

BOOK REVIEWS



A number of most interesting books have reached us in recent months. Among them were the following, which we think you would enjoy reading:

• **MAURICE'S STRATEGIKON: HANDBOOK OF BYZANTINE MILITARY STRATEGY.** Translated by George T. Dennis (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1984. 180 Pages. \$26.25). This is the first complete English translation of the most original Byzantine military handbook. In his introduction, the translator, a Jesuit priest and a professor of history at the Catholic University of America, explains the book's background and the sources of his translation. The *Strategikon* was composed between 575 and 628, but the identity of the actual author has never been clearly determined. It does appear to Dennis, though, that the Emperor Maurice (582-602) had a hand in its composition. Maurice is remembered for his reform of the Roman Army and it is that army that is described in this work. Dennis believes the handbook was intended for the average commander and accordingly was written in a language he could understand. He also believes the author, whoever he was, was an experienced soldier who had commanded troops on at least two fronts. Today's infantryman would do well to read and study this handbook, much of which still applies to the practice of military leadership at all levels.

• **UNITED STATES ARMY UNILATERAL AND COALITION OPERATIONS IN THE 1965 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC INTERVENTION.** By Major Lawrence M. Greenberg, Analysis Branch, Center of Military History (CMH Publication 93-5, 1987. 115 Pages, Softbound). For 17 months beginning 30 April 1965, U.S. military forces (chiefly the 82d Airborne Division), at first alone and then as part of the Organization of American States' (OAS) Inter-American Peace Force, participated in a peace-keeping mission in

the Dominican Republic. The mission was aimed at protecting the lives of U.S. citizens living in the Republic, establishing stability, and preventing a communist takeover of the country. This is the story of that operation; it is complete with the historical background to set the scene, the call for help from Republic military leaders relayed through the U.S. Ambassador's office, the decision to intervene, and the results of the intervention. The author feels that although our military leaders on the spot and the men of the 82d Airborne Division did their jobs in an exemplary fashion, "the U.S. intervention damaged political relationships within the western hemisphere—causing wounds which remain unhealed." He also points out that the "intervention caused deep rifts within the United States, especially between the Congress and the chief executive."

• **DICTIONARY OF WARS.** By George C. Kohn (Facts on File, 1986. 586 Pages. \$29.95). It is hard to believe that even though there are more than 1,700 entries in this book, the author feels his work does not include every military conflict. Although he defines war in a fairly broad manner, his intention is to provide both the general reader and the student "a quick, convenient, authoritative, and comprehensive source of information on the major wars, revolutions, revolts, and rebellions which have for so long been a part of history." He does this quite well. The hundreds of cross-references in the main body of the work are particularly useful, as are the two indexes.

• **BATTLES HITLER LOST.** By Marshall Georgi Zhukov, *et. al.* (Richardson and Steirman, 1986. 240 Pages. \$27.50). After an introductory

section that gives an overview of the Soviet Union's participation in World War II, 15 Soviet general officers give their accounts of some of the great battles in which they played prominent parts. Numerous previously unreleased photographs and a set of 17 full-color maps (each repeated in black-and-white in the chapter headings) complement the narratives. Of course, every Soviet soldier and airman was a hero, and the operations were usually conducted perfectly. On occasion the Soviet Supreme Commander, Joseph Stalin, had to be comforted or placated. This is an interesting book in some ways, but it is also one that must be handled with care.

• **GREAT BATTLES OF WORLD WAR II.** By John Macdonald (Macmillan, 1986. 192 Pages. \$35.00). The publisher claims too much for the computer graphics but the rest of the book is attractive and informative. Seventeen "battles" are covered, including the 1940 Battle of Britain and the sinking of the *Bismarck* the following year. A bibliography and an index are included.

