

BOOK REVIEWS



Once again we have a number of important books we would like to call to your attention. First is Brigadier Richard Simpkin's *RACE TO THE SWIFT: THOUGHTS ON TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY WARFARE* (Pergamon-Brassey's, 1985. 345 Pages. \$32.50). The author retired from the British Army in 1971 after 30 years of active service as an officer of the Royal Tank Regiment. Since his retirement, he has written a half-dozen important books on armor warfare.

In this, his latest book, Simpkin offers dozens of meaty ideas that all serving U.S. infantrymen should ponder carefully and digest slowly.

For example, he offers a proposed organization for NATO's armies that differs considerably from the present ones; the tactics the new formations should employ; and the development of the leaders to command those units during wartime. He also discusses the writings of Carl von Clausewitz and why he feels Clausewitz's writings have been misinterpreted; the importance of terrain to the ground soldier; maneuver warfare; and the importance of mass in determining success in battle.

All of this — and there is more — makes the book essential reading.

Another important book is the third and final volume of D. Clayton James's biography of Douglas MacArthur — *THE YEARS OF MACARTHUR: TRIUMPH AND DISASTER, 1945-1964* (Houghton Mifflin, 1985. 848 Pages. \$29.95). In this book, James, a professor of history at Mississippi State University, traces General MacArthur's life and times from his arrival in Japan on 8 September 1945 to his death in the Walter Reed Army Medical Center on 5 April 1964.

This is biographical history at its best — objective, well written, thoroughly researched. James has divided his book into three major parts: the occupation years from 1945 to 1950; the war in Korea

from its beginning in June 1950 to MacArthur's relief on 10 April 1951; and MacArthur's final 13 years of life, most of them spent as chairman of the board of the Sperry Rand Corporation.

When he feels it is necessary, James criticizes, but he also praises his subject for actions well taken. He makes few personal judgments and admits that after more than 18 years of work on MacArthur, he still knows precious little "about MacArthur's inner self."

This is one of those books — as James's first two volumes in this same series are — that Infantrymen should find professionally rewarding.

As part of the MacArthur story, portions of a recent biography of Admiral William F. "Bull" Halsey by E. B. Potter, a professor emeritus of history at the U.S. Naval Academy, are of considerable interest because of Halsey's relationship with MacArthur in the Pacific Ocean areas during World War II. This book is titled *BULL HALSEY* (Naval Institute Press, 1985. 421 Pages. \$19.95). Unfortunately, Potter can find no warts on his man and a reader has to wonder why not. Still, his is a good account of the Navy's coming of age in the first half of the 20th Century and of the life and times of one of that service's most colorful and sometimes controversial combat leaders.

Another colorful combat leader — the U.S. Army's Matthew B. Ridgway — is profiled in another recently published book, one that may (or may not) be welcomed by all airborne enthusiasts. It is Clay Blair's *RIDGWAY'S PARATROOPERS: THE AMERICAN AIRBORNE IN WORLD WAR II* (Doubleday, 1985. 588 Pages. \$19.95).

It is really two books in one, as the title indicates, and while the author says it is not an "authorized biography," he did have access to General Ridgway's private and official papers and did have Ridgway's full cooperation during the research phase of this project. (This book

may also be considered an "inside story" of the U.S. airborne effort during World War II, what with the accounts of personal rivalries and petty jealousies in the various airborne units at regimental level and higher.)

Although the airborne soldiers, in general, fought well once they were on the ground, they usually had to start fighting from almost impossible situations because the air transport phases of the various operations failed. Accordingly, no major Allied airborne operation during World War II in North Africa, in the Mediterranean theater, or in north-west Europe was an unqualified success. In fact, serious thought was given at the highest levels at various times during the war years to disbanding the airborne divisions.

Ridgway himself proved to be an exceptional combat commander, at both division and corps levels. He was not liked by all of his subordinate commanders, and his actions at St. Vith during the Battle of the Bulge have been openly criticized by other commanders who were on the scene.

Ambitious almost to a fault, driving, personally brave, fiercely competitive, Ridgway ended the war as one of the Army's brightest stars and a force to be reckoned with in the post-war years.

Blair writes well and if his claims for the airborne effort seem slightly exaggerated, his story of that effort should be welcome reading by all airborne enthusiasts. At the same time, his narrative of the operational events should alert those same enthusiasts to the tremendous problems airborne commanders can expect to encounter in mounting and executing any future major airborne operation.

