this is only one of fourteen yearbooks issued by Jane's, it is, for Infantrymen everywhere, an indispensable reference work. Descriptive narratives, photographs, diagrams, and data sheets are all used to the best advantage by the editor, whose name appears frequently in our book review section, and who always writes interesting Forewords. (Hogg succeeded to the editorship of this particular publication upon the death of Colonel John Weeks in early 1983.)

Separate sections contain detailed and authoritative information on revolvers and pistols, rifles, machine-guns, grenades, mortars, cannon in the 20mm to 30mm range, close support rocket launchers, anti-aircraft and antiarmor weapons, ammunition, and flamethrowers. There are also separate chapters on electronics and optics (sights, rangefinders, target designators, and infantry surveillance radars), training aids and simulators, body armor, national inventories, and an alphabetical index.

In short, there is no better reference book of its kind on the market today.

• **JANE'S ARMOUR AND ARTILLERY**, 1982-1983. Third Edition. Edited by Christopher F. Foss (Jane's Publishing, 1982. 924 Pages. \$140.00). This book nicely complements the one mentioned above and is rapidly becoming another of those indispensable books for Infantrymen, particularly as they themselves become more technically oriented toward vehicles.

Like Ian Hogg, Christopher Foss is an acknowledged expert in his field — his Foreword attests to that. And his book contains detailed and authoritative information on the world's tanks, reconnaissance vehicles, armored personnel carriers and infantry fighting vehicles, towed and self-propelled guns and howitzers, self-propelled tank destroyers, self-propelled anti-aircraft guns and surface-to-air missiles, towed anti-aircraft guns, multiple rocket launchers, ammunition, turrets, cupolas, engines, and powerpacks, and training equipment and simulators.

• **JANE'S WEAPON SYSTEMS**,

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.

1982-1983. 13th Edition. Edited by Ronald T. Pretty (Jane's Publishing, 1982. 1,043 Pages. \$140.00). As its title implies, this volume in the Jane's yearbook series contains detailed information about both strategic and tactical weapon systems, including surface-to-surface, surface-to-air, air-to-air, and air-to-surface systems. The analysis section, which is arranged in a tabular format, is particularly interesting and useful. There is some overlap with the Jane's volumes mentioned above, but not enough to be annoying.

• **ONE PEOPLE, ONE REICH: ENAMELED ORGANIZATIONAL BADGES OF GERMANY, 1918-1945**. By J.R. Cone (M.C.N. Press, 1984. 99 Pages. \$12.95, Soft-bound). This book has been prepared primarily for the collector of military memorabilia. At the same time it is a quite useful publication in other ways, because it does contain a considerable amount of information on the German organizations and their way of operating in Hitler's Third Reich. As the title clearly points out, the author's purpose is to highlight those political and state organizations within Germany that used enameled organizational badges and pins to further their cause.

• **ENCYCLOPEDIA OF GOVERNMENTAL ADVISORY ORGANIZATIONS**. Fourth Edition. Edited by Denise Allard Adzigan (Gale Research Company, 1983. 964 Pages. \$350.00). This book provides detailed coverage of the many groups that advise the President, the Congress, and the various departments, bureaus, and committees of all branches of the government. More than 3,900 such groups are identified and described, each in a detailed entry. The entries are arranged in the main part of the directory under ten broad subject categories, and a single

alphabetical and keyword index identifies the specific advisory bodies. Groups that have been done away with are also included if they are of historical interest and if they issued important publications and reports.

HUMAN FACTORS IN MECHANIZED WARFARE, by Richard E. Simpkin (Pergamon Press, 1983. 173 Pages. \$29.50).

The author, a retired British Army Brigadier and long-serving armor officer, offers his thoughts on a future general war that includes nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons from its start, and again advances his belief in the overriding importance of the tank on the battlefield of the future.

How will tank crewmen and mechanized infantrymen live and eat and exercise if they cannot leave their vehicles? How long will they be able to survive under those conditions? What uniforms should they have; what rations should they eat; what special exercises can they perform to keep themselves physically fit? These are some of the questions the author poses and attempts to answer. They are important questions, and certainly his suggested solutions are worth considering.

At the same time, Brigadier Simpkin advances his theory that tank crewmen should be carefully selected individuals, and that they should be treated much as air crewmen are treated — others do most of the heavy, dirty work while they conserve their energies for fighting the battle. He feels the same criteria used for selecting pilots should be used for selecting the crewmen of our main battle tanks. Simpkin feels that individuals so selected would be far better able to adjust to the conditions of NBC warfare.