• **G.I.: THE AMERICAN SOLDIER IN WORLD WAR II.** By Lee Kennett (Scribner's, 1987. 265 Pages. \$20.95). This is an excellent word-picture of the U.S. soldier of World War II days—his background, his reaction to the Army and to training and combat, his good and bad qualities, and his return to civilian life. Few who served wanted to be in the Army, but while they inwardly rebelled against the "Army system," they generally did their jobs "with a grim competence perhaps lightly tinged with cynicism," as the author puts it. Despite many opinions to the contrary, the American soldier in World War II made a fine combat soldier. The war he fought in the Pacific was different from the war his fellow soldiers fought in Europe, and the soldiers in each area reacted differently to their environments and enemies. They did not endear themselves to their allies;

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they probably drank too much and acted accordingly; they refused to understand foreign lands and peoples, although they tended to get along better after the war with their former enemies. The author is a professor of history at the University of Georgia. He exhibits a good feel for the G.I. of World War II, but he should remember that the OD uniform was wool (shade 32, in fact) and not the cotton twill fatigue uniform.

• **THE OTHER PRICE OF HITLER'S WAR: GERMAN MILITARY AND CIVILIAN LOSSES RESULTING FROM WORLD WAR II.** By Martin K. Sorge (Greenwood, 1986. 175 Pages. \$32.95). One of the major enemy powers the U.S. soldier faced during World War II—Germany—paid a high price for beginning the war in 1939. In this book, the author, a retired U.S. Air Force officer, not only details the overall German war losses from all causes, he also discusses atrocities committed by all parties to the struggle; the barbaric treatment of German prisoners-of-war by the Soviets; the destruction of German cities; and the post-war refugee problem resulting from Germany's dismemberment. From the numerous sets of figures in the book, it appears German losses (military and civilian) totaled nearly nine million, about 12 percent of the country's pre-war population. The author feels deeply for the German people and concludes his book by writing that Germany's "catastrophic suffering in defeat might be considered as at least a partial atonement for the losses Germany inflicted upon others" and "should permit a greater degree of objectivity in the popular and historic treatment of the German nation during and subsequent to the war years."

• **UNDER THE BOMBS: THE GERMAN HOME FRONT, 1942-1945.** By Earl R. Beck (University Press of Kentucky, 1986. 252 Pages. \$21.00). The author, a professor of history at Florida State University, does not concentrate on detailing the number of casualties Germany suffered during World War II, as does the previous author. Rather, he traces the travails the German people suffered as they endured the last three years of the war, from the hell of Stalingrad to the greater hell of Berlin. Along the way he tells of the sufferings caused the

civilian population by the Allied day and night bombing campaign, the continual movement of huge numbers of people from area to area, the fear of the Soviets as the war went on, the rise of youth groups, the problems with foreign workers, the shortages of food and clothing, the lack of almost any sort of entertainment as the war wound down, and the problems of reconstruction. He, too, feels a great sympathy for the German people and believes that "World War II left us all with a residue of suffering that we have not yet fully comprehended."

• **JANE'S MILITARY REVIEW.** Sixth Year of Issue. Edited by Ian V. Hogg (Jane's, 1987. 167 Pages. \$16.95). This latest edition of what has become a most popular publication has several articles that should appeal to all infantrymen—the growing importance of the helicopter on the modern battlefield; British Army training for fighting in built-up areas (FIBUA) and the need for FIBUA-oriented weapon systems; the new Spanish Army; mortars in the 1980s; a renewal of the gun-versus-missile argument; and the increasing use of simulation for training purposes. There is also an interesting photographic section titled "Not So Secret Weapons" that depicts World War II equipment developments that were never adopted and have since been forgotten. The book concludes with the usual "100 Years Ago" essay; in this one, the editor recalls weapon developments in 1886 and 1887.

• **STEINDLER'S NEW FIREARMS DICTIONARY.** By R.A. Steindler (Stackpole, 1985. 319 Pages. \$24.95). This new edition of an old stand-by is an excellent reference work, with its hundreds of entries arranged in dictionary format supplemented by specially developed photographs, drawings, and charts. The entries, where necessary, include cross-references, and commonly used alternative designations are given for certain of the items mentioned. A detailed, eight-page bibliography completes the book.

INFANTRY HOTLINE
 To get answers to Infantry-related questions or to pass on information of an immediate nature, call AUTOVON 835-7693, commercial 404/545-7693.
 For lengthy questions or comments, send in writing to Commandant, U.S. Army Infantry School, ATTN: ATSH-ES, Fort Benning, GA 31905.