Here are several other interesting publications that have recently come our way:

- *THE MILITARY BALANCE, 1985-1986*, by the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London (IISS,

1985. 199 Pages. \$21.00). This authoritative annual publication appears in its usual format and lists organization, manpower, budgetary information, and equipment of the armed forces of 148 countries. It also contains a section in which the Institute provides brief summaries of the existing international security arrangements and treaties, compares defense expenditure patterns, and identifies major new arms sales agreements. A final section discusses "the East-West conventional balance in Europe." (The material is current as of 1 July 1985.)

It is important to note, too, that this publication provides more extensive and detailed information than ever before on the organization and equipment of the Soviet armed forces. In fact, the Soviet entry has been changed to reflect the division of Soviet forces into five arms — Strategic Rocket Forces, Ground Troops, Air Defense, Air Force, and Navy — and the order of precedence that the Soviet authorities attach to them.

Overall, the Institute feels that "military budgets — with the important exception of the super-powers — are generally showing slow or no growth and in a number of cases budgets are actually declining. Modernization naturally continues as weapons become technically obsolete, but overall numbers of deployed weapon systems or of men in uniform have shown little change over 1984."

• **THE POLISH CAMPAIGN 1939**, by Steven Zaloga and Vincent Madej (Hippocrene Books, 1985. 195 Pages. \$19.95). The authors draw on little-known but extensive Polish documentary sources to tell the story — from a Polish viewpoint — of the first major World War II campaign. They include a complete Polish order of battle as it was in September 1939 and a discussion of Poland's strategic planning and tactical doctrine. Although Poland's small forces fought heroically, the authors concede that "the outcome of the campaign was a foregone conclusion before it even began."

• **THE FIGHT FOR THE CHANNEL PORTS: CALAIS TO BREST 1940, A STUDY IN CONFUSION**, by Michael Glover (David and Charles, 1985. 269

Pages. \$25.00). By the end of the first week of June 1940, more than 300,000 British and French troops had been taken off the European continent through and around the Belgian port of Dunkirk. To most of the world, this was the end of the British Army's participation in the defense of western Europe.

Not so, says the author, an often-published British historian. In his latest book, Glover tells the story of the 160,000 British soldiers, including those in Britain's only armored division, who were trapped outside the Dunkirk perimeter and who fought their way down the Channel coast seeking a way to safety. (Thousands of other British troops were still in the south and west of France as well.) Eventually, 144,000 of these British soldiers were evacuated to England.

Parts of this story have been told before; here Glover has told the whole story, ending with "the final undignified scurry from Brest." In addition to being good military history, this book provides the professional infantryman a number of important lessons in the conduct of rear area operations, a subject much under discussion these days.

• **NATURE BOUND POCKET FIELD GUIDE**, by Ron Dawson (OMNIgraphics Ltd., 1985. \$12.00, Soft-bound). This is one of the better books we have seen on wilderness survival in North America. Its various sections include discussions on survival in general, such as the use of a compass and map, fire starting, weather awareness, and the like; edible and poisonous plants found in North America (complete with color photographs of each species); and wilderness first aid.

Here are a number of our longer reviews:

ON TERRORISM AND COMBATING TERRORISM. Edited by Ariel Merari (University Publications of America, 1985. 188 Pages. \$24.00). Reviewed by Colonel James B. Motley, United States Army Retired.

This book's 17 chapters contain the lecture and discussions that took place in Tel Aviv during the 1979 International Seminar on Political Terrorism. The editor is a member of the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv Univer-

sity; he tells us that while this book "has been delayed for several reasons . . . it is astonishing to realize that the material in this book remains so highly relevant several years after it was written."

For many responsible and informed citizens, the continued relevance of the problems addressed six years ago regarding terrorism is, indeed, a matter of worrisome concern. Despite some impressive U.S. declarations and political rhetoric, the reality is that the free world has yet to find a way to cope with terrorism. As Merari so vividly points out — democracies are just beginning to learn what it takes to combat terrorism, or to live with it.

