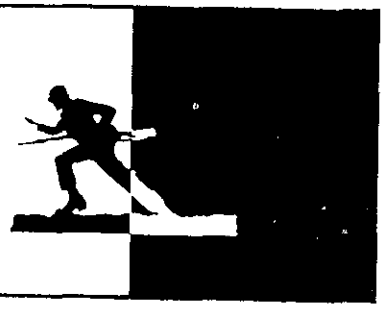
BOOK REVIEWS



The U.S. Superintendent of Documents recently sent us a copy of his most recent catalog of publications; it contains a number of books of interest to the military professional. He also sent us an announcement concerning a new publication: SOVIET MILITARY POWER, 1984, 3d Edition (S/N 008-000-00399-8, 136 Pages, $5.00). This publication compares the latest Soviet strength with that of the United States and also provides a detailed report on the structure of the Soviet military organization.

The catalog, Number Y-4, lists such interesting publications as LEADERSHIP IN ORGANIZATIONS (S/N 008-027-00002-1, 1983, 718 Pages, $27.00); SOVIET ARMY OPERATIONS (S/N 008-020-00945-8, 1983, 352 Pages, $8.00); THE UNITED STATES ARMY IN VIETNAM — ADVICE AND SUPPORT: THE EARLY YEARS, 1941-1960 (Paperbound Edition, S/N 008-020-00933-9, 1983, 391 Pages, $11.00); 1983 WEAPON SYSTEMS (S/N 008-020-00934-2, 1983, 133 Pages, $6.50); CROSS CHANNEL ATTACK (S/N 008-029-00020-2, 1951, reprinted 1977, 519 Pages, $29.00); and BREAKOUT AND PURSUIT (S/N 008-029-00021-2, 1961, 748 Pages, $26.50).

All orders to the Superintendent of Documents should be accompanied by payment in the form of check or money order made payable to the Superintendent of Documents. Payment may also be made by VISA or MasterCard, with the expiration date of the card noted.

We have also received a number of fine reference publications, the most important and useful being:

• **WORLD ARMY BADGES AND INSIGNIA SINCE 1939.** Omnibus Edition. By Guido Rosignoli (Sterling, 1984. 218 Pages. $16.95). This book combines two previously published books (ARMY BADGES OF WORLD WAR 2 and ARMY BADGES SINCE 1945) into one volume. Nearly 4,000 badges and insignia from the armies of Great Britain, the United States, the Soviet Union, Germany (the Third Reich and the modern German Federal and Democratic Republics), Poland, Italy, and Belgium are shown.

• **JANE'S MAIN BATTLE TANKS.** By Christopher F. Foss (Jane's, 1983. 205 Pages. $18.95). Although the material in this volume is based on the publisher's larger and more detailed volume — JANE'S ARMOUR AND ARTILLERY, 1982-83 — it has been updated where necessary. The book contains the developmental histories of each main battle tank (MBT) in service throughout the world, complete lists of variants, and details on some of the new MBT designs that may enter service in the late 1980s or early 1990s. It has several hundred photographs and line drawings, a glossary of abbreviations, and a useful index.

• **WHEELED ARMOURED FIGHTING VEHICLES IN SERVICE.** By B. T. White (Sterling, 1983. 128 Pages. $16.95). This book makes an excellent companion for the one on main battle tanks, because wheeled armored fighting vehicles are becoming quite popular in many of the world's armies and their total numbers are steadily increasing. The author gives detailed accounts of more than 50 such vehicles and their variants in use today. His text is nicely supplemented with full color and black-and-white photographs and numerous line drawings.

• **WORLD ARMIES.** Second Edition. Edited by John Keegan (Gale, 1983. 688 Pages. $80.00). As the first edition did when it was published in 1979, this second edition of an outstanding reference series provides country-by-country surveys of armies and military establishments. Each survey contains such information as equipment and its procurement, budgets, paramilitary forces, and recent military operations. Each was prepared by an area specialist, many of whom are at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. Keegan himself did the U.S. survey, and he treats us most kindly.