• **WORLD WEAPON DATABASE: VOLUME I, SOVIET MISSILES.** By Barton Wright (D.C. Heath, 1986. 701 Pages. \$65.00). This book contains a voluminous amount of data on Soviet missiles of all kinds. The source data for each missile is presented in a standard format under 60 data categories such as performance, warhead, and dimensions. The missiles are listed by the designations used by the United States; there is also a list of the NATO codenames for the same missiles. This database covers all Soviet guided missiles ever produced, as well as Soviet unguided FROGS (free rockets over ground), and is based on information that has been published in various open sources.

• **AMERICAN DEFENSE ANNUAL, 1986-1987.** Edited by Joseph Kruzal (D.C. Heath, 1986. 293 Pages. \$32.00). This second volume in a relatively new series contains 11 individual essays that cover such subjects as defense doctrine and strategy, the defense budget, manpower and personnel issues, and weapon procurement. There are also two special supplements plus a 1985 defense chronology and a bibliography of defense books published in that same year.

• **ARMIES OF NATO'S CENTRAL FRONT.** By David C. Isby and Charles Kamps, Jr. (Jane's, 1985. 479 Pages. \$50.00). The authors use their first four chapters to give a general overview of the military situation on NATO's central front and to offer a possible scenario for a Soviet invasion. They then devote separate chapters to those NATO countries that have forces on the ground in Central Europe, and give an order of battle for each force. For each, the authors cover such subject areas as manpower and training, command and organization, weapons, reserve system, and tactics. The book also contains numerous photographs, maps, charts, and line drawings.

• **JANE'S SPACEFLIGHT DIRECTORY, 1987.** Third Year of Issue. Edited by Reginald Turnill (Jane's 1987. 551 Pages. \$130.00). Gradually, U.S. Infantrymen are becoming more and more concerned with space and their possible future role in our country's space efforts. This publication is the kind of reference book they need to update

themselves, for it includes discussions of national and international space programs, the solar system, military space policies, world space centers, and unmanned launchers. The editor believes that in the United States "NASA has lost the will to fly men in space" and that the U.S. itself is now in "a sordid period of nationalism." The Soviets, meanwhile, are pushing ahead and planning seriously for a manned expedition to Mars. An addenda, 1986 satellite launch tables, and an index complete the book.

Here are a number of our longer reviews:

THE DOGMA OF THE BATTLE OF ANNIHILATION: THE THEORIES OF CLAUSEWITZ AND SCHLIEFFEN AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE GERMAN CONDUCT OF TWO WORLD WARS. By Jehuda L. Wallach (Greenwood Press, 1986. 334 Pages. \$45.00). Reviewed by Doctor William J. Fanning, Jr.

"Nothing is more destructive in the field of military art than the establishment of dogma." This is the underlying theme of the author's refreshing and intellectually stimulating analysis of German military thought and conduct of operations from the late 19th century through 1945. The author, a reserve officer in the Israeli Defense Force and a professor of military history at Tel Aviv University, focuses primarily on the influence exerted by one man, Count Alfred von Schlieffen. He asserts that the rigid doctrine laid down by Schlieffen when he was Chief of the General Staff permeated the German Army during this period and contributed not only to its defeat in World War I but to its debacle in the 1939-1945 sequel as well.

Wallach's book encompasses two levels of thought. On the first, he discusses Schlieffen's strategical and tactical principles, how they were adopted and put into practice by the Germans during two world wars, and their fatal consequences. On another level, Wallach presents a concise and lucid comparison of Schlieffen's ideas with those of an earlier Prussian soldier and thinker, Count Carl von Clausewitz. Indeed, it is an integral part of the author's thesis that the Germans adhered to Schlieffen's dogmatic precepts instead of to the more flexible teachings

of Clausewitz. Throughout his book, Wallach contrasts Clausewitz's astute observations with the mistakes the German Army committed as it followed Schlieffen's methods.

Ironically, generations of German soldiers, including Schlieffen himself, rejected and misunderstood many of Clausewitz's teachings, all the while believing they were his devoted disciples.

This book is highly recommended for both the general reader and the professional soldier seeking to gain a sharper perspective on the fallacy of imposing fixed systems of command on the conduct of war.