The broad range of issues presented in this book indicate the many dimensions of the terrorist challenge, from military options to the psychology of terrorism, from the "Stockholm syndrome" to international relations, from the Red Brigades to the Irish Republican Army. The strength of the book, therefore, is in the fact that it raises basic questions confronting democratic societies, and the seminar participants articulate in a straightforward fashion some of the difficult problems in dealing with terrorism and possible solutions to those problems.

Although the book offers little for the specialist, it should prove informative to the general reader. Chapter endnotes and a bibliography, however, would have considerably strengthened it.

KASSERINE: FIRST BLOOD, by Charles Whiting (Stein and Day, 1985. 262 Pages. \$17.95). Reviewed by Major General Albert H. Smith, Jr., United States Army Retired.

This is a good capsule account of the North African campaign during World War II from the launching of Operation TORCH in November 1942 through the battle of Kasserine Pass in February 1943.

Those who participated in that campaign are here reminded by the author of the cold, mud, and other hardships they endured that winter in the difficult and rocky desert terrain of Tunisia. Today's commanders, on the other hand, are exposed to the lessons learned the hard way by both Allied and Axis forces. A failure

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to achieve unity of command by both sides resulted in an excessive number of battlefield casualties and precluded a full victory.

Whiting's book is obviously based on many well known texts, especially the writings of Martin Blumenson. Thus, World War II history buffs should consider this book only the tip of an iceberg, a beginning of research into the dozens of volumes listed under the author's notes and sources.

On balance, this book is recommended reading for today's infantrymen. From it, they can analyze the mistakes made by their predecessors. Campaign veterans, of course, are guaranteed a range of emotional responses as they read what really happened in Tunisia some 40 years ago.

THE IRANIAN RESCUE MISSION: WHY IT FAILED, by Paul B. Ryan (Naval Institute Press, 1985. 136 Pages. \$13.95). Reviewed by Captain F. R. Hayse, United States Army.

On 4 November 1979, the United States embassy in Teheran, Iran, was taken over by a mob of Iranian men and women, and 53 Americans became hostages in a rabid anti-American political maneuver that ended after 444 days of captivity and after a failed American rescue mission in which eight U.S. servicemen lost their lives.

Until now, little factual information has surfaced concerning the ill-fated rescue attempt and its ignominious failure at an interim staging area named DESERT ONE, which was located in a remote desert area of Iran.

Several newsmagazine accounts and a book by Colonel Charles Beckwith, the mission's ground commander, provide some of the better unclassified sources of information available to the general public. Another is the unclassified and sanitized version of the Department of Defense's 1980 "Rescue Mission Report," the so-called Holloway Report.

In this book, Paul Ryan, a retired U.S. naval captain and a research fellow at the Hoover Institute on War, Revolution, and Peace at Stanford University, discusses the background, planning, and execution of the rescue attempt; world opinion and criticism; the Holloway Report; and an

expanded U.S. special operations effort. By a judicious use of numerous general reference works, articles, television transcripts, and government documents, Ryan has produced a logically organized and readable book that gives a reader an insight into the high-risk nature of all special operations.

This book is a must for those concerned with our current special operation forces and their capabilities. It will also appeal to those who like exciting adventure stories. But the ending is less than satisfying, because the actual ending to the Iranian special operation was not satisfactory.

In two of his final chapters, Ryan leaves his reader with many valid ideas that should be pondered, as well as with a series of questions concerning the future use of U.S. special operation forces. For as one former commander of the U.S. Air Force special warfare school liked to say: "How many special operations can you afford to lose?"

AMERICA IN VIETNAM: A DOCUMENTARY HISTORY, edited by William Appleman Williams, *et al.* (Doubleday, 1985. 345 Pages. \$9.95, Softbound). Reviewed by Doctor Joe P. Dunn, Converse College.

The resurgence of interest in the Vietnam War has inspired a demand for document collections to be used in the proliferation of new college courses on the war. With the *Pentagon Papers* out of print, and other collections such as that by Gareth Porter not well accepted, the market was ripe for a mass circulation paperback edition such as this. Four of the biggest names in diplomatic history add authority to this volume.

The 84 documents, which include Presidential and State Department papers, congressional debates, military reports, newspaper accounts, and treaties ranging over the period from the 1840s to 1975, are divided into four chronological sections. Each section is headed by a lengthy introductory essay to place the contents into historical context. Short commentaries illuminate the individual documents. This book is designed to serve as a college text, and I predict it will be a commercial success.

