

BOOK REVIEWS



The office of the U.S. Superintendent of Documents again has told us of a number of recent publications that are now available from the U.S. Government Printing Office and that should be of interest to the military professional. Among them are:

- **FUNDAMENTALS OF TACTICAL COMMAND AND CONTROL — A SOVIET VIEW** (S/N 008-070-00514-0, 1984, 384 Pages, \$9.00) Brings to light Soviet theoretical principles of command and control in modern combat based on party resolutions concerning problems of control and on the experiences of past wars, military exercises, and changes in the means and methods of armed conflict.

- **DIRECTED ENERGY MISSILE DEFENSE IN SPACE** (S/N 052-003-00948-0, 1984, 104 Pages, \$4.50). Describes and offers assessment of certain "star wars" technologies that might form the basis of a future nationwide defense against Soviet nuclear ballistic missiles.

- **DEFENSE AGAINST BALLISTIC MISSILES** (S/N 008-047-00358-7, 1984, 32 Pages, \$1.50). Explains new possibilities for improving U.S. defenses against ballistic missile attack to further deter a deliberate attack. Also looks at a proposed combined U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative to slow the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to promote world peace.

As usual, all orders to the Government Printing Office must 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 card's expiration date being furnished.

We have received from the Army's Center of Military History its latest issue of *THE ARMY HISTORIAN* — Number 3, Spring 1984 (see *INFANTRY*, May-June 1984, page 44). It

contains a number of interesting essays such as "Answers About Additional Skill Indicator 5X," "Three Faces of Military History," and "Ten Important Books: Strategic Thought."

This quarterly publication is free for the asking to either military or civilian personnel. Requests for subscriptions should be sent to the managing editor, Bruce D. Hardcastle, U.S. Army Center of Military History, Pulaski Building, 20 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20314; *AUTOVON* 285-1278, or commercial 202/272-1278.

Stackpole Books (P.O. Box 1831, Harrisburg, PA 17105) has sent us the four most recent volumes — Numbers 7 through 10 — in its *TANKS ILLUSTRATED* series: *GERMAN TANKS, 1945 TO THE PRESENT*, by Peter Gudgin (1984, 72 Pages, \$7.95, Paperback); *U.S. BATTLE TANKS TODAY*, by Steven Zaloga and Michael Green (1984, 72 Pages, \$7.95, Paperback); *LAST OF THE PANZERS: GERMAN TANKS, 1944-1945*, by William Auerbach (1984, 64 Pages, \$7.95, Paperback); and *D-DAY TANK BATTLES: BEACHHEAD TO BREAKOUT*, by George Balin (1984, 64 Pages, \$7.95, Paperback).

Each volume is profusely illustrated, with the narratives based on the illustrations. Each is an authoritative and excellent reference source.

We also have another excellent reference book from the M.C.N. Press (P.O. Box 702073, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74170): *MEDALS, MILITARY AND CIVILIAN OF THE UNITED STATES*, by David Borthick and Jack Britton (1984, 290 Pages, \$12.95, Softcover). The authors account for more than 300 U.S. military and civilian medals and decorations from the earliest — the Andre Medal, created by Congress in 1780 — to the

latest, including the Multi-National Force Medal (Lebanon). Each medal is fully illustrated by a line drawing and described in considerable detail.

A four-page identification chart that shows 293 ribbons in full color is included, as is a separate section on appurtenances and devices.

And from the McLean County Historical Society (201 East Grove Street, Bloomington, Illinois 61701) we have received its recently published softcover book entitled *UNITED STATES MILITARY BUTTONS OF THE LAND SERVICES, 1787-1902*. Prepared by Martin A. Wyckoff (1984, 121 Pages, \$12.00), it describes the uniform buttons the U.S. Army used from 1787 to 1902, with references to the various sites where the buttons were found. The author's emphasis is less on the official usage of particular buttons than on their actual usage.

He also includes a proposed classification system. Although he designed the system especially for the archeologist, it does have general application. Based on the descending order of common elements, it shifts the emphasis away from the single specimen and toward the general group to which it belongs. He uses line drawings to illustrate the major characteristics of the various buttons.