• **ROYAL UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE AND BRASSEY'S DEFENCE YEARBOOK, 1984.** Edited by the Staff of the Institute (Pergamon, 1984. 405 Pages. $50.00). This is the 94th edition of one of the world's most popular military yearbooks. It contains a number of essays that should interest most Infantrymen — Lance Davidson's "The Impact of Precision-Guided Munitions on War"; Neville Cross's "Trends in Land Warfare: Air Defence in the Field"; J. R. Walker's "The Future of Land/Air Warfare"; and John Laffin's "The Middle East: Old Game — With New Rules." Too, Richard Tubb's "Defence Literature of the Year" is a most useful compilation of recent published titles in the field of defense studies.

• **HANDBOOK ON WEAPONRY.** Second English Edition. General Director: Dr. R. Germershausen (Rheinmetall GmBH, 1982. 752 Pages. $19.95, Softbound). This book, a translation of the fifth German edition of 1980, discusses the major aspects of armament technology: explosives, ballistics, targets and guide lines; the application of probability theory; and automatic weapons, guns, munitions, and missiles. It is particularly important for the weapons technician, but it

can serve as a most useful information source for all Infantrymen. It contains numerous tables and illustrations.

• **JANE'S 1983-84 MILITARY REVIEW.** Edited by Ian V. Hogg. Third Year of Issue (Jane's, 1983. 173 Pages). While there are some similarities between this and the Brassey's yearbook mentioned above, the general tone is different and the concentration is more on the tools of war. In this volume, for example, there are separate essays on land mines, military pistols, helicopters, remotely piloted vehicles, light antiaircraft defense weapons, and electronic warfare. Each essay has been written by someone who knows his subject.

• **COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD AND THEIR LEADERS YEARBOOK, 1984.** (Gale, 1984. 2 Volumes, 1,524 Pages. $80.00/set.) Like its predecessors, this two-volume set offers a good deal of information about today's world in addition to the 168 individual country sections prepared by the U.S. State Department. For example, there is in this set such information as U.S. embassies and consulates and their personnel; the climates of the world; the chiefs of state and cabinet members of foreign governments; and the State Department's "International Treaty Organizations" series.

• **A DICTIONARY OF SOLDIER TALK.** By Colonel John R. Elting, *et. al.* (Scribner's, 1984. 416 Pages. $35.00). This book, put together by three long-serving but now retired soldiers, includes definitions of more than 3,000 words and phrases that have been common in American soldiers' speech at some time from the Revolution to the Vietnam War. (An appendix of terms unique to the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps is also included.) The entries range from the technical to the obscene ("shrapnel" and "drop your laundry") and tells of each term's origin, period of use, definition, and, in some cases, etymologies and examples of use. Infantrymen everywhere should really appreciate this one.

• **THE WARS IN VIETNAM, CAMBODIA AND LAOS, 1945-1982: A BIBLIOGRAPHIC GUIDE.** By Richard Dean Burns and Milton Leitenberg (ABC-CLIO, 1983. 290 Pages. $58.50). This book is a comprehensive guide to the literature surrounding U.S. involvement in the Indochina wars — the Vietnamese effort to expel the French, 1946-1954; the civil war between North and South Vietnam, with the United States intervening, 1961-1975; and the Vietnamese invasion of Cambodia and the Communist Chinese counterattack, 1977-1982. The citations are divided into nine chapters, and each chapter is divided by topic. The works deemed most important to the topic under discussion are emphasized by commentaries. The book also has a general chronology, a glossary of terms, an author index, maps, and tables.

MILITARY LEADERSHIP: IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE. By Robert L. Taylor and William E. Rosenbach (Westview Press, 1984. $25.00). Reviewed by George G. Eddy, University of Texas, Austin.

As Custer wondered where all those Indians were coming from, we also might wonder where all the books such as this one keep coming from, and, perhaps more important, why they keep coming. This book purports to represent a pursuit of excellence. The authors, both U.S. Air Force officers, may be in hot pursuit of excellence, but they have yet to find it. Their book is old hat, with nothing new to be found in it. All the pieces have been published elsewhere.