The theme and orientation of the book is clear, as anyone with any knowledge of the four editors, all doyens of the so-called new left, would expect. (In addition to William Appleman Williams, they are Thomas McCormick, Lloyd Gardner, and Walter LeFeber.) But the volume addresses such important questions as the misperceptions and deceptions of political leaders, the role of the media and public opinion on the war, and the internal consequences of the conflict. To my mind, the best section is on the 1945-1952 period when the specter of monolithic communism limited our policy options.

Despite my personal difference with the editors' perspectives, the volume is definitely worth reading. But anything that proposes to capture the immense dimension, complexity, and controversy of the Vietnam War must by definition distort grievously; that is the most important problem with this volume.

STONES RIVER: BLOODY WINTER IN TENNESSEE, by James Lee McDonough (University of Tennessee Press, 1980. 271 Pages. \$14.50). Reviewed by Major Don Rightmyer, United States Air Force.

A good volume of sound, useful military history is frequently hard to find. Such a work, by my own personal standards, should be interesting and not just "drums and bugles" coverage, and it should contain enough human interest to relay the pathos and burdens of war. It should certainly reveal the human strengths and weaknesses of commanders and leaders as well as of their men under fire and stress. This book combines all of the necessary elements for good military history; it is also about a particular battle that has begged for modern coverage (the last book written strictly about the battle was published in 1914).

After setting the stage, McDonough spends two chapters tracing the events of the months leading up to December 1862 and the stark human costs that the war had already extracted. The following chapters detail the strategy, tactics, and actual moves made by the opposing generals — Braxton Bragg and William Rosecrans — and their armies. The author is a master at describing both the

human and the tactical aspects of the battle without dragging the reader into unneeded details.

One irritating weakness of this volume, though minor, is the placement of the battle maps. They spread across two pages but the heaviest action always seems to fall in the folded portion.

But if you are hungry for a good military history of the Civil War period, this book will meet your needs.

BLOODS: AN ORAL HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR BY BLACK AMERICANS, by Wallace Terry (Random House, 1984. 300 Pages. \$17.95). Reviewed by David A. Robinson.

"I went to Vietnam as a basic naive young man of eighteen. Before I reached my nineteenth birthday, I was an animal." So says Specialist-4 Arthur E. Woodley, Jr., a combat paratrooper and one of the 20 Black veterans of the Vietnam War interviewed for this book by Wallace Terry.

Each of the 20 has a different but intriguing story to tell, but each story has one basic theme — being Black and fighting with the ever-present danger of death in an unpopular war for an apathetic U.S. society. What made it worse for most Black soldiers was the

fact that they were in Vietnam doing their patriotic duty for a society that was still wrestling with itself for their equality.

But the book also has some diversity, and the author should be commended for bringing into clear focus the diverse views of those he interviewed. And because each narrative is a story in itself, a reader may skip around and finish the book without having to read it from cover to cover.

Here are personal glimpses of Black Americans fighting a war with White Americans. The book is highly recommended to all military people, as well as to those interested in the Vietnam War. The "lessons" that can be drawn from these pages could some day prove invaluable.

HOW DEMOCRACIES PERISH, by Jean Francois Revel, translated by William Byron (Doubleday, 1984. 376 Pages. \$17.95). Reviewed by Lieutenant Colonel John C. Spence III, United States Army Reserve.