Military historians and collectors should welcome this book, as well as the one from the M.C.N. Press.

Here is another interesting publication that has recently arrived in our office:

- **NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN WARS**, by Richard H. Dillon (*Facts on File*, 1983, 256 Pages, \$29.95). This is a profusely illustrated, easy-to-read account of the numerous wars that were fought between the Indians — the so-called Native Americans — and the white man between 1492 and 1891.

The bulk of the book concerns the

wars between the American settlers and the Plains and Prairie Indians from 1860 to 1890, a period the author calls "the bloodiest, most violent three decades in American history."

The author exhibits great sympathy for the Indians and deplores the way they were treated; he also extols their warrior virtues.

BROTHERS: BLACK SOLDIERS IN NAM, by Stanley Goff and Robert Sanders, with Clark Smith (Presidio Press, 1982. 201 Pages. \$14.95). Reviewed by Dr. Joe P. Dunn, Converse College.

The title of this slim volume is misleading. It is not a study of Black soldiers in Vietnam. Rather, it is the personal memoirs of two young Black draftee "grunts." Because they are typical, their story takes on larger significance for all Black soldiers in Vietnam.

Statistical studies demonstrate that Blacks constituted a high percentage of combat troops, that they spent longer times in the field than did whites, and that they suffered a disproportionate share of casualties. If we attempted to profile the average Vietnam grunt, he would be a young Black with no more than a high school education and one who had little understanding of the war and cared less. He was merely serving his time and trying to stay alive.

Stan Goff and Bob Sanders fit the profile perfectly. They did not know why they were in Vietnam, and the war had no personal meaning for them beyond survival. Every grunt who "humped the boonies" can identify with their common experiences of horror, boredom, exhaustion, fear, comradeship, and occasionally, heroism in the field. But the authors go beyond these experiences to express the special affinity of race. The accounts of time in the rear, the funtionary jobs that allowed some grunts to escape the field, and the ephemeral days of R&R ring true for all combat veterans.

While Goff and Sanders were quintessential grunts, they were also distinctive. Sanders was airborne and

won the Air Medal; Goff received the Distinguished Service Cross, one of the highest awards for bravery that a soldier can attain.

Despite the scores of first person narratives on the war, few come as close to capturing the average grunt's life in the boonies as does this fine book. I recommend it highly.

ABSARAKA: HOME OF THE CROWS. By Margaret Irvin Carrington (University of Nebraska Press, 1983. 284 Pages. \$7.95). Reviewed by Juana Wilson, Sheridan, Wyoming.

First published in 1868, this book is an authentic and fascinating chronicle of the 1866 military expedition that built and garrisoned Fort Phil Kearny, deep in Indian Territory. The author, a participant in the events, provides valuable insight into the history of the Indian wars that took place in the area that now encompasses the states of Wyoming and Montana.

The expedition was commanded by Margaret Carrington's husband, Colonel Henry B. Carrington of the 18th United States Infantry. His orders were to garrison Fort Reno on the Powder River and to build and garrison two new posts, Fort Phil Kearny (to be situated near the Big Horn Mountains in present-day Wyoming) and Fort C.F. Smith (to be located 90 miles to the north in present-day Montana).

The territory that Carrington was ordered to enter was acknowledged to be valuable hunting grounds that belonged to the Sioux, Cheyenne, Arapahoe, and Crow Indians. But a Treaty Council meeting that got under way at Fort Laramie during the summer of 1866 was expected to give the United States the right to build forts and establish a road through this part of the country. As it turned out, the Indian leaders did not ratify the proposed treaty. By then, though, Colonel Carrington's expedition was well on its way.

Mrs. Carrington managed to maintain a high degree of objectivity in the journal she maintained during the

course of the expedition, and it became the basis for this book. She sympathized with the Indian tribes, but remained loyal to the Army's cause.

