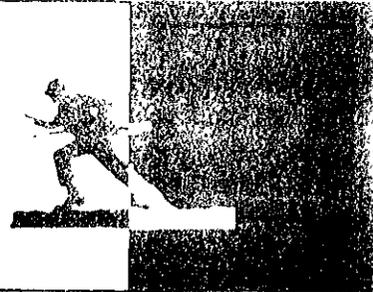


BOOK REVIEWS



The office of the U.S. Superintendent of Documents again has told us about a number of its new publications, two of which are reprints:

- **OMAHA BEACHHEAD** (S/N 008-029-00128-4, 1984 Reprint, 176 Pages, \$8.50). This publication first appeared in 1945 as part of the Chief of Military History's "American Forces in Action" series. It concentrates on the planning and preparations for the landings on OMAHA Beach on 6 June 1944, the landings themselves, and the subsequent seven days of fighting to secure the beachhead.

- **ST. LO** (S/N 008-029-00127-6, 1984 Reprint, 136 Pages, \$8.50). The original publication, which appeared in 1946, was also one of the "American Forces in Action" series. It covers the period 7-19 July 1944, the period that saw the most intense hedgerow fighting in Normandy. The narrative concentrates on the activities of the U.S. XIX Corps and concludes with the capture of St. Lo by units of the 29th Division.

- **CHEMICAL WARFARE** (S/N 008-020-00996-2, 1984, 16 Pages, \$1.25). This publication explains why the U.S. chemical defense and chemical weapons modernization programs are so important to the nation's security.

- **GRENADA DOCUMENTS: AN OVERVIEW AND SELECTION** (S/N 008-000-00408-1, 1984, 884 Pages, \$19.00). This publication contains an introduction to the documents that were captured during the 1983 Grenada operations and selections from them. The documents — primary sources — record the evolution of a communist state.

- **HISTORY, FROM AMERICA'S BEGINNING TO THE SPACE FRONTIER** (Catalog S-704, 1984, Free for the asking). Posters, books,

photopaks, and pamphlets — 59 items all told — are described in this recently issued catalog. Item prices range from \$2.75 to \$142.00.

All of these publications may be purchased from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Department MK, Washington, D.C. 20401.

Here are several interesting and informative books from other publishing houses:

- **CAEN: ANVIL OF VICTORY**. By Alexander McKee (St. Martin's Press, 1984, 40th Anniversary Reissue, 368 Pages, \$16.95). This book first appeared in 1964 under the title *Last Round Against Rommel*. It has not only been reissued (to mark the 40th anniversary of the Normandy landings), it has also been revised to include certain information that has come to light during the past 20 years. The author concentrates on telling the story of the fighting that took place in the British Second Army's area; his story is liberally laced with personal accounts of the events as seen by British, Canadian, and German soldiers and by the French inhabitants of the area. He concludes his story with the clearing of the Falaise pocket during the last week of August 1944.

- **HISTORY OF THE MILITIA AND THE NATIONAL GUARD**. By John K. Mahon (Macmillan, 1983, 374 Pages, \$20.75). The author is a well-known military historian with a long list of published books and articles to his credit. In this book, another in the distinguished series called "The Macmillan Wars of the United States," the author has given us a detailed, authoritative history of "America's irregular army," beginning with the colonial militia. Massachusetts in 1642 was the first colony to create a unit as large as a regiment. The present National Guard, of course, grew out of the volunteer por-

tion of the colonial militia. Mahon praises — and criticizes — but concludes that the National Guard today could "become more important than ever before." In fact, a reader would have to say that he comes down squarely on the National Guard's side.

- **THE 1985 MILITARY HISTORY CALENDAR**. By Raymond R. Lyman (Paladin Press, 1984, \$8.95). Each date on this unique calendar features a military event that occurred between 1793 and 1983 along with short biographies of important military personages. Each month of the year is devoted to a particular subject — war in the trenches 1914-1918, for instance, and Korea 1950. This would make an excellent gift for a military history buff.