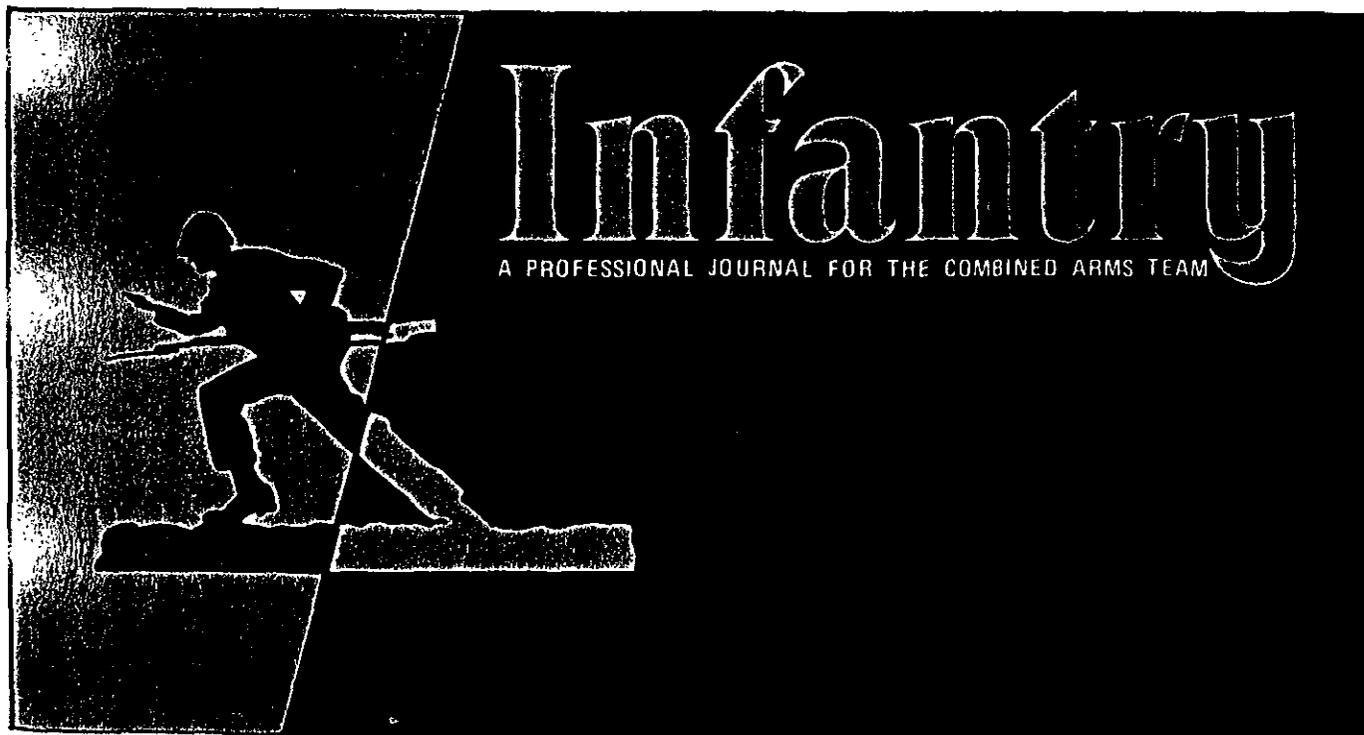
In this book, the former editor of France's *L'Express* magazine has written convincingly of the problems (many of which are self-imposed) that modern democracies face in dealing with Soviet expansionism.

At the outset, a reader must bear in

mind that Revel is writing from a European perspective. As he points out, many leaders in western Europe have imposed a double standard in judging United States and Soviet behavior in the international arena. Revel notes that "to a totalitarian regime, strategic necessity is justification enough for Soviet presence in another country . . . a democracy, on the other hand, is not granted the right to defend the vital barricades of its own security unless the democratic imperative is obeyed."

Revel's thinking and insights, and the numerous historical examples he cites, can be of substantial value to the military strategist and the student of international affairs. For example, whether Spain was under Franco's authoritarian rule until 1975, or whether Spain is under a parliamentary government in 1985 is only one factor to be considered. The overall strategic importance of Spain, its newly acquired membership in NATO, and its recent entry into the European Economic Community, plus its internal form of government, is what really counts.

This otherwise well-written and well-translated book is marred by only a few errors. For instance, military historians will dispute Revel's assertion that General Eisenhower, in his role as supreme Allied commander in Europe during World War II, "made it possible



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for the Soviet Union to take over Central Europe in 1944-45."

On balance, Revel's book merits serious consideration by anyone concerned about the role that the U.S. and its NATO allies will play in the years to come.

RECENT AND RECOMMENDED

THE ALL VOLUNTEER FORCE AFTER A DECADE: RETROSPECT AND PROSPECT. Edited by William Bowman, Roger Little, and G. Thomas Sicilia. Pergamon, 1985. 480 Pages. \$14.00, Softbound.

HEDGEROW HELL. By John Allsup. France: Editions Heimdal, 1985. 160 Pages.

CUBA: FROM COLUMBUS TO CASTRO. Second Edition, Revised. By Jaime Suchlicki. Pergamon-Brassey, 1986. 231 Pages. \$12.95, Softbound.