The expedition did manage to build and garrison both forts, although hostile acts by the Indian tribes began to increase both in frequency and in intensity. Promised supplies and reinforcements failed to appear, and in the absence of cavalry, infantry had to be used in that role. Finally, the hostility of the Indian tribes culminated in the "Fetterman massacre" on 21 December 1866 near Fort Phil Kearny, an action that had a sobering effect on the rasher elements of the Army. These now realized that fighting the Indians was going to be considerably more than what in the Civil War they would have referred to as a patrol action.

An appendix to the book includes the report of the special commission that was sent to investigate the cause of the Fetterman debacle, as well as a historical sketch and a roster of the officers of the 18th Infantry.

Margaret Carrington, with her journal, made a unique contribution to the annals of the Indian Wars.

WITHOUT HONOR: DEFEAT IN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA. By Arnold R. Isaacs (Johns Hopkins, 1983. 559 Pages. \$19.95). Reviewed by Doctor Mike Fisher, University of Kansas.

The end came with surprising ease. In early March 1975, the North Vietnamese had attacked to the south through the central highlands in great force. Within days the South Vietnamese had crumbled and their retreat had gained momentum as panic spread and discipline vanished. By 30 April, the North Vietnamese had moved into Saigon virtually unopposed and their tank number 873 had slammed through the gates of the presidential palace, clearing the way for the ceremonial victory flag raising.

Behind that victory, though, ran a river of blood, for some two million

people had died during the almost three decades of war that had convulsed Vietnam. In this critical narrative, Isaacs, a correspondent for a Baltimore newspaper in Indochina between 1972 and 1975, tells the events of those three years, beginning with the signing of the Paris accords and ending with the collapse of both Vietnam and Cambodia.

He blends personal experience with extensive research to develop a work that is rich in detail and insight. He demonstrates an ability to move from the specific to the general, and uses his knowledge of the tragedies of that troubled land to analyze and dissect the policy and strategy that evolved half a world away in the United States.

As many veteran infantrymen will painfully recall, Vietnam proved almost unfathomable to most Americans. Isaacs addresses the convolution of our failed intentions with analytic compassion. His book provides invaluable insight into the, largely unrecorded events that took place in southeast Asia following American disengagement. It also serves as a provocative if critical primer on American strategy and politics in the Vietnam arena. Isaacs' criticism of American policy has relevance for understanding the Vietnam tragedy and the present world situation as well.

His book captures the essence of the final years and of Vietnam itself. In that strangely beautiful land, idealism often foundered on the rocks of practicality. There, the plans that were so logically articulated in the conference rooms in Washington eroded before the shifting sands of a society that we never fully understood.

UNIFORMS OF THE INDOCHINA AND VIETNAM WARS. By Leroy Thompson (Blandford, 1984. 160 Pages. \$17.95). Reviewed by Captain F.R. Hayse, United States Army.

As in his previously published *Uniforms of the Elite Forces*, Leroy

Thompson again shows us his avid interest in and favor towards elite military units. And again, as he did in his earlier work, he produces a number of technical flaws. For example, he identifies a U.S. Army Special Forces Mobile Strike Force (MSF) patch as belonging to the 5th Mike Force Command rather than to its actual affiliation to the III Corps MSF under B-36. And he shows an ARVN Special Forces shoulder patch being worn without specifying that the patch is an early — 1959-1963 — version.

These technicalities would probably mean little to the lay reader, but to the serious historian or knowledgeable professional soldier they illustrate a degree of superficial knowledge of U.S. special operations forces and a shallowness of research.

The book's title is also misleading — the text deals more with Thompson's simplified history of the 30-year conflict than with the military uniforms that were used in it. Despite the flaws, the narrative does read well and the photographs and illustrations do give a good representation of the myriad types of units, uniforms, and equipment that were used.

Although this book cannot be considered a must book to be read as a resource volume, interested readers will find it entertaining.

LANDSCAPE TURNED RED: THE BATTLE OF ANTIETAM. By Stephen W. Sears (Ticknor and Fields, 1983. \$17.95). Reviewed by Captain Gustav Person, New York Army National Guard.

In the late summer of 1862, the Confederacy had reached what has been called its "high water mark." Formal recognition from France and Great Britain was expected almost momentarily. Since early in the year, General Robert E. Lee and other Southern generals had delivered a string of military victories that had buoyed Southern hopes for a final victory.