- **FIGHTING ARMIES**. Three volumes. Edited by Richard A. Gabriel (Greenwood Press, 1983, Volume I, 286 Pages, \$35.00; Volume II, 224 Pages, \$35.00; Volume III, 320 Pages, \$35.00). All three volumes, \$95.00). These volumes contain a "combat assessment" of 32 of the world's armies. Each assessment has been prepared by a knowledgeable essayist who knows well the area of the world about which he writes. The editor, who is well-known in U.S. military circles for his criticisms of the U.S. Army's performance in Vietnam, collaborates with other writers to assess the armies of the U.S., the Soviet Union, Jordan, and Australia. He still does not think much of the U.S. Army and continues to denigrate its officer corps. Although he admits that the Soviet Army's officer and noncommissioned officer corps rate poorly, he still feels that the Soviet Army is "unmatched by any army in the world today." If read with care, this series can be a useful reference tool.

- **THE MILITARY BALANCE**,

1984-1985 (The International Institute for Strategic Studies, 1984. 159 Pages. \$14.00, Softbound). This annual, a quantitative and authoritative assessment of the military establishments and defense expenditures of countries throughout the world, examines the facts of military power as they appeared on 1 July 1984. As usual, there is no attempt to compare one country's military capacity against others. Overall, the Institute finds that while the armed forces of the world in general are still being modernized, that process is proceeding at a slower pace than in previous years. Overall, this publication remains one of the best of its kind.

Here are a number of other publications you should find interesting:

A TIME FOR TRUMPETS: THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE. By Charles B. MacDonald (Morrow, 1984. 712 Pages. \$19.95). Reviewed by Major General Albert H. Smith, Jr., United States Army, Retired.

From one of our most distinguished World War II historians — and a survivor of the fighting — you would expect another military classic. You get that and a lot more in Charles MacDonald's latest book. For example, today's professional soldiers and history buffs will appreciate the U.S. regimental and battalion organization charts so clearly presented on page 629 as well as the order of battle details on pages 630-655. Throughout the volume, too, many good sketch maps help the reader follow the action.

MacDonald is a master at describing the situation at Supreme Allied Headquarters and then quickly focusing down on small units fighting the battle. He tells of Hitler's dream of splitting the ultra-capitalist and ultra-Marxist states. A great victory on the western front, Hitler declared, would "bring down this artificial coalition with a crash." Also portrayed are the senior generals on both sides, as they plan their strategies and react to crises on the battlefield.

Today's soldiers can learn valuable lessons as the text follows small unit leaders, good and bad, into the heat of

that 1944-1945 conflict. American ingenuity and initiative often carried the day, and gallant deeds by individual soldiers then still make us feel proud.

The author spent five years and made five lengthy trips through the area to make certain he could tell his story accurately from both the U.S. and German viewpoints. And he has.

Regretfully, the final offensive phases of the Battle of the Bulge are missing. Except for a comprehensive summation, the book ends at Houffalize, Belgium, as the First U.S. Army attacking from the north meets the Third U.S. Army attacking from the south, thereby sealing off the German penetration. Worthy of inclusion in a final chapter would have been the XVIII Airborne Corps' advance east through waist deep snow during the last ten days of January and the early days of February 1945.

This book is a World War II classic, though, a must addition to any professional military library. Our 1985 platoon, company, and battalion commanders should thank Charles MacDonald for providing many good war stories to pass on to the troops.

BATTLE OF THE BULGE — THEN AND NOW. By Jean Paul Pallud (Bill Dean Books, 1984. 532 Pages. \$49.95).

For any veteran of the Battle of the Bulge, or for anyone interested in the military history of World War II, this should be an enthralling book. It certainly serves as a splendid complement to the MacDonald book reviewed above. The author's "then and now" approach — a trademark of the British magazine AFTER THE BATTLE, for which he works — is particularly effective. He claims that his book provides "the first correct identification of both the locations and the units shown in most of the illustrations, and this applies particularly to the pictures of German origin."

The bulk of the narrative recounts the operations of the German units; most of the Allied actions are told in the captions that accompany the more than 1,000 photographs and other il-

lustrations. Of particular interest is the author's description of the "battlefield today" — the numerous memorials and museums that dot the area over which the fighting raged some 40 years ago.

This is a most notable addition to the literature of World War II. Don't miss it.

JANE'S INFANTRY WEAPONS, 1984-85. Tenth Edition, Edited by Ian V. Hogg (Jane's Publishing, 1984. 957 Pages. \$125.00).