Divided into four parts with selections from 22 authors, the book opens with the pretentious assertion that "never before has a text addressed the specific concerns of military leadership." But two of the included articles are, in fact, from just such a book, MILITARY LEADERSHIP, which was published in 1981.

It is all downhill from this point as far as breaking new ground is concerned. True, some of the pieces are interesting, such as Stokesbury's "Leadership as an Art" and S.L.A. Marshall's "Leaders and Leadership." But we have read them before exactly as printed. And despite pulling nearly all of their material from the past, the authors neglect to mention the encyclopedic STOGDILL'S HANDBOOK OF LEADERSHIP, which was also published in 1981.

The most significant observation about this book is readily derived from one of the articles in it. Consider these perceptively pungent and ironic remarks by Admiral James Stockdale in his article called "Educating Leaders": "The social sciences have not yet outgrown an ideology of relativism, an egalitarianism of ideas, a culture-centered positivism, allegedly scientific, that most philosophers have long since called into question." (Translation: claptrap from the social sciences.)

Stockdale, of course, was not referring to this book, but to the tenor of the times, of which this book proves to be a foremost illustration. The authors, as you might expect, dismiss Stockdale's charge in such great haste that they overlook their own embracement of this flawed concept.

Why did the authors, therefore, include the Stockdale piece? One might better ask: Given the publishers' fatuous claim of originality, why did they publish this book? It does not deserve a place in a military man's library.

THE GENERAL: MacARTHUR AND THE MAN CALLED "DOC." By Roger Egeberg (Hippocrene, 1983. 242 Pages. $12.95). Reviewed by Major John H. Van Vliet III, United States Army.

The old adage says, "Don't judge a book by its cover." That's certainly good advice for anyone who picks up this book, for its flyleaf come-on and its foreword lead the reader to believe that the author, who had been General Douglas MacArthur's personal physician and aide during the last

part of World War II, would tell of "The General's" human side. Unfortunately, the book fails to live up to that happy prospect. In fact, it also fails to do much of anything else.

Doctor Egeberg joined MacArthur's staff at the beginning of 1944 and stayed with MacArthur through the end of the war. He does provide a colorfully written, chronological sequence of stories that, for the most part, centers on "The General." His writing is vivid and resembles that of well-schooled diarists of a century ago. But the stories very rarely penetrate or provide insight into the heart of the man. All the reader is left with is a number of nicely described cameos of the same General MacArthur he already knew from the newsreels and the public information photographs: MacArthur with his pipe; MacArthur, the superb speaker; MacArthur watching over his troops; MacArthur, the iron-willed and dignified commander. All are there, and all are painted with a prose that matches photographs in their exactness — and in their lack of depth.

For reasons of his own, the author chooses to keep the reader at arm's length from "The General." He has kept to himself whatever real insights he may have had into MacArthur's character and personality. Those who would know something of General MacArthur should avoid this book. There are others that do a far better job.

INSIDE THE GREEN BERETS: THE FIRST THIRTY YEARS. By Colonel Charles M. Simpson III (Presidio Press, 1983. 229 Pages. $15.95). Reviewed by Captain Bryan Evans III, United States Army.

There are not many factual accounts of the United States Army Special Forces (USASF), primarily because much of the material pertaining to that particular group of soldiers is still classified. Unfortunately, this lack of reliable printed information has created a rather wide gap of information between the many sensational and misinformed fictional publications that have appeared in recent years and the few dry official historical accounts that have been published.

This book bridges that gap nicely. The author spent nine of his thirty years of active service in the Army with the Special Forces — with the 10th Special Forces Group when it was first organized, and then with the 5th Special Forces Group as its deputy commander and its commander. (He does admit that his knowledge of today's Special Forces is somewhat deficient when it comes to current operational concepts.)

Colonel Simpson traces the development of USASF back to the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and the principle of behind-the-lines operations, for the initial development of USASF doctrine came from old OSS documents. He highlights the 10th SF Group's operations during the late 1950s and early 1960s to illustrate the need for such units at that time. Vietnam was moving to the forefront of U.S. policy, and the initial burden of carrying out that policy fell to the embryonic 1st SF Regiment.