In early September, with the dual aim of taking the war into Northern territory and forcing the Northern

army to give battle, Lee and his Army of Northern Virginia entered Maryland. President Abraham Lincoln, casting about for a new commander for the main Northern force, the Army of the Potomac, reluctantly gave the command to George B. McClellan, the "Young Napoleon" of popular fame but a leader who had failed to crush the main Southern army several months before.

In this most recent treatment of the battle of Antietam, Stephen Sears weaves a controversial account of the campaign, told largely through a collection of eyewitness accounts from previously unpublished letters, diaries, and dispatches that were compiled by two officers after the war.

While the battle itself is described in rich and often harrowing detail, the events leading up to the battle are the most compelling. We follow McClellan, the skilled engineer and organizer, as he is overcome by caution and totally misled by his intelligence reports of Lee's strength and dispositions, even after a complete copy of Lee's plans falls into his hands. Lee, on the other hand, finally manages to concentrate his forces behind Antietam Creek and fights McClellan to a standstill.

This book could easily be subtitled "The Rise and Fall of George McClellan," and Sears condemns McClellan at every turn. Sears also feels that the senior commanders of the Northern army, with few exceptions, were all incompetent.

Admirers of George McClellan will find little in this book to recommend it. Infantrymen, though, will appreciate the praise the author bestows on the courage and staunchness of the ordinary foot soldiers on both sides. If nothing else, Sears' treatment of this battle, which was primarily an infantry battle, makes this book an important addition to the history of the period.

VIETNAM RECONSIDERED: LESSONS FROM A WAR. Edited by Harrison E. Salisbury (Harper and

Row, 1984. 335 Pages. \$8.50, Paperback). Reviewed by Dr. Joe P. Dunn, Converse College.

I have looked forward to this book for more than a year, and I am sorely disappointed. Obviously this slim volume could not capture the reams of debate and controversy of the lively, heated four-day conference at the University of Southern California, from which the book came. But the brief inclusions are woefully inadequate. The slightly more than 300 pages are divided into 79 segments, few more than two or three pages in length. Several are a page long, and one is a single paragraph. The editor apparently wished to cram as many prominent names as possible into his table of contents.

The topics covered are the war itself; the role of journalists in it; the legacy of Vietnam for veterans and for the U.S. military services; the present state of Vietnam; and the Vietnamese people. None of these is developed in any detail. Left-leaning journalist-author William Shawcross's rethinking of postwar events in Indochina, with *mea culpa* overtones, is one of the more interesting.

For military professionals, the section on the effects and legacy of the war should be the most engaging. Here Salisbury is at his worst as he babbles cliches and stereotypes that are not consistent with the facts. He claims that a conspiracy of silence pervades the military services, that the war is not taught in the military academies or at the staff colleges, and that no major assessment has appeared in print. It would do Salisbury some good to consult the curriculum of the military schools, the pages of the war college journals, the current and projected volumes of the Vietnam War history projects, or the debate over Harry Summers' book.

The services may not have been as diligent as they could have been in reassessing their own tactical conduct of the war, but the subject of the Vietnam War is alive and well in the contemporary military services. The same cannot be said for this disappointing reincarnation from the past.

WE WILL BURY YOU. By Jan Sejna (Sidgwick and Jackson, 1982. 196 Pages. \$17.00). Reviewed by Lieutenant Bret G. Dalton, United States Army.

If you believe there is no worldwide, organized communist plot to overthrow the West, you are mistaken. Jan Sejna is reputedly the highest ranking communist ever to have defected. Formerly a Czech general and chief of staff to his country's minister of defense, he escaped to the United States in early 1968.

His book is divided into two parts. The first is an autobiographical sketch of his rapid rise in the Czech party; the second describes "the plan."

Sejna's position gave him access to "a detailed Soviet plan to subvert the West, country by country." His description of the four-part plan goes like this:

Phase I was the period of preparation for peaceful co-existence. This was roughly the period between 1956 and 1959, with Khrushchev and his destalinization program.