ATLAS OF GLOBAL STRATEGY. By Lawrence Freedman. Facts on File, 1985. 192 Pages. \$22.95.

CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION, 1949-84. Compiled by Peter Jones and Sian Kevill. Facts on File, 1985. 203 Pages.

DOUGHBOY DOGGEREL: VERSE OF THE AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, 1918-1919. Edited by Alfred E. Cornebise. Ohio University Press, 1985. \$19.50.

MISSILE SYSTEMS. By Philip Birtles and Paul Beaver. Hippocrene Books, 1986. 128 Pages. \$14.95.

ANTI-ARMOUR WARFARE. By Charles Messenger. Hippocrene Books, 1986. 108 Pages. \$14.95.

U.S. MARINES IN WORLD WAR II. By Robert C. Stern. Uniforms Illustrated No. 11. Sterling, 1986. 68 Pages. \$5.95.

CHAPLAINS WITH MARINES IN VIETNAM, 1962-1971. By Commander Herbert L. Bergsma. Washington: History and Museums Division, U.S. Marine Corps, 1985. 240 Pages.

THE NUCLEAR DUEL. Edited by Nigel Flynn. War Today, East versus West Series. ARCO, 1986. 66 Pages. \$6.95, Softbound.

THE MACHINERY OF DESTRUCTION. Edited by Nigel Flynn. War Today, East versus West Series. ARCO, 1986. 66 Pages. \$6.95, Softbound.

THE STRATEGY OF COMBAT. Edited by Nigel Flynn. War Today, East versus West Series. ARCO, 1986. 66 Pages. \$6.95, Softbound.

BATTLEFIELD EUROPE. Edited by Nigel Flynn. War Today, East versus West Series. ARCO, 1986. 66 Pages. \$6.95, Softbound.

V . . . MAIL: LETTERS OF A WORLD WAR II COMBAT MEDIC. By Keith Winston. Edited with a Preface by Sarah Winston. Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 1985. 310 Pages. \$14.95.

THE AMERICAN OCCUPATION OF JAPAN: THE ORIGINS OF THE COLD WAR IN ASIA. By Michael Schaller. Oxford University Press, 1985. 351 Pages. \$22.50.

OVER THE RHINE. By Brian Jewell. Hippocrene Books, 1985. 64 Pages. \$6.95, Softbound.

LIFE IN THE RANK AND FILE. Edited by David R. Segal and H. Wallace Sinaiko. Pergamon, 1985. 300 Pages. \$14.95.

THE YOM KIPPUR WAR. By Peter

Allen. Scribner's, 1982. \$17.95.

THE FREEDOM ROAD: 1944-1945. By Richard Collier. Atheneum, 1984. 342 Pages. \$17.95.

AFGHANISTAN: THE SOVIET INVASION IN PERSPECTIVE. By Anthony Arnold. Hoover Institution Press, 1981. 144 Pages. \$9.95.

SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS IN ASIA, 1945-1954. By Russell D. Buhite. University of Oklahoma Press, 1981. 254 Pages. \$14.95.

MIRACLE AT MIDWAY. By Gordon Prane, with Donald M. Goldstein and Katherin V. Dillon. McGraw-Hill, 1982. \$19.95.

AND WE SHALL SHOCK THEM: THE BRITISH ARMY IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR. By David Fraser. David and Charles, 1984. \$27.00.

VIOLENCE IN SOCIETY: THE FORMATIVE YEARS. By Lieutenant General E. A. Vas. New Delhi: Natraj Publishers, 1984. 389 Pages.

TYPHUS AND DOUGHBOYS. By Alfred E. Cornebise. University of Delaware Press, 1982. 151 Pages. \$24.50.

WHITE EAGLE, RED STAR: THE POLISH-SOVIET WAR, 1919-1920. By Norman Davies. First Published in Great Britain in 1972. Hippocrene Books, 1985. 308 Pages. \$9.95, Softbound.

THE ROYAL MARINES, 1956-1984. Text by William Fowler. Color Plates by Paul Hannon. Osprey, 1984. Men-at-Arms Series 156. 40 Pages. \$7.95.

THEY CALLED IT PASSCHENDAELE. By Lyn Macdonald. Merrimack, 1984. 253 Pages. \$19.95.

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