

# BOOK REVIEWS



Here again are a number of recent publications we think you will find both interesting and informative:

• **BEFORE THE BATTLE: A COMMONSENSE GUIDE TO LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT**, by Lieutenant General Edward M. Flanagan, Jr., United States Army Retired. Presidio Press, 1985. 228 Pages. \$10.95, Softbound. From "administration" through "wives" (and his "43 Commandments") the author spells out those things he feels he learned about military leadership during his more than three decades of service. All told, he discusses 76 different topics, which are arranged in alphabetical order. Each essay is relatively short, but all are about ways, means, and methods a troop commander can use to do his job better, more successfully, at the same time keeping the interests of his soldiers at heart.

• **AND BRAVE MEN, TOO**, by Timothy S. Lowry, Crown, 1985. 246 Pages. \$14.95. This book contains the very personal interviews the author conducted with 14 Medal of Honor winners from the Vietnam War in which the men describe the events surrounding their awards. It also contains the author's reflections on his own service in Vietnam — two combat tours there as a Marine — as well as the happenings in the United States while the events of the war were unfolding.

• **THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR: THE NAMES, THE DEEDS**. Sharp and Dunnigan, 1984. 1,105 Pages. \$27.50. This is an outstanding reference book, detailed, authentic, informative. It contains a history of the medal — first presented in 1863 — and the award citations arranged by war, campaign, conflict, or era. A total of 3,412 medals have been awarded for gallantry during wartime, and a handful of others —

17 — awarded by special legislation. The book also has five tables that complement the citations by providing much useful information about the medal and its recipients.

• **ROYAL UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE AND BRASSEY'S DEFENCE YEARBOOK, 1985**, edited by the Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies, London. Pergamon, 1985. 381 Pages. \$47.00. Once again infantrymen can find much in this annual publication that is of professional interest. There are essays by acknowledged experts on all sorts of subjects that range from an overview of the world scene to military technology, strategic issues, and a review of the year's defense literature. Of particular interest are the essays on land weapon developments during 1984 and the outline of the main trends in Soviet thinking about land operations in the European theater, both by Chris Bellamy, a British author who has written extensively on defense matters.

• **THE STARS AND STRIPES: WORLD WAR II FRONT PAGES**. Hugh Lauter Levin Associates, Incorporated, New York, 1985. \$19.95. Here is a representative selection of the front pages reproduced from a number of the more than 30 different editions of "Stars and Stripes" printed during World War II. The covers trace the events of the war from April 1942 — when the newspaper was reestablished in England — to October 1945, with the last cover being that of the 6 October 1945 issue of the China edition. The covers make fascinating reading and should bring back a veritable flood of memories to all World War II veterans and their families. They also contain much material of pure historical interest.

• **THE RED DEVILS**, by G.G. Norton. David and Charles, 1984.

310 Pages. \$22.50. Here is a new edition — the first was published in 1971 — in the publishers series titled "Famous Regiments." The author served with the British airborne forces on two separate occasions and is now the curator of the Airborne Forces Museum. He brings the story of the British airborne forces up-to-date with chapters on Northern Ireland and the fighting in the Falklands Islands. More than 100 photographs and illustrations complement a well-ordered narrative.

• **1986 MILITARY HISTORY CALENDAR**, by Raymond R. Lyman. Paladin Press, 1985. \$8.95. This unique and unusual calendar is in its second year of publication. This edition has all new photographs and much new information. Each day highlights a modern military event, and the calendar itself is illustrated with 48 photographs. This would make an excellent holiday gift for the military history student or buff. It can also serve as a useful reference tool.

The Battery Press of Nashville, Tennessee, has sent us copies of its two latest reprints of books that have been out of print for some time. They are **SINAI VICTORY**, by S.L.A. Marshall (280 Pages. 1985. \$18.95), an account of Israel's 100-hour conquest of Egypt east of the Suez Canal in 1956, and **PATHS OF ARMOR: THE 5th ARMORED DIVISION IN WORLD WAR II** (358 Pages, 1985. \$25.00), which was originally published in 1950; it is the 27th release in the Press's divisional series.

Finally, we would call your attention to these recent publications from the Government Printing Office:

• **INFANTRY, PART I: ARMY LINEAGE SERIES**, by John K. Mahon and Romana Danysh (1984 Reprint of the 1972 Edition. 954

Pages. \$21.00. S/N 008-029-00082-2). This volume in the Army's lineage series deals with the organization of foot units at the level of regiment and below. It begins with the Continental Army and goes through the Vietnam War.