FUNDAMENTALS OF TACTICAL COMMAND AND CONTROL (A SOVIET VIEW). By D.A. Ivanov. (Moscow, 1977, 333 Pages. Translated and republished by the USAF Directorate of Soviet Affairs, 1984.) Reviewed by Major Don Rightmyer, United States Air Force.

Planning and training for combat can seldom go wrong when "know thy enemy" is one of the guiding principles. A military professional certainly cannot hope to succeed in battle without having as much information about his opponent as possible.

Among the many areas of vital intelligence about an enemy force, command and control is essential to understanding and evaluating the opposing force's actions during troop marshaling, maneuvering, and combat. This book is an important contribution to our application of the Soviet Army's system of tactical command and control.

It is Volume 18 in the Soviet Military Thought Series that has been translated and edited by the Air Force's Directorate of Soviet Affairs. Published in 1977, the book was written principally for "officers . . . of the Ground Forces (and) those studying at military education institutions of various levels." U.S. military personnel will also find it useful.

The authors first lay a theoretical foundation for understanding their command and control system. While they generously mix in the typical Marxist-Leninist phrases that one expects, there is some worthwhile information to be found here.

From the abstract, the authors move to a more specific coverage of Soviet equipment, command posts, and command networks. While the Soviets continually seek more sophisticated technology and computer equipment from the West, the illustrations depict equipment of the 1950s. It is no wonder that the Soviets covet Western micro- and mini-computers to upgrade their data handling capabilities.

The remaining chapters of interest deal with how the Soviets gather the necessary information for making decisions, how they make decisions, and how they maintain troop morale during combat. The written description is improved by some interesting diagrams that clarify the operations being discussed. The final chapter explains how Soviet leaders relate the lessons of combat experience to their own troops, something the Soviets frequently try to do.

Unlike many Soviet books on military topics, this one is quite readable and contains a great deal of specific information. It gives the reader a good understanding of what the Red Army thinks and does in the command and control of its ground forces.

JULIUS CAESAR: THE PURSUIT OF POWER. By Ernle Bradford (William Morrow and Company, 1984. 312 Pages. \$17.95). Reviewed by Leroy Thompson, Mapaville, Missouri.

Ernle Bradford has the rare knack of being able to write well-researched and informative biographies in a highly readable manner. This is another Bradford book in that tradition.

From a soldier's point of view, Bradford makes some points that are as true today as they ever were. For example, Caesar always kept his attention focused on the power politics of Rome no matter where he was campaigning, for he realized that politics and military command are closely related. Bradford's book title is especially appropriate because it traces the machinations and the lucky breaks that combined to allow Caesar to rise to a position no other Roman had attained.

Bradford covers Caesar's campaigns and battles in reasonable detail but he does not lose track of the fact that his

main interest is their relationship to Caesar's rise to power. Some of Caesar's victories, in fact, were orchestrated against foes who did not really want to fight.

Although he avoids sensationalism, Bradford does offer the pros and cons of the theory advanced by some historians that Caesar was homosexual. Too, the section dealing with Caesar's kidnapping by pirates and his subsequent campaign against them is interesting because this is an incident that has been mentioned often but never analyzed this thoroughly.

This book is highly recommended not only for its ease of reading but also for the insights it offers into the relationship between military success and political power in the contemporary world.

AGAINST ALL ENEMIES: INTERPRETATIONS OF AMERICAN MILITARY HISTORY FROM COLONIAL TIMES TO THE PRESENT. Edited by Kenneth J. Hagan and William R. Roberts (Greenwood Press, 1986. 393 Pages. \$18.50). Reviewed by Doctor Charles E. White, USAIS Historian.

In this bicentennial year of our Constitution, this book offers "eighteen historical stepping stones across the history of the United States Army and, indeed, the nation." Each essay examines a particular period of our past; each is well documented; and each contains a bibliographical section for further reading.

During the past 200 years, the Army as an institution has remained basically unchanged. The concept of the citizen-soldier, the civilian control of the military, the complexities of national priorities and capabilities, the development of doctrine, and the continual search for a proper role and mission for the Army within the larger fabric of a dynamic society have all been part of our country's heritage, and all are discussed in this valuable book.