Too, he advocates smaller infantry squad sizes — perhaps seven soldiers — and suggests that these infantrymen should seldom fight away from their vehicles. Their main function, as Simpkin sees it, is to protect the tanks, which will be the decisive element on the battlefield.

Apart from his theories about living and operating under NBC conditions for extended periods of time, the author's advocacy of the tank and "select" tank crewmen smacks of the writings about the "horse cavalry" in the "old" days. Back then, many felt that service in any other branch was secondary and that infantrymen existed simply to be "horse-holders." His claims for the tank rival those of certain aviation advocates in World War II — leave it to us, we'll win the war for you. You just come along and watch the show — and hold our coats.

FROM SAVANNAH TO YORKTOWN: THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION IN THE SOUTH. By Henry Lumpkin (University of South Carolina Press, 1981. 346 Pages. \$24.95). Reviewed by Captain Michael E. Long, United States Army.

The Yorktown Bicentennial in 1981 produced a plethora of historical volumes that drew considerable attention to the closing months of the American Revolution. Many of these books focused on the major personalities associated with the Yorktown campaign, while others emphasized the military strategy of the siege itself.

A different kind of volume has been written by Henry Lumpkin, who is a professor of history at the University of South Carolina. His book, about the Revolution in the southern colonies, covers the period from the early encounters in 1775 to the end of the war in 1783, although most of his narrative centers on the years between 1778 and 1781.

One of Lumpkin's more interesting chapters deals with the clandestine operations of Brigadier General Francis Marion, known to the British forces as "The Swamp Fox." Lumpkin describes Marion as "the model field commander, riding into battle at the head of his men but seldom participating in the actual fighting, pulling back from a situation as the situation demanded."

Lumpkin also draws on the rich

resources of museums, government agencies, and recent archaeological excavations to portray uniforms and the construction of fortifications and weapon emplacements.

His book is an example of historical writing at its best and one that will hold the attention of any reader. It also makes a handsome addition to a personal library.

EMPIRES IN THE BALANCE. By H.P. Willmott (Naval Institute Press, 1982. 487 Pages. \$24.95). Reviewed by Lieutenant Colonel C.T. Guthrie, United States Army.

This book is unique among military histories of World War II. Instead of concentrating on a single battle or campaign, or examining World War II from a single nation's perspective, the author analyzes Japanese theater strategy, its implementation, and the Allied response to it. Infinitely detailed, this book examines a relatively narrow period of the war — the first five months — in the Pacific from a multi-national, strategic perspective.

The heart of the book is a chronological analysis of those five months, beginning with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941 and ending with the Doolittle raid on the Japanese mainland in the spring of 1942. The author is critical of the military commanders and the political leaders on both sides, and his criticism appears logical and well-supported by his evidence.

Willmott's book will appeal more to the student of World War II history than to the general reader. His in-depth analysis of this important but relatively short period of the war may leave the non-specialist with more questions than answers.

For the military historian, though, this book deserves attention. It is penetrating, well-researched, and thorough, and it presents a perspective of World War II in the Pacific that other authors often overlook.

THE FINAL COLLAPSE. By General Cao Van Vien (Center of Military History, United States

Army, 1983. 184 Pages, Softbound). Reviewed by Dr. Mike Fisher, University of Kansas.

The final curtain fell on a scene of wild disorder and utter chaos. At 1000, 30 April 1975, Lieutenant General Tranh Van Minh, the supreme South Vietnamese commander, ordered an end to all fighting. South Vietnam's struggle for freedom died with barely a whimper.

The years immediately preceding the surrender come into sharp focus in this slim monograph. The author, who chaired South Vietnam's Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1965 to 1975, tells of the events that followed the American withdrawal in 1972 and the signing of the Paris Accords a year later.

Writing from personal experience, sympathetic interviews, and available documents, Vien emphasizes the failures that led to the debacle that brought dishonor to the South Vietnamese military services during their country's final hour. His analysis of the South Vietnamese effort will disturb many, particularly those involved in the conflict in that tragic land. But he also makes a strong case for America's contribution to that failure.

Vien admits that the United States contributed heavily to the personnel and logistical readiness of the South Vietnamese forces during the halcyon years when one million men were under arms in South Vietnam. But he contends that that support proved the weak link in the ability of the South Vietnamese forces not only to endure but to prevail. For when U.S. support changed from graduated response to graduated withdrawal, the South Vietnamese simply could not meet the increasing North Vietnamese challenge.

Despite the obvious grounds for disagreement with the author's thesis that failure rested with the Americans, this book does warrant a careful reading by soldiers of all ranks. It flows in an easy rhythm that mirrors the clarity and precision of the author's mind, and he easily wed specific events to general military maxims. Vien manages to pull

together the obtuse parts of a complex equation, proceeding logically to solution and analysis. One wonders, though, why these abilities lay dormant during the ten years Vien served as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the South Vietnamese armed forces.

THE NON-NUCLEAR DEFENSE OF CITIES: THE HIGH FRONTIER SPACE-BASED DEFENSE AGAINST ICBM ATTACK. By Daniel O. Graham (Abt Books, 1983. 152 Pages. \$25.00). Reviewed by Lieutenant Roy F. Houchin II, United States Air Force.

Calling on a wide range of experts, the author has compiled a most interesting and informative alternative to our present defense doctrine of mutual assured destruction — assured survival, based on the concepts outlined in the so-called High Frontier Study.

This study conceived a system made up of a combination of spaceborne boost-phase and mid-point interceptors to attack ballistic missiles, as well as a ground-based missile defensive system, all using non-nuclear mechanisms.

The author describes how such a system could be developed by the military services and put into use before 1990. He believes the system would be technologically feasible, fiscally responsible, and politically practical. He also includes a table that outlines the prerequisites for the rapid and efficient acquisition of the system. Although the political and popular appeals of the High Frontier concept are reported as being favorable, its practical aspects remain to be tested — and that depends on the Congress and the American public.

THE BATTLE FOR THE FALKLANDS. By Max Hastings and Simon Jenkins (Norton, 1983. 384 Pages. \$17.50). Reviewed by Leroy Thompson, Festus, Missouri.

Although many books have appeared on the South Atlantic War, this one is by far the best, especially

in its coverage of the ground conflict. Max Hastings, like other correspondents who have written books about the war, was in the South Atlantic with the British task force. But he is also an ex-paratrooper and a well-regarded military historian. As a result of his background, he was accepted as one of their own by the assault troops of the Parachute Regiment and by the Royal Marine Commandos. Accordingly, he was able to get a good inside view of the drive for Port Stanley.

Hastings' work in the book is well complemented by that of Simon Jenkins, who covered the war in Whitehall. Jenkins reports the political maneuvering in London and Washington and at the United Nations, and he does a good job of analyzing why Argentina thought the British would not respond to the invasion. His political coverage is well done and offers some interesting thoughts on a western democracy fighting a war under the microscope of public opinion.

Still, this book is at its best on its coverage of the ground conflict and has the best general coverage of the operations of the 3d Commando Brigade, the 5th Brigade, and the SAS/SBS raiding units. For those interested in tactics, the book contains some good hard data on the Goose Green battle and the "Battle for the Mountains" around Port Stanley. The logistical side of the operation is also covered, and the reader gains an appreciation for the gamble Britain took in going to war so far from home with a navy geared to anti-submarine warfare with NATO support.

HUMANITY IN WARFARE, by Geoffrey Best (Columbia University Press, 1980. 400 Pages). Reviewed by Lieutenant Colonel John C. Spence III, United States Army Reserve.

This is a well-written history of the idea that there ought to be some humanitarian limitations on how warfare is conducted. It is dedicated to the memory of the late Piers Boissier, who was a member of the International

Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Indeed, as Geoffrey Best points out, the ICRC played an important role in the latter part of the 19th Century in the formulation of the Hague Conventions. Furthermore, the ICRC is still very much involved in adding new provisions to the Geneva Conventions.

Yet the contemporary norms and notions of humane treatment of non-combatants and prisoners of war found in the Hague and Geneva conventions have historical roots that go back as far as the Later Enlightenment period.

The student of military history and international relations will find the author's historical analysis thought-provoking. As a professional historian, Best shows that ideas of humane behavior in warfare changed with regard to the shifting balance of power and the advances in military technology and tactics in each historical era.

Obviously, in the pre-Napoleonic era, the ideas covering humane behavior in warfare were governed by the realities of that historical period. Similarly, the advent of nuclear weapons has revolutionized contemporary thinking on the nature of war itself.

As a result of the nuclear age, as Best points out, "The law of war was turned on its head. Discrimination of targets, economy of force, minimization of civilian damage flew out of the window."