• **1985 WEAPON SYSTEMS, UNITED STATES ARMY** (1985. 160 Pages. \$8.00, Softbound. S/N 008-020-01024-3). This publication concentrates on weapon systems and other equipment products of the Army's Research Development and Acquisition (RDA) program.

• **SOVIET MILITARY POWER, 1985** (4th Edition, 1985. 144 Pages. \$6.00, Softbound. S/N 008-000-00410-2). The information in this publication can be used as a valuable starting point from which to measure the current and projected strengths, trends, and global military capabilities of the Soviet Union's armed forces. It also provides a detailed report on the structure of the Soviet military services and examines the introduction of new nuclear and conventional Soviet military capabilities.

• **THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THE VIETNAM WAR, PART II: 1961-1964. THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE ROLES AND RELATIONSHIPS** (Prepared for the Committee on Foreign Relations, United States Senate. 1984. 424 Pages Softbound). This volume is part of an overall study of the roles and relationships of the Executive Branch and Congress in the Vietnam War; it describes events during the 1961-1964 period as the United States became progressively more involved in the Vietnam struggle. It has been prepared by the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress. The author is William Conrad Gibbons.

And here are a number of our longer reviews:

**NO MORE VIETNAMS.** By Richard Nixon (Arbor House, 1985. 240 Pages. \$14.95). Reviewed by Doctor Joe P. Dunn, Converse College.

Like all five books he has written since he left the White House, this volume is classic Richard Nixon —

emphatic, provocative, pugilistic, polemic, and self-serving. Despite the fact that it contains nothing new (most of the material reiterates Nixon's earlier memoirs), and that the basic points are much better developed by other scholars — Podhoretz, Palmer, Summers, and Lomperis, to name a few — the book does have merit and it will attract attention.

Nixon begins with the premise that no event in U.S. history has been as misunderstood, misreported, misrepresented, and misjudged as Vietnam. He outlines a list of myths, distortions, and falsehoods about the war and strives to refute them. In particular, he addresses four "articles of faith" of the anti-war movement: (1) the war was immoral, (2) it was unwinnable, (3) diplomacy without force is the best response to communist wars of national liberation, and (4) the U.S. was on the wrong side of history in Vietnam. Concomitantly, he debunks other canards — the struggle as a civil war, Ho Chi Minh as a selfless nationalist, the romantic popularity of the Viet Cong, the indiscriminate destruction of the U.S. combat effort, U.S. complicity in the triumph of the Khmer Rouge, and others.

The book does offer healthy correctives, but if we are to believe the author, Nixon consistently made the right decisions, he made the hard but moral choices, and his steadfastness won the war. Then Congress, in a spasm of irresponsibility, threw away the long and costly victory.

In brief sum, it just is not that simple, and Nixon bears far more guilt than he would begin to admit. Therefore, this is a book for the already convinced. It is a strong and good statement of some necessary truths, but it will not convince many skeptics.

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**TOURING NAM: THE VIETNAM READER,** edited by Martin H. Greenberg and Augustus Richard Norton (William Morrow, 1985. \$16.95). Reviewed by Doctor Mike Fisher, University of Kansas.

As the shadows of the Vietnam War lengthen, literary interest in the conflict continues to increase. This volume adds to the growing body of recent Vietnam War literature as our nation continues to review, reevaluate, and revise the emerging story of the trauma that consumed this nation during the 1960s and early 1970s.

In their book, Greenberg and Norton develop thematically an anthology of personal reflections, journalistic accounts, and fictional excerpts, following the chronology of an American serviceman's tour of duty in Vietnam. The selections range from a soldier's initial arrival and random assignment at a replacement depot through a variety of combat and support duties interrupted by brief interludes of rest and relaxation that broke either the terror or the tedium that represented the polarization of life in Vietnam. Finally, the editors move full circle by introducing the reader to the disillusionment that confronted many veterans home from the war.

The anthology focuses on three essential themes. First, it emphasizes the vast differences that separated the experiences of the individual soldiers who served in Vietnam. Duty in the central highlands with a combat infantry unit, for example, contrasted markedly with duty in a support unit in Saigon.

Second, the elements challenged infantrymen with the ferocity that equalled that of the enemy. Most veterans, even after nearly 20 years, remember graphically the constant wetness, the furnace-like heat, and the scorching sun that set and defined the war's stage.

Finally, the selections in this book reemphasize just how tough the war was, tough enough, in the words of one infantry sergeant, that a man would trade an arm to get home alive.

Time tends to obscure the hardship, terror, boredom, and disappointment that made Vietnam similar to all other wars. Politics and ideology briefly obscured the effort and sacrifice with which most Americans faced those hardships and challenges. During a

conflict some termed a war without heroes, there emerged warriors the equal of any American infantryman who ever laid stock to shoulder in anger.

In this book, the darker side also emerges, for Vietnam did not lack for the cowards, opportunists, and incompetents that have plagued societies as well as armies since time immemorial. Veterans will recognize these caricatures of the small minority that only slightly flaw the dominant theme of courage, sacrifice, and dedication that permeate these pages.

This anthology tells the story of those who served rather than directed. Infantrymen may review the material and assess their readiness in the stark light of Vietnam viewed and remembered.

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**THE ANTAGONISTS: A COMPARATIVE COMBAT ASSESSMENT OF THE SOVIET AND AMERICAN SOLDIER**, by Richard A. Gabriel (Greenwood Press, 1984. 208 Pages). Reviewed by Major Don Rightmyer, United States Air Force.

The thought probably occurs periodically to every U.S. fighting man: How would I stack up in combat against my Soviet counterpart? How do my training, my lifestyle, my attitudes, and the leaders both above and below me prepare me for that potential encounter on a battlefield somewhere in the world? Where does the U.S. Army stand today in comparison with the Soviet Army in combat capabilities?

Richard Gabriel tries to provide some insights into these questions through the pages of this book. He begins by examining the two armies, and he characterizes the Soviet force as very much structured along traditional European lines. Gabriel then looks at the soldiers, the noncommissioned officers, and the officers in both armies.

He depicts the Soviet soldier as better educated and more intelligent, better trained, and subject to far tighter discipline than his U.S. equivalent. Gabriel feels that today's U.S. soldier, in fact, is far less capable than the U.S.

soldier of the Vietnam era.

He feels that in its ranks of noncommissioned officers, the U.S. Army has many problems in leadership and training, but that the Soviets have not been able to establish a viable career NCO corps. Thus, many junior Soviet officers perform duties that an NCO would normally carry out.

Both armies, according to Gabriel, are officer-heavy. He feels that the ideal officer strength should be about five to six percent of the total troop strength compared to 11 percent in the U.S. Army and about 17 percent in the Soviet Army. Much of his analysis of the U.S. officer corps is based on the experiences of U.S. officers in Vietnam, and he does not feel there has been much improvement since then.

In the final analysis, Gabriel is unwilling to draw any conclusions about which side would come out the winner in any confrontation. He provides many interesting comments on our own Army's shortcomings but very little on the way we might do things differently. His is a thought-provoking work that should receive attention from generals, officers, and noncommissioned officers throughout the Army.

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**SOVIET ARMED FORCES REVIEW ANNUAL: VOLUME 7, 1982-1983**. Edited by David R. Jones (Academic International Press, 1984. 490 Pages. \$64.50). Reviewed by Alexander S. Birkos, Mount Shasta, California.

This latest volume in the SAFRA series continues to reflect a high standard of scholarship and analysis in assessing the Soviet defense establishment from mid-1982 through late 1983.

Although the USSR persists in expanding and modernizing its military forces, the pace appears to be slackening off. The drive for technical modernity in arms and equipment is fully matched by a quest for updated tactics, doctrine, and organizational forms.

As the various contributors to this volume demonstrate in their articles,

the Soviet armed forces have their full measure of internal problems, not the least of which are poor discipline and morale, an ethnic and demographic shift that will challenge Slavic dominance, and an increasingly aging industrial base. Moreover, the Soviet Navy has suffered a rash of accidents and mutinies, now capped by recent, tough doctrinal debates that may portend Admiral Gorskho's retirement.

From the perspective of a professional military officer, Christopher Jones's article titled "Warsaw Pact Exercises: The Genesis of a Greater Socialist Army?" should prove thought provoking. The Soviets are experimenting with tactical and doctrinal standardization within the Warsaw Pact to achieve a greater level of operational efficiency and coordination between Soviet and non-Soviet units. This trend certainly calls for continued observation and study as it is only one aspect of the Soviet move toward attaining higher combat effectiveness and efficiency.

In addition to its informative articles, this volume contains a chronology of military events, a bibliography, and numerous tables, charts, and statistical data. It is recommended for all Army officers and for scholars of Soviet military affairs.

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**CRAZY HORSE CALLED THEM WALK-A-HEAPS**, by Neil B. Thompson (North Star Press, 1979. 150 Pages. \$9.95).

**LIFE AND MANNERS IN THE FRONTIER ARMY**, by Oliver Knight (University of Oklahoma Press, 1978. 280 Pages. \$12.95.) Both books reviewed by Captain Harold E. Raugh, Jr., United States Army.

Both of these well-researched books are about the "Old Army," the Regular Army force that from the end of the Civil War in 1865 to Wounded Knee in 1890 was engaged in securing the western plains for occupation and settlement by the white man.

Neil Thompson's book is primarily about the frontier foot soldier, the Infantryman and his way of life. It is

filled with interesting, little-known facts and figures. It includes not only the stories of men, officers, posts, and campaigns but also stories of the events that led up to the Custer massacre in 1876. It was this "notorious" battle, according to Thompson, that shocked the Army's bureaucracy and officials out of their entrenched complacency and forced them to seek improvements in the Army's training, living standards, and tactics, all of which eventually resulted in the genesis of the modern Army. Many photographs and line drawings, a comprehensive 15-page bibliography, and complete endnotes complement the book's readability and provide numerous references for further research.

On the other hand, Oliver Knight's book begins where hard facts end. This book tells of the social values, lifestyles, atmosphere, and detailed daily routines of the frontier army. Based on the writings of Captain Charles King, with some of the details filled in by the few existing memoirs from that period, Knight creates an interesting social history.

King served in the Army from 1866 until disabled by wounds in 1879, serving almost all of the last 10 years of his service campaigning on the frontier. He wrote 29 full-length

novels about soldiering in the West, most of them about places and events he knew of personally, and one non-fiction work, *Campaigning with Crook*.

By taking numerous episodes from King's books, supplementing them with the material from the published memoirs, Knight has admirably reconstructed the little-known social and routine life of the frontier army. This is the kind of information seldom found in official histories and documents, and it serves to illuminate the human side of military history.

These books complement each other nicely and should be considered indispensable reading for the "Old Army" enthusiast.

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**SURGEON ON IWO: UP FRONT WITH THE 27th MARINES.** By James S. Vedder (Presidio Press, 1984. 226 Pages. \$15.95). Reviewed by Captain F.R. Hayse, United States Army.

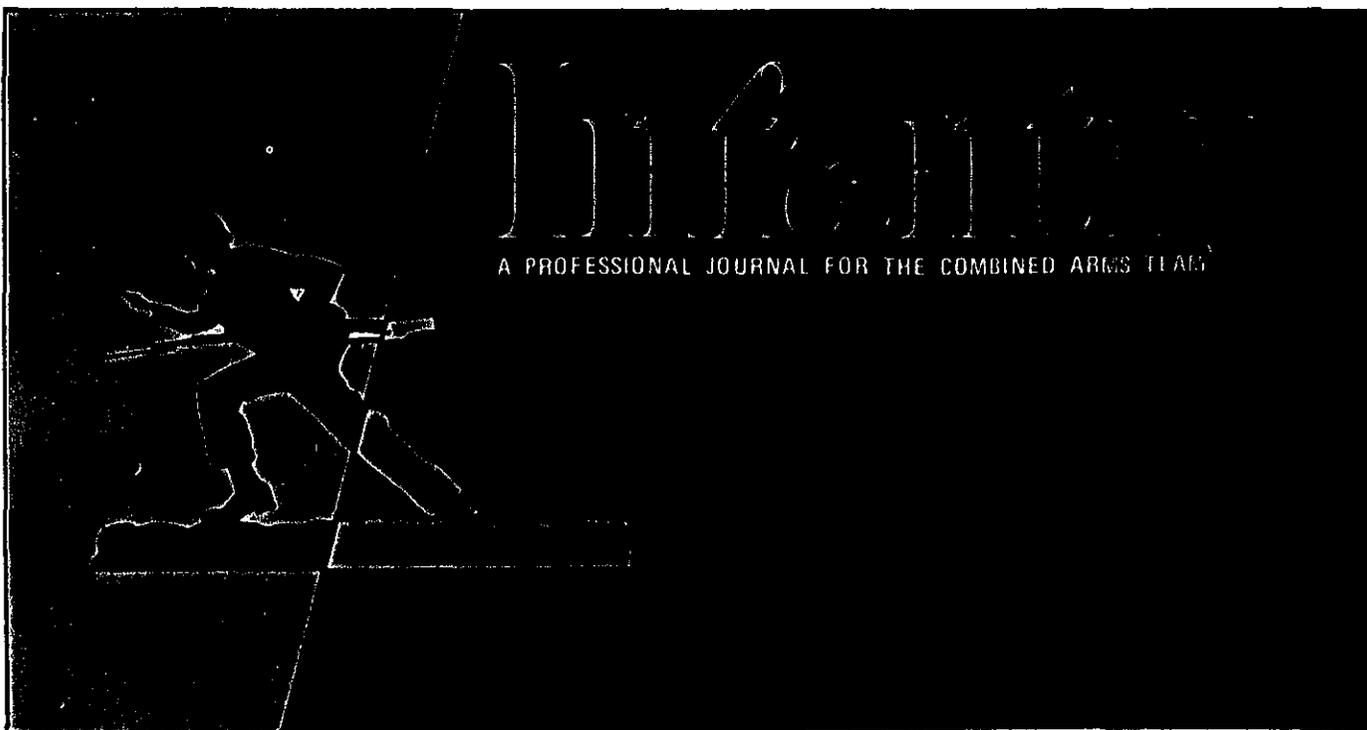
On 19 March 1945, the 3d, 4th, and 5th U.S. Marine Corps divisions attacked the Japanese-held island of Iwo Jima; the planners claimed the whole operation would take only four days — two to capture the island, a

third to eliminate the remnants of the enemy forces, and a fourth to load the assault forces on their ships for movement to Okinawa.

Thirty-two days later, the remnants of the task force, which had suffered 24,800 casualties in its attack on an island barely 9,500 yards long and 4,500 yards wide, were finally able to secure Iwo Jima and sail for Okinawa.

The author of this book was a U.S. Navy doctor assigned as the battalion surgeon of the 3d Battalion, 27th Marines, a part of the 5th Marine Division, during his unit's 32-day ordeal on Iwo Jima. Doctor Vedder's forward aid station treated about 800 casualties; the 3d Battalion itself lost more than 700 of its original 963-man force.

Vedder's book, like many such personal combat narratives, is a story of individual fear and valor, of hardship, error, comedy, despair, hope, and death. It is the story of "green" Marine units getting "blooded" in their first battles; of individual initiative and common sense solutions to seemingly impossible situations; of the importance of unit spirit and cohesion; of the silliness of trying to enforce bureaucratic garrison regulations amid the turmoil of the battle-



field; and of the casualties that are the inevitable result of high level political maneuvering in wartime.

But unlike many similar books, Vedder's is a story of combat actions interestingly told from the perspective of a medical officer and not a grunt, one that gives the reader a personal look at the battle from someone who had access to the reasoning behind the decisions made at battalion and regimental levels. More important, it shows what seems to be the American way of war — large groups of green or not quite trained troops with lots of new equipment, being led into battle against a veteran enemy by a few experienced officers and noncommissioned officers.

Readers should find Vedder's book a different type of narrative, one that is new and interesting as well about a now-famous battle.

#### RECENT AND RECOMMENDED

**BLACKS IN THE AMERICAN ARMED FORCES, 1776-1983: A BIBLIOGRAPHY.** Compiled by Lenwood G. Davis and George Hill. Greenwood Press, 1985. 232 Pages. \$35.00.  
**PHOTOHISTORY OF TANKS IN TWO WORLD WARS.** By George Forty. Sterling, 1985. 190 Pages. \$17.95.  
**FIGHTING MACHINES OF WORLD WAR II.** By B.T. White. Sterling, 1985. 127 Pages. \$14.95.  
**DON'T CRY FOR US.** By Ralph E.G. Sinke, Jr.