Phase II was "The Peaceful Co-existence Struggle," which ran from 1960 until 1972. During this phase, the East bloc was "to promote disunity in the West" through the manipulation of detente and the promotion of programs such as Willy Brandt's *Ostpolitik*.

Sejna says there are two major objectives of the third phase (apparently now in progress): the Soviet Union is to gain as much economic and technological assistance from the West as it can, and, simultaneously, this warming of relations will complete the erosion of NATO with the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Europe. Once this point is reached, the stage will be set for the final phase, "The Era of Global Democratic Peace," which supposedly will be about 1995.

The plan is a living document. According to Sejna, world events have altered the timetable, but have not changed the plan. His book is a concise work that is designed to enable all readers to gain a better understanding of the East bloc's mentality. It is

recommended to all who have any interest at all in the East-West conflict.

RECENT AND RECOMMENDED

WAR AND PEACE: SOVIET RUSSIA SPEAKS. Edited by Albert L. Weeks and William C. Bodie, with an essay by Frank R. Barnett. National Strategy Information Center, 1983. 51 Pages. \$1.95, Softbound.

MILITARY POWER AND THE ADVANCE OF TECHNOLOGY. New and Fully Revised Edition. By Seymour J. Deitchman. Westview Press, 1983. 278 Pages. \$27.50.

THE UNKNOWN PATTON. By Charles M. Province. Hippocrene Books, 1983. 261 Pages. \$20.00.

EUROPEAN ARMIES AND THE CONDUCT OF WAR. By Hew Strachan. Allen and Unwin, 1983. 224 Pages. \$12.50, Softbound.

COMBAT WORLD WAR II: EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS. Edited by Don Congdon. Arbor House, 1983. \$24.95.

COMBAT WORLD WAR II: PACIFIC THEATER OF OPERATIONS. Edited by Don Congdon. Arbor House, 1983. \$24.95.

HARRIER: SKI-JUMP TO VICTORY. Edited by John Godden. Pergamon-Brassey's, 1983. 132 Pages. \$9.00, Softbound.

NORMANDY — OVERLORD. By Tonie and Valmai Holt. Holt's Battlefield Guide Series. David and Charles, 1984. 64 Pages. \$3.95, Paperback.

THE YPRES SALIENT. By Tonie and Valmai Holt. Holt's Battlefield Tours. David and Charles, 1984. 48 Pages. \$3.95, Paperback.

GOD ON OUR SIDE: THE BRITISH PADRE IN WORLD WAR I. By Michael Moynihan. David and Charles, 1984. 231 Pages. \$18.95.

WEST TO CAMBODIA. By S.L.A. Marshall. A Reprint. The Battery Press, 1984. 253 Pages. \$16.95.

TWICE THE CITIZEN: A HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE, 1908-1983. U.S. Government Printing Office, 1984. S/N 008-029-00126-8. 450 Pages. \$11.00.

CURRENT MILITARY LITERATURE: COMMENT AND ABSTRACTS AND CITATIONS OF IMPORTANT ARTICLES FROM INTERNATIONAL MILITARY AND DEFENSE PERIODICALS. Edited by Major General J.I.H. Owen, OBE. Volume 1, Number 3, 1983. Oxford: The Military Press, 86 Pages, Softbound.

THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY: HISTORY AND DOCUMENTS. Edited by William M. Leary. The University of Alabama Press, 1984. 190 Pages. \$9.95, Paperback.

GERMAN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE IN WORLD WAR II: THE ABWEHR. By Lauran Paine. Stein and Day, 1984. 199 Pages. \$16.95.

THE GRENADA INTERVENTION: ANALYSIS AND DOCUMENTATION. By William C. Gilmore. Facts on File, 1984. 120 Pages. \$14.95.

THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR, 1642-1651: AN ILLUSTRATED MILITARY HISTORY. By Philip J. Haythornthwaite. Sterling, 1984. 160 Pages. \$17.95.

THE SOVIET CONTROL STRUCTURE: CAPABILITIES FOR WARTIME SURVIVAL. By Harriet and William Scott. Crane Russak, 1983. 142 Pages. \$7.95, Paperback.