The author, a professor of history at the University of Sussex, has done an admirable job of describing the somewhat circuitous development of the law of warfare up to the present time. When he has finished reading the book, hopefully the reader will feel that humanitarian limitations on how war is conducted are increasing rather than decreasing.

THE SCHWEINFURT-REGENSBURG MISSION, by Martin Middlebrook (Scribner's, 1983. 363 Pages. \$22.50). Reviewed by Lieutenant Colonel Jack Mudie, United States Air Force Retired.

On 17 August 1943, 376 B-17 bombers of the Eighth United States Air Force set out from their bases in England on a double mission deep into Germany — 146 were to bomb the Messerschmitt aircraft plants at Regensburg and then proceed over the Alps to post-strike bases in North Africa, while the larger force of 230 bombers were to bomb the ball-bearing center at Schweinfurt.

The latter force was to return to its bases in England after delivering what the Army Air Force planners believed would be a critical blow to the entire German war production capability. Ball bearings were a vital part of Germany's sophisticated weapon industry, and almost half of them were produced in the factories centralized at Schweinfurt.

The attacks cost the Eighth Air Force 60 B-17s (24 at Regensburg, 36 at Schweinfurt) with their 600 crew members and these losses were a severe blow to the AAF's daylight precision bombing program. The German air force lost 42 aircraft, although the U.S. bomber crews reported 288 German aircraft destroyed, 81 probables, and 103 damaged. The production of ball bearings was interrupted, but the failure on the part of the Allied air forces to follow up this attack more aggressively, especially after a second raid two months later, allowed the Germans to disperse the industry. (On the second attack, 14 October 1943 — "Black Thursday," it has been called since — the Eighth lost 60 of the 291 bombers it dispatched and another 600 crew members.)

Middlebrook, a well-known British writer, has written a jewel of a history of the double mission on 17 August. His eye for detail, especially in the numerous quotations he uses from survivors on both sides, is remarkable. His text is well illustrated, and his superb appendixes include a list of each of the aircraft that were destroyed on both sides as well as a roster of all of the airmen who were killed on that fateful day.

As a sidelight, Middlebrook lays to rest two United States Air Force

legends. One of these legends is that of the "Abbeville Kids." The other is the story that the Luftwaffe deliberately singled out the 100th Bomb Group's B-17s because of an earlier alleged gear-dropping (surrender) incident in which a 100th crew that had promptly machinegunned the escorting German fighter. Middlebrook's convincing interviews with Luftwaffe and AAF veterans indicate that there was no such select group of German aces at Abbeville, and that the incident with the 100th Bomb Group's B-17 was neither deliberate nor followed up by a Luftwaffe vendetta.

General Curtis LeMay, the "tough, hard-hearted" man who led the Regensburg force as a colonel and later became the USAF's Chief of Staff, once wrote that "in the case of most war memorials, something happens inside your chest and behind your eyes when you read the inscription." This book, dedicated to the memory of those U.S. airmen who lost their lives while flying from the author's country during World War II, is such a memorial.

RECENT AND RECOMMENDED

SMALL ARMS AND CANNONS. By B.J. Marchant Smith and P.R. Halsam. Brassey's Battlefield Weapon Systems and Technology.

FROM HALF-TRACK TO LEOPARD 2: THE COMPLETE ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE KRAUSS-MAFFEI ORDONANCE DEPARTMENT. By Walter J. Spielberger. The Nautical and Aviation Publishing Company of America, 1982. 316 Pages. \$39.95.

THE GERMAN SNIPER, 1914-1945. By Peter R. Senich. Paladin Press, 1982. 445 Pages. \$49.95.

19 STARS: A STUDY IN MILITARY CHARACTER AND LEADERSHIP. By Edgar F. Puryear, Jr. A Reprint. Presidio Press, 1981. 437 Pages. Softbound.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE STABILITY — THE LATIN AMERICAN CONNECTION. Edited by R. Daniel McMichael and John D. Paulus. National Strategy Information Center, 1983. 138 Pages. \$7.00, Softbound.

NAVY AND EMPIRE. By James L. Stokesbury. William Morrow and Company, 1983. \$16.95.

THE BOMB AND EUROPEAN SECURITY. By Guido Vigeveno. Indiana University Press, 1983. 131 Pages. \$6.95, Softbound.

U.S. MARINES IN VIETNAM: AN EXPANDING WAR, 1966. By Jack Shulimson. Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, 1982. 390 Pages. Softbound.