BOOK REVIEWS

Once again we are pleased to tell you about some of the interesting books that have come our way in recent months. Here are a number we feel you will want to read:

• SCAPEGOAT GENERAL: THE STORY OF MAJOR GENERAL BENJAMIN HUGER, CSA. By Jeffrey L. Rhoades (Shoe String Press, 1985. 164 Pages. $17.50). The subject of this book graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1824 and remained in the U.S. Army until 1861, when he resigned his commission to go with the South. He accepted a general officer appointment in the Confederate Army, first commanding the Department of Norfolk and later a division in the Army of Northern Virginia during the 1862 Peninsular Campaign.

Criticized for his actions during the evacuation of Norfolk in May 1862, Huger was even more severely criticized for his apparent slowness in bringing his division into battle at Seven Pines and again at White Oak Swamp. As a result, he was relieved of his command and eventually ordered to the Trans-Mississippi Department where he served until war's end. His request for a hearing, or even a court-martial, was never answered.

The author offers a spirited defense of Huger's actions and blames James Longstreet for wanting to get rid of Huger, who outranked him, and of anyone else senior to him. Robert E. Lee aided Longstreet in this quest so that the latter could become his second-in-command by ridding "not only the army but the whole state of those who outranked his favorite officer."

Certainly not all Civil War historians agree with the author's contentions. In fact, there is considerable doubt even after reading this book that Huger acted properