

# REVIEW

Daring Books (2020 Ninth Street, S.W., Canton, Ohio 44706) sent us recently a number of its publications we think you will find interesting and useful:

- **CADENCES: THE JODY CALL BOOK NUMBER 1**, edited by Sandee Shaffer Johnson (1986. 160 Pages. \$3.95, Softbound). This is an upgraded version of Johnson's 1983 publication. Although its appearance is different, its contents are the same.

- **CADENCES: THE JODY CALL BOOK NUMBER 2**, edited by Sandee Shaffer Johnson (1986. 160 Pages. \$3.95, Softbound). This second book of Jody calls includes a number of calls from Navy and Marine sources. As in Book 1, the calls are grouped by chapters, the titles of which give a clue to the type of calls found in each—"big, bold and brave," "short timers fever," and "'Nam to now." There may be a few duplications, but not enough to worry about. (Johnson has plans for another cadence book, one that will probably include chants from other countries.)

- **THE CONDUCT OF ANTI-TERRORIST OPERATIONS IN MALAYA**. A Daring Battle Book (1985. 290 Pages. \$8.95, Softbound). This is a straight reprint of a 1961 British field manual; its title is self-explanatory. It is also the third edition of a manual that was first published in 1952 and updated six years later. The manual contains the lessons learned by the British forces during their nine years of fighting in the jungles of Malaya (now Malaysia), lessons that are as valuable today as they were 25 years ago.

- **DOUBLE WINNERS OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR**, by Raymond J. Tassin (1986. 224 Pages. \$15.95). Only 19 U.S. fighting men — five soldiers, seven sailors, and seven Marines — have each won two Medals of Honor. In this informative and readable book, the author, chairman of the journalism department of Central State University in Oklahoma, recreates the events surrounding each of the double awards and tells

us something about the men who earned them. Only three U.S. Army enlisted soldiers have ever received two Medals of Honor; all six of those medals were earned during the Indian Wars of the 1870s. Thomas Ward "Tom" Custer, who died with his brother George at the Little Big Horn in 1876, was the first double winner of the medal.

The author notes that only 3 of the 19 men were killed in action, only one while earning the medal; 14 were career servicemen; only 10 were born in the United States; and the highest ranking double winner was a major at the time he earned his second award.

- **AMERICAN PRESIDENTS: FASCINATING FACTS, STORIES, AND QUESTIONS OF OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVES**, by Richard L. McElroy, with illustrations by Walt Neal (1984. 168 Pages. Softbound). Filled with questions (and answers), anecdotes, and the author's personal ranking of our presidents in several categories, this book is particularly appealing during this period of our history when we are preparing to celebrate the bicentennial of our Constitution.

We have also received a number of interesting historical reference books from the Sterling Publishing Company (2 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016):

- **VIETNAM WEAPONS HANDBOOK**, by David Rosser-Owen (1986. 136 Pages. \$6.95, Softbound).

- **U.S. ARMY UNIFORMS: EUROPE, 1944-1945**, by Cameron P. Laughlin and John P. Langellier (1986. 68 Pages. \$5.95, Softbound).

- **THE PARAS: THE BRITISH PARACHUTE REGIMENT**, by James G. Shortt (1985. 72 Pages. \$5.95, Softbound).

- **ALLIED TANKS ITALY: WORLD WAR TWO**, by Bryan Perrett (1986. 64 Pages. \$5.95, Softbound).

- **U.S. TANK DESTROYERS OF WORLD WAR II**, by Stephen J. Zaloga (1986. 64 Pages. \$5.95, Softbound).

- **UNITED STATES TANKS OF WORLD WAR II**, by George Forty. A reprint of the 1983 book of the same title (1986. 160 Pages. \$9.95, Softbound).

- **ISRAELI DEFENSE FORCES, 1948 TO THE PRESENT**, by Lee Russell and Sam Katz (1986. 68 Pages. \$5.95, Softbound).

Here are a number of our longer reviews:

- **THE SECOND INDOCHINA WAR: A SHORT POLITICAL AND MILITARY HISTORY, 1954-1975**. By William S. Turley (Westview Press, 1986. 238 Pages. \$24.95). Reviewed by Doctor Joe P. Dunn, Converse College.

From a dearth just a few years ago, today several good textbooks are available on the Vietnam War. Some of the best include those by George Herring, Stanley Karnow, Thomas Boettcher, James Pinckney Harrison, and Paul Kattenberg. The problem with many, however, is the same as that for courses on Vietnam — the division between the Asian specialists and the Americanists. Most Vietnam courses and most texts, therefore, tend to lean heavily to one side or the other: Vietnamese perspectives or American concerns with the war.

Finally, we have an excellent text that has the proper balance. Professor Turley is one of the nation's leading experts on Vietnamese politics and the communist movement. From his personal experience in Vietnam — exchange professor at Saigon University in 1972-1973, Fulbright scholar in Thailand between 1982 and 1984, and two visits to North Vietnam since 1975 — and his extensive use of Vietnamese sources, Turley sets the American experience within the context of Vietnamese politics. He focuses on the experiences, strategies, leadership, and internal politics of both South Vietnam and the communist forces and interprets the dynamics of American actions.

His book is a model of judicious, insightful scholarship that is quite suitable for the general reader as well. Turley has

managed to take a very large topic and present it in a concise but very complete manner. The concluding chapter, "Of Lessons and Their Price," and the bibliographic essay are particularly valuable elements. I recommend this marvelous book most enthusiastically.

**THE STRAW GIANT, TRIUMPH AND FAILURE: AMERICA'S ARMED FORCES.** By Arthur T. Hadley (Random House, 1986. 315 Pages. \$19.95).

Wham! Bam! Pow! Hit 'em again!

And Arthur T. Hadley, World War II tanker and a journalist since, does just that as he pounds away at the U.S. military establishment. He thinks little of the way that establishment is organized and operated; thinks even less of the men and women who run it now and ran it before; and traces many of today's ills to the 1920s and 1930s when the military services were forced to survive on the few goodies thrown their way by presidents and congresses.

He devotes the bulk of his book, however, to post-World War II days and the unification of the services, something he feels has been an abject failure. He fills his pages with horror stories about interservice and intraservice rivalries, less than competent and far too numerous civilian appointees who remain but a short time and move on, egotistical and undisciplined generals and admirals, micromanagement at the presidential level, and research and development efforts gone awry. Marines in particular will not like this book, because Hadley is not kind to them.

An old saying among those who have served any time at all in the Pentagon goes something like this: "The U.S. Government looks better the farther from Washington you get." And while Hadley says some things that need to be said, his nearness to Washington, its politics, and its minions for too many years is all too apparent.

**SOLDIERS: A HISTORY OF MEN IN BATTLE.** By John Keegan and Richard Holmes (Viking, 1986. 288 Pages. \$22.95). Reviewed by Colonel Rolfe A. Hillman, United States Army Retired.

Please do not judge this book by its cover, which features a sturdy Infantry captain looking properly apprehensive as he leads a file of soldiers across a rice paddy. In fact, while one of its 13 chapters is indeed titled "Infantry," the book covers many other military subjects in a time span from before the sword of Gideon up to the recent Falklands War. The subject categories include people, concepts, and things — tanks, artillery, experience of battle, sinews of war, fighting spirit.



The book was assembled as a companion volume to a British Broadcasting Company television series of the same name, which, as far as we can determine, will not be shown in the United States. Accordingly, the text is supported by photographic and art illustrations of a quantity and quality that qualify the book as both informative and decorative for a small coffee table. The illustrations also follow what appears to be a recent vogue: they confront the reader with high body counts and the full graphics of battlefield finality.

A browser will find the book uncluttered by documentation, although those pursuing special byways of military history will wish the clutter had been there. In either case, the book is not burdened by a reviewer's personal conviction that it must forthwith be declared required reading.

**SHERMAN'S MARCH AND VIETNAM.** By James Reston, Jr. (Macmillan, 1984. 323 Pages. \$14.95). Reviewed by Doctor Mike Fisher, University of Kansas.

Reflections on the Vietnam war experience continue to generate a growing body of historical, fictional, analytical, and critical body of literature. This is a contribution to the latter category.

The author draws on our Civil War antecedents to condemn what he sees as the ethical misconduct of the civilian and military leaders of the United States during the Vietnam war. He finds this same leadership responsible for the post-Vietnam disillusionment, divisiveness, and bitterness that he sees as the war's principal legacy.

As a vehicle for his narrative, Reston traces General William T. Sherman's march through present-day Georgia and the Carolinas from Tunnel Hill, Georgia, to Bennett Place, North Carolina. But several problems flaw this book. First, the diverse complexities and differences of the Civil and Vietnam wars make any kind of analogy impossible to draw. Second, the author presents as truth the wanton destruction of the Vietnamese land and people by U.S. troops. Here he mistakenly attributes post-traumatic stress disorder to the commission of atrocities rather than to involvement in sustained, intensive combat. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, Reston views U.S. involvement in Vietnam through a dark glass, presenting an unbalanced picture of what actually took place there. It is too bad that the author did not use the same care in examining the Vietnam war as he did in analyzing Sherman's Civil War battlefields.

Reston's criticism may anger veterans and confuse younger soldiers. But the central question of military ethics, though misaddressed by the author, should not be ignored. Too often, time tends to obscure the harsh realities and inevitable horrors of war, masking them with a fragile mixture of glory and romanticism.

Professional infantrymen understand the need to listen carefully to the echoes of the past as they prepare daily for the ultimate test that combat provides. In that arena, the moral and ethical stan-

dard of the individual will be sorely tested.

**PERSHING: GENERAL OF THE ARMIES.** By Donald Smythe (Indiana University Press, 1986. 399 Pages. \$27.50). Reviewed by Captain Harold E. Raugh, Jr., United States Army.

The story of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) in World War I and its commander, General John J. Pershing, are forever entwined in the history of the United States' noble effort to "make the world safe for democracy."

Donald Smythe has been studying and researching Pershing's life for almost three decades, and his current work is the sequel to his 1973 book, *Guerrilla Warrior: The Early Life of John J. Pershing*, and completes his biography of this almost legendary soldier.

The book begins with Pershing's selection to command the AEF shortly after the U.S. entered the war in April 1917. Pershing grew in maturity and competence as the war progressed, as did the AEF, the evolution of which Smythe tells about in rich detail. Smythe makes magnificent use of unpublished manuscripts, interviews, correspondence, and oral reminiscences in addition to published sources to tell his story.

Although he is an obvious admirer of his subject, Smythe's work has been done with great objectivity, including details concerning Pershing's personal life. He does not try to cover up allegations of Pershing's fathering illegitimate children in the Philippines, his two cases of gonorrhea contracted when he was a younger man, or his surreptitious relationship with Micheline Resco, which started in 1917 and to whom Pershing was secretly wed in 1946.

One of the major contributions of the book is the clarification of the issues that seriously divided the Americans from the British and French concerning the use of the American forces in France.

Overall, the book is a model of clarity, scholarship, incisiveness, and readability. It has a 41-page section of notes and a 33-page bibliography, plus photographs of the major personalities of the day and outstanding, easy-to-read maps. It is an indispensable and authoritative

reference for anyone interested in Pershing and in the AEF and the role the U.S. played in the "war to end all wars."

**THE 1987 MILITARY HISTORY CALENDAR.** By Raymond Lyman (Paladin Press, 1986. \$8.95).

Perhaps this particular item should not be in a book review section, but we think it merits a place here because this is not only a calendar, it is also a military history lesson, what with its historical photographs and almost daily entries. History buffs would welcome this as a gift.

**THE SOVIET AIRBORNE EXPERIENCE.** By Lieutenant Colonel David M. Glantz. Research Survey Number 4 (Combat Studies Institute, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, 1984. 211 Pages. Softbound). Reviewed by Major Don Rightmyer, United States Air Force.

Airborne operations form an important part of the Soviet military doctrine of deep battle. Although this surprises many, it is not a recent development in Soviet military theory. Despite the highly publicized uses of airborne forces by the United States, Great Britain, and Germany during World War II, the Soviets also used their airborne forces actively during the war years.

The author of this research survey is a Soviet area specialist who has written his monograph to clarify this little known facet of Soviet military operations. After discussing the Soviet airborne efforts during the 1920s and 1930s, the author uses most of his pages to cover the various actions by Soviet airborne forces during the war years. He provides a thorough discussion of each major engagement that involved the use of airborne troops along with excellent diagrams that detail both Soviet and German movements. The remainder of the book covers airborne developments since the end of World War II.

Colonel Glantz's study is a concise

**NOTE TO READERS: All of the books mentioned in this review section may be purchased directly from the publisher or from your nearest book dealer. We do not sell books. We will furnish a publisher's address on request.**

look at a critical aspect of present-day Soviet military operations and the foundation on which it was built. It provides a basis for further study and research. The bibliography and footnotes are extensive — they include both Soviet and Western sources — and an appendix containing ten colored maps is quite useful.

**JANE'S INFANTRY WEAPONS, 1986-87. 12th Edition.** Edited by Ian V. Hogg (Jane's Publishing, 1986. 991 Pages. \$136.00).

This latest edition of the standard and indispensable reference work on Infantry weapons and related ammunition and equipment has two new features — a multi-lingual (English, French, German, Italian) glossary of technical terms that are used in describing firearms, and an index of manufacturers along with their full addresses and telephone and telex numbers. It also has the usual addenda section (seven plus pages this time) that includes information on various weapons and pieces of equipment that arrived after the main part of the book had been set.

Otherwise, the book contains the usual detailed information on point target and area weapons and ammunition, antiarmor and anti-aircraft weapons, electronics and optics, training aids and simulators, body armor, and national inventories.

In his foreward, the editor, Ian Hogg, discusses a few of the latest developments in infantry weapons and ammunition, including the "pencil tracer" bullet developed by a U.S. firm. Hogg believes this bullet is "more accurate, more consistent in its burning, brighter and easier to spot than any conventional tracer."

**GUIDE TO EFFECTIVE MILITARY WRITING.** By William A. McIntosh (Stackpole Books, 1986. 223 Pages. \$14.95, Paperback). Reviewed by Ms. Marie Edgerton, Deputy Editor, *INFANTRY Magazine*.

The author is an Army lieutenant colonel and a permanent professor of English at the United States Military Academy. He is in a position, therefore, to be well acquainted with military writing at its best and at its worst.

He discusses the Army's 1985 regula-

tion called *The Army Writing Program*, a program that was developed at West Point. He calls it "not particularly unusual" except for two things — its own economy of language and its announced "standard by which a piece of writing will be judged." He says, "The essence of the regulation is this: Effective writing can be understood in a single rapid reading, and it is generally free of grammatical errors."

McIntosh's basic motto for the military writer is "I will write only when I must." In other words, the writer should see whether there may be an alternative method of communication that he can use short of writing.

McIntosh also calls for a less formal style in military writing, which in the past has generally forbidden such things as contractions and personal pronouns. And it has used the passive voice excessively. *Please* and *thank you* were strictly forbidden.

The author not only advocates using active voice (as most other teachers of writing do) but also urges military writers to use those previously forbidden constructions. This will be a real breakthrough if it catches on.

The grammar and usage section of the book is pretty much like others of the civilian variety, but may be useful nevertheless. *One always feels, however, that books of this kind are essentially*

"preaching to the converted" — that the only people who read them are those who are already fairly competent writers concerned about the finer points of their craft.

One annoying thing about the book is the author's use of feminine pronouns instead of the masculine *he, his, him* normally used in the generic sense. In bending over backward to avoid sounding sexist, he is oddly guilty of a kind of reverse sexism. In a military context this comes across as highly artificial, especially when no woman has been mentioned.

All in all, the book, with the *New Army Writing Program*, calls for clear, simple, straightforward communication, just as the civilian world has for many years. And it's about time.

**JANE'S MAIN BATTLE TANKS. Second Edition. By Christopher F. Foss (Jane's Publishing, 1986. 208 Pages. \$22.00).**

This new edition (the first edition was published in 1983) contains updated development histories, complete lists of variants, and full specifications of all of the main battle tanks in service in the world. The author, Christopher Foss, also includes details of some of the new designs that may enter service in the 1990s. As is usual with all of the Jane's series of reference books, this one, too,

has hundreds of selected photographs and line drawings.

Unfortunately, without a table of contents and running heads it is difficult for a reader to wend his way through the book without resorting to frequent glances at the index.

**WAR IN THE MIDDLE AGES. By Philippe Contamine. Translated by Michael Jones (Basil Blackwell, 1984. 387 Pages. \$29.95). Reviewed by Lieutenant Colonel John C. Spence III, United States Army Reserve.**

The author, a professor of history at the University of Paris, has written an interesting and well documented history of military activity in the Middle Ages. It is a welcome addition to a previously neglected period of military history. For some scholars of military history, writers such as B.H. Liddell Hart, the military significance of the Middle Ages is dismissed in just a few short lines. Contamine's study places the military activity of that era in historical perspective.

Contamine shows that from the decline of the Roman Empire to the rise of the modern nation state (c. 1500 A.D.), the Middle Ages were not merely the "Dark Ages." To the contrary, it was a period of significant military development in terms of organization, tactics, armaments, and social attitudes toward warfare.

# Infantry

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