Most of the book is devoted to the Vietnam experience, for it is there that Colonel Simpson feels the SF image became distorted. He is not uncritical of USASF actions in Vietnam, but he is not devasting in his criticism either. In fact, he confines most of his comments to the formation of the Civilian Irregular Defense Groups (CIDGs) and the mobile strike forces, quick reaction units known as "Mike forces."

Simpson feels that if the efforts towards Vietnamization had started earlier, and if the Mike force program had reached full fruition before it did, there may have been no reason to commit U.S. combat forces to the fighting in Vietnam. This point is certainly arguable.

He does a good job with his subject and feels that the USASFs still provide the country with a low-budget, low-risk, high-potential power-projection force for use in low intensity conflicts. Well thought out and provocative, Colonel Simpson's book is must reading for the military professional.

WAR IN THE DESERT. By James Lucas (Beaufort Books, 1982. 284 Pages. $16.95). Reviewed by Captain John C. Edgecomb, United States Army.

In this book, John Lucas presents a detailed account of the British Eighth Army's victory at El Alamein in late 1942. He does this by taking accounts from the ordinary soldier and weaving them into the bigger picture presented by regimental and divisional plans. It is not only the story of the British soldier, but also of the Australian, the South African, and the New Zealander, many of whom served in the Eighth Army during that momentous battle.

Although his intention is a good one — to put the reader in the tank, or foxhole, or in the desert heat — Lucas never really succeeds in doing that. Still, his book is an interesting one and easy to read, and it is recommended to military professionals.

THE GRAND STRATEGY OF THE SOVIET UNION. By Edward N. Luttwak (St. Martin's, 1983. 242 Pages. $14.95). Reviewed by Captain Don Rightmyer, United States Air Force.

Observers around the world are still wondering what the recent change in the Soviet top leadership will mean for the Soviet Union, for East-West relations, and for the future. Although Edward Luttwak published his book during Yuri Andropov's time in power, he certainly believes that the reader should look for clues not to the specific holder of the General Secretaryship but to the nature and history of the USSR itself.

Throughout the book, Mr. Luttwak focuses on both the strengths and the weaknesses of the Soviet Union in both external and internal affairs. One example is his belief that the rise of nationalism among the

Soviet Union's population can only be divisive to Soviet internal strength. He also believes that the state and nature of Soviet economics have served as a motivating force for the pursuit of military power during the recent years of U.S. military decline. In fact, U.S. reemergence as a recognized power has been very disconcerting to the Kremlin's leaders.

The author sees an improvement in one of the main Soviet tools — military power — over recent years. He believes that, in addition to the obvious increases in numerical strength, the Soviet officer corps has improved in quality and has experienced a positive change in attitude, evidenced particularly by the campaign in Afghanistan.

What of Soviet adventurism in the future? Luttwak believes that the potential exists for Soviet imperialistic actions, but that they are not inevitable. He believes that the main instigation for such behavior would not be opportunities for expansion but perceived threats to Soviet security. He ends by stating that one strong deterrent against expansionist efforts is the fear that the Soviet Union might be reduced to its natural level, which would be far less than the USSR's current world status.

Luttwak is a noted authority, and this book certainly adds to his reputation for insightful, thought-provoking consideration of Soviet and strategic matters.

THE ROAD TO BERLIN: CONTINUING THE HISTORY OF STALIN'S WAR WITH GERMANY. By John Erickson (Westview Press, 1983. 877 Pages. $42.50). Reviewed by Alexander S. Birkos, Mount Shasta, California.

The author of this work needs no introduction to those with an interest in Soviet affairs and history. Erickson, now Director of Defense Studies at the University of Edinburgh, is the author of two previously published books *(The Soviet High Command, 1918-1941* and *The Road to Stalingrad)* that may be viewed as "prequels" to the current work. These three volumes, along with Albert Seaton's *The Russo-German War, 1941-45,* have contributed greatly in illuminating the broad course of military operations on the Eastern Front during World War II.