Illustrated by W.P. Wass. Regs Enterprises, 1984. 124 Pages. \$12.95.  
**THE AR15/M16: A PRACTICAL GUIDE.** By Duncan Long. Paladin Press, 1985. 160 Pages. \$17.95, Softbound.  
**TRUPPENDIENST-TASCHENBUCHER, BAND 3: FREMDE HEER: DIE ARMEEN DER NATO-STAATEN.** VIENNA: Verlag Carl Ueberreuter, 1984. 704 Pages. oS195, Softbound.  
**BARBAROSSA: THE RUSSIAN-GERMAN CONFLICT, 1941-45.** By Alan Clark. A Reprint of the 1965 Edition with a New Preface by the Author. William Morrow, 1985. 522 Pages. \$12.95, Softbound.  
**THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THE VIETNAM WAR, PART II.** S/N 052-070-06002-6. U.S. Government Printing Office, 1985. 440 Pages. \$10.00, Softbound.  
**UNITED STATES ARMY IN WORLD WAR II: THE SUPREME COMMAND.** By Forrest C. Pogue. Reprint of the 1954 Edition. S/N 008-029-00076-8. U.S. Government Printing Office, 1978. 634 Pages. \$18.00.  
**UNITED STATES ARMY IN THE KOREAN WAR: SOUTH TO THE NAKTONG, NORTH TO THE YALU.** By Roy E. Appleman. Reprint of the 1961 Edition. S/N 008-029-00079-2. U.S. Government Printing Office, 1981. 840 Pages. \$25.50.  
**THE SOVIET-CUBAN CONNECTION IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.** Released by the Department of State and Department of Defense, March 1985. Government Printing Office, S/N 008-000-00419-6. 48 Pages. \$2.25, Softbound.  
**THE U.S. RAPID DEPLOYMENT FORCES.** By David Eshel. ARCO, 1985. 208 Pages. \$19.95.  
**SUTHERLAND'S WAR.** By Douglas Sutherland, David and Charles, 1985. 184 Pages. \$16.95.  
**SOVIET SPACE PROGRAMS: 1976-1980, UNMANNED SPACE ACTIVITIES.** Government Printing Office, 1985. S/N 052-070-06029-8. 396 Pages. \$8.50, Softbound.

**STORMING HITLER'S RHINE: THE ALLIED ASSAULT, FEBRUARY-MAY 1945.** By William B. Breuer. St. Martin's Press, 1985. 308 Pages. \$18.95.  
**ALL THE U.S. AIR FORCE AIRPLANES, 1907-1984.** By Andrew W. Waters. Hippocrene Books, 1985. 413 Pages. \$14.95.  
**YES, YOUR EXCELLENCY.** By V.E.O. Stevenson-Hamilton. London: Thomas Harmsworth, 1985. 229 Pages.  
**SOUTH AFRICAN WAR MACHINE.** By Helmoed-Roemer Heitman. Presidio Press, 1985. 192 Pages. \$20.00.  
**THE CIVIL WAR QUIZ AND FACT BOOK.** By Rod Gragg. Harper and Row, 1985. 210 Pages. \$8.95, Softbound.  
**JOHN MASEFIELD'S LETTERS FROM THE FRONT, 1915-1917.** Edited by Peter Vansittart. Franklin Watts, 1985. 320 Pages. \$18.95.  
**ROME'S ENEMIES: GALLIC AND BRITISH CELTS.** Text by Peter Wilcox. Color Plates by Angus McBride. Osprey, 1985. Men-at-Arms Series #158. 48 Pages. \$7.95, Softbound.  
**NAPOLEON'S GUARD INFANTRY (2).** Text by Philip Haythornthwaite. Color Plates by Bryan Fosten. Osprey, 1985. Men-at-Arms series #160. 48 Pages. \$7.95, Softbound.  
**THE SPANISH FOREIGN LEGION.** Text by John Scurr. Color Plates by Bryan Fosten. Osprey, 1985. Men-at-Arms Series #161. 48 Pages. \$7.95, Softbound.  
**JAPAN SOLO: A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR INDEPENDENT TRAVELERS.** By Eiji Kanno. Tuttle, 1985. 256 Pages. \$15.00.  
**THE HEIGHTS OF COURAGE: A TANK LEADER'S WAR ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS.** By Avigdor Kahalani. Greenwood Press, 1984. 198 Pages. \$27.95.  
**OUTRAGEOUS FORTUNE: THE TRAGEDY OF LEOPOLD III OF THE BELGIANS, 1901-1941.** By Roger Keyes. David and Charles, 1985. 521 Pages. \$32.00.  
**THE ENIGMA WAR.** By Jozef Garlinski. Scribner's, 1980. 219 Pages. \$14.95.

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