This book should be part of every professional development program. Far too many soldiers are captivated by the eloquent rhetoric of the so-called "military reform movement," which claims that it alone has the necessary objectivity to reform the military services. But as the

essayists clearly demonstrate, there has always been within the military services an intellectual legacy that far surpasses the naive and wishful thinking of academia.

In fact, this book shows that "reform" groups pose the greatest threat to our country's security, because their agendas generally impede progress and modernization. For this reason, if for no other, soldiers and civilians should read it.

MILITARY STRATEGY AND THE ORIGINS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR. An International Security Reader. Edited by Steven E. Miller (Princeton University Press, 1985. 186 Pages. \$6.95, Softbound). Reviewed by Lieutenant Colonel David A. Rolston, United States Army.

This stimulating collection of essays analyzes the origins of World War I and draws interesting parallels between that war and the current East-West conflict. As the editor points out in his introduction, in today's environment it is time to study anew the events of 1914—the escalation from an isolated incident in a far corner of Europe to global war, the apparent loss of control of the situation by key decision-makers, and the crowding out of diplomacy by military exigencies.

The various essayists examine a number of miscalculations that led inevitably not only to war but to an unexpectedly long one of an unforeseen nature. The two key areas that are addressed are the industrial base and the "Cult of the Offensive."

This book covers many more causal factors in fascinating detail, each important and germane to today's world problems. It is good reading and it is important for those who want a better understanding not only of World War I but of the national strategy implications of today's foreign policy.

GUIDE TO UNITED STATES ARMY SPECIAL FORCES INSIGNIA, 1952-1987. By Leonard Martin, H.W. Snyder, and H.J. Saunders (Military/Naval Books (P.O. Box 162, Larchmont, NY 10538), 1987. 44 Pages. \$12.95, Softbound).

The authors trace the various types of insignia worn by U.S. Army Special Forces units from their birth on 20 June 1952 to the present. Of course, the most distinctive of those insignia has been the green beret, which was not officially authorized for wear until 10 December 1961.

Included in this book are shoulder-sleeve insignia, beret flashes, recognition bars, distinctive unit insignia, parachute ovals, and coins. Color is used throughout where it is appropriate, and the dates shown represent the period of time the individual insignia was worn; unit adoption dates may precede these dates.

More than 150 insignia are shown, all in reduced sizes because of space limitations. One page is devoted to illustrations that show how the insignia should be worn. As the first in a planned series that will be dedicated to the insignia of U.S. elite forces, this book gets the whole business off to a fine start.

RECENT AND RECOMMENDED

FORECASTING IN MILITARY AFFAIRS: A SOVIET VIEW. By Yu. V. Chuyev and Yu. B. Mikhaylov. Moscow, 1975. Translated and published under the auspices of the U.S. Air Force. 230 Pages. S/N 008-070-00456-9, Superintendent of Documents, \$6.50, Softbound.

VIETNAM: THE HEARTLAND REMEMBERS. By Stanley W. Beesley. University of Oklahoma Press, 1987. 194 Pages.

REACHING FOR THE STARS: THE STORY OF ASTRONAUT TRAINING AND THE LUNAR LANDING. By Stanley H. Goldstein. Praeger, 1987. 193 Pages. \$35.95.

THE OFFERING. By Tom Carhart. William Morrow, 1987. 305 Pages. \$17.95.

AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE NAPOLEONIC ERA: RECENT PUBLICATIONS, 1945-1985. Compiled by Jack Allen Meyer. Greenwood, 1987. 288 Pages. \$39.95.

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM REVIEW NUMBER 1. Published by the Trustees of the Imperial War Museum. Jane's, 1986. 112 Pages, Softbound.

THE ARAB-ISRAELI WARS, THE CHINESE CIVIL WAR, AND THE KOREAN WAR. By Roy K. Flint, Peter W. Kozumplik, and Thomas J. Waraksa. The West Point Military History Series. Avery, 1987. 130 Pages. \$18.00, Softbound.

THE GERMAN ASSAULT RIFLE, 1935-1945. By Peter R. Senich. Paladin Press, 1987. 313 Pages. \$39.95.

WORTH DYING FOR: THE PHILIPPINE REVOLUTION. By Lewis M. Simons. Morrow, 1987. 320 Pages. \$18.95.