In fact, anyone who intends to undertake a serious study of the Soviet-German war would do well to read these four books. And anyone who undertakes to write a book about that conflict should note Erickson's remarks about historical sources and extant Soviet literature that appear in the second part of his current book. His comments about the qualitative value of the various sources will help any writer to avoid historiographical pitfalls.

This book is largely a descriptive and a survey history. It opens on the eve of the Soviet counteroffensive at Stalingrad in 1942 and ends with the Red Army's entry into Berlin and Prague in 1945. Erickson describes virtually every battle in prodigious detail. His focus is almost exclusively on ground operations; the air operations receive less attention, and his coverage of naval operations is almost nil.

Of almost equal focus, but most fascinating, are the political-diplomatic aspects of the war as seen in Stalin's dealings and maneuverings with Churchill and Roosevelt. From 1943 on, the Soviet leader was quick to grasp the political implications and opportunities that opened up to him as a result of the Red Army's victories.

Erickson contends that there can be little doubt that the Soviet war against Germany was largely Stalin's war. His control over all aspects of the Soviet war effort and operational planning was total. Stalin did intrude into military matters much as Hitler did, but at least after 1942 he had the good sense to heed the advice of the military professionals much more carefully than did his counterpart across the way.

Despite Erickson's high standard of research and his undeniable reputation as a scholar, this is not an easy book to read or to digest. The reader is faced with a massive amount of text, and the lack of an adequate number of maps — there are 16 all told — makes it difficult to follow the details of the battles. Charts and statistical tables, too, may have helped the reader to analyze the disposition and strength of the opposing forces and to keep track of the order of battle. As it is, the reader will have to keep an atlas close at hand.

But this book, despite its flaws, is worthy of study by the military professional. It can hardly be bested for its breadth as a descriptive survey.

RECENT AND RECOMMENDED

SIGNIFICA. By Irving Wallace, *et. al.* E.P. Dutton, 1983. 374 Pages. $15.95.
WEAPONS OF WAR. By Christy Campbell. Peter Bedrick Books, 1983. 304 Pages. $19.95.
THE WAR AGAINST HITLER: MILITARY STRATEGY IN THE WEST. Edited by Albert A. Nofi. Hippocrene Books, 1982. 273 Pages. $22.50.
BIRD: THE CHRISTMASTIDE BATTLE. By S.L.A. Marshall. A Reprint. The Battery Press, 1983. 206 Pages. $16.95.
THE 6th INFANTRY DIVISION IN WORLD WAR II, 1939-1945. Prepared by the Division Public Relations Section in 1947. A Reprint. The Battery Press, 1983. 180 Pages. $26.50.
INTREPID'S LAST CASE. By William Stevenson, 1983. 321 Pages. $16.95
THE OTHER WESTERN EUROPE: A POLITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE SMALLER DEMOCRACIES. Second Edition. By Earl H. Fry, *et. al.* ABC-CLIO, 1983. 288 Pages. $18.00.
ON THE BRINK: DEFENSE, DEFICITS, AND WELFARE SPENDING. By James L. Clayton. National Strategy Information Center, 1984. 158 Pages. $8.95, Softbound.
THE DICTIONARY OF HISTORIC NICKNAMES. By Carl Sifakis. Facts on File, 1984. 566 Pages. $29.95.
U.S. INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING AND NATIONAL SECURITY. By James L. Tyson. National Strategy Information Center, 1983. 160 Pages. $7.95, Softbound.
THE KAMIKAZES. By Edwin P. Hoyt. Arbor House, 1983. 333 Pages. $16.95.
DROP ZONE SICILY. By William B. Breuer. Presidio Press, 1983. 212 Pages. $15.95.
THE GURKHAS. By Byron Farwell. Norton, 1984. 317 Pages. $17.95.
THE GREAT WAR AT SEA. By Richard Hough. Oxford University Press, 1984. 353 Pages. $25.00.
THE UNITED STATES CAVALRY: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY. By Gregory J.W. Urwin. Sterling, 1984. 192 Pages. $17.95.
AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO THE ISRAELI AIR FORCE. By Bill Gunston. ARCO Publishing, 1983. 160 Pages. $9.95.