Ian Hogg has put together for his publisher another outstanding volume in Jane's continuing series on the world's infantry weapons — from revolvers and pistols to antiaircraft and antitank weapons — to include data on body armor, electronics and optics, training aids and simulators, and national inventories.

Hogg's foreword is not particularly lengthy, but it is replete with pithy comments, a Hogg trademark. He devotes most of the few pages to the "observation of the present and forecasting of the future." (It does seem, though, that the U.S. pistol program is moving at a faster pace than Hogg anticipated.)

There is no better weapon reference book on the market. Once again, Ian Hogg and his staff are to be congratulated for turning out a fine product.

TOUCHED WITH FIRE. By John Wheeler (Franklin Watts, 1984. 213 Pages. \$16.95). Reviewed by Nicholas Sellers, Radnor, Pennsylvania.

John Wheeler has written a remarkable book. It does not revive any stale debate on the Vietnam War or the drifting policies of the Johnson administration. Nor does Wheeler indulge in bitter recriminations against the "protest generation," the negativist subculture that so briefly dominated American society in the early 1970s.

Instead, the theme of this book is wholly positive. Wheeler looks at the present status of the Vietnam veteran and how he has emerged from the

shadows of prejudice of 15 years earlier to take his place in society. Wheeler sees the veteran who was "touched with fire" not as someone maimed but as a stronger and more valuable member of the society that had so recently tried to reject him.

Wheeler is a West Point graduate who served in Vietnam in 1969, at the very height of the war. Leaving the service in 1971, he went to Yale Law School and achieved that intellectual *summum bonum*, editorship of the *Law Review*. He is now special counsel to the chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington. He was chairman of the board of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, and serves now as director of the President's Vietnam Veterans' Leadership Program. He has written extensively, including an earlier book, *The Wounded Generation: America After Vietnam*.

The book that is under review here is really in three parts. The first looks at the war and the soldier's world; the second part reviews American society and its attitudes in the 1960s and 1970s. The third part examines the Vietnam veteran's place in society today. This latter part is the substance of the book, and it presents a strong and optimistic view. Wheeler sees the veteran as a person whose wartime experiences make him a better member of society, one who is now gaining a belated acceptance and proving himself among his peers.

One of the most appealing qualities of John Wheeler's book is his understanding of and sympathy for the young soldier who did his duty and was so ill paid. Although separated from the service, Wheeler continues to show that sense of responsibility that is expected of the professional military leader. At the same time, it is remarkable that he is so restrained and even-tempered throughout. This very restraint serves only to emphasize his larger themes.

Certainly there are indications that the prejudice against the soldier who served in an unpopular war may have abated. But there is equally strong

contrary evidence — as in the views espoused by present antimilitary spokesmen — that the soldier is still disfavored. We therefore need all the more a strong voice such as John Wheeler's to set the balance right.

ARMS TRANSFERS UNDER NIXON: A POLICY ANALYSIS. By Lewis Sorley (The University of Kentucky Press, 1983. 231 Pages. \$22.00). Reviewed by Doctor Joe P. Dunn, Converse College.

It has become conventional wisdom to criticize arms transfers as a cause of regional instability and war. A 1977 Council on Foreign Relations report, for example, charged that the U.S. extended excessive arms sales to countries peripheral to American security.

Lewis Sorley, a former intelligence officer, policy planner, and student of public policy, disagrees. In this study of Nixon policy, he argues that arms transfer may have been the single most effective means of conducting the administration's foreign policy.

Sorley points out that the bulk of arms in the period went to the Middle East and to western Europe, hardly areas peripheral to American concerns. His book concentrates primarily on the Middle East where most of the arms went, where the most dramatic policy changes occurred, and where, he asserts, the most spectacular successes were achieved. These included the extraction of the Egyptians from the Soviet sphere, the improvement of the peace process between Israel and its neighbors, the restriction of Soviet influence in the region, and the building of Iran and Saudi Arabia into forces of stability in the area. Of course, not all of these "successes" were lasting.

While the book is a bit superficial, and I am not totally convinced by the argument, it is an interesting study and I recommend it to the professional soldier.

FIVE TRAGIC HOURS: THE BATTLE OF FRANKLIN. By James Lee McDonough and Thomas L. Con-

nelly (University of Tennessee Press, 1983. 217 Pages.) Reviewed by Major Don Rightmyer, United States Air Force.

The war was drawing steadily to a close. Sherman's march for Atlanta and the sea was well under way and the only Confederate force that stood near the Union advance was John Bell Hood's army. Rather than force a confrontation near Atlanta, though, Hood struck out toward the northwest in a fateful drive for Nashville. The result was one of the last climactic battles of the Civil War, the death of six generals, and the South's loss of all hope in the western theater.

This interesting story is an excellent joint project by two accomplished historians who have also produced noteworthy independent studies on the Army of Tennessee and its campaigns. This work upholds their established reputations for excellence in Civil War history.

McDonough and Connelly don't just unfold the movements and events leading up to the battle of Franklin. Their analysis of Hood and his actions borrows from psychological history and provides an interesting insight into Hood's possible motives in relentlessly pushing the attack against the Union entrenchments at Franklin. A shining young officer at the war's outset, Hood had suffered serious wounds in earlier battles and had lost much of the glamour that had previously surrounded him. According to the authors, Hood was almost hellbent on making the Franklin attack regardless of the outcome or cost in lives in the apparent hope that it would help regain some of his lost glory.

This book reflects the good research and analysis that one would expect from these two authors. It is well-written military history and a good coverage of a little known but savagely fought battle.

AMERICANS AS PROCONSULS: UNITED STATES MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN GERMANY AND JAPAN, 1944-1952. Edited by

Robert Wolfe (Southern Illinois University Press, 1984. 563 Pages. \$27.50.)
Reviewed by Lieutenant Colonel John C. Spence III, United States Army Reserve.

This documentary record of the post-war occupation of Germany and Japan is the result of a symposium conducted at the Smithsonian Institution in May 1977. It includes the papers presented and the transcripts of panel discussions that examined in detail the formulation and implementation of U.S. occupation policy in these nations. Significantly, the participant-historians examined the long-range consequences of the post-war occupation as it influenced subsequent U.S. diplomatic and military policy. The areas of interest to both the historian and the contemporary civil affairs specialist include educational reform, industrial reorganization, prosecution of war crimes, and press censorship.

It is worthy of note that many of the participants in the symposium had served in active duty roles in the post-war occupation period and had later achieved academic distinction as professional historians and social scientists.

Thus, the great value of this book is that the historical insights come from

true military historians, many of whom had first-hand, personal experience. Military historians will find interesting the long-range development of U.S. occupation policy as it affected Germany. Such planning, which included the establishment of a Civil Affairs School at the University of Virginia, began long before the surrender of Germany in 1945.

This book has considerable contemporary value and can serve as an excellent reference book for the officer assigned to G-5 (civil affairs) on a division staff. Of greater importance is the fact that civil affairs is an important staff responsibility that cannot be overlooked or ignored.

ON WINGS OF EAGLES. By Ken Follett (Morrow, 1983. 442 Pages. \$16.95). Reviewed by Captain Bryan Evans III, United States Army.

Ken Follett's book is not about a raid, although it is about a rescue mission. It is, more importantly, a book about leadership and perseverance in the face of adversity. In this capacity it also serves as a fitting epitaph for one man — Colonel Arthur D. "Bull" Simons.

Several months before the American embassy in Iran was taken over by

militant Iranian students, two top executives from the EDS Corporation, a U.S. electronics firm with contracts in Iran, were jailed by Iranian officials under false pretenses. H. Ross Perot, owner and president of the corporation, pushed his resources to the limits to find a legal solution to this dilemma. He wanted his people freed and returned to the United States.

Unable to achieve this, and the effort never ceased, Perot decided to take a more direct approach — a rescue mission. And in keeping with his personal belief of getting the best man for the job and then letting him do it, Perot felt there was only one man qualified to plan, train, and lead the effort, the recently retired "Bull" Simons.

The book is important because it provides us with the characters of two men whose principles, and whose devotion to those principles, ruled their actions. Both Perot and Simons were devoted to their friends, their families, and their duty, but Simons in particular is depicted as a man with a purpose — to rescue people.

Overall, this is a well-written, well-illustrated publication. It may not be what some expect, especially from Ken Follett, but remember that "Eagles don't flock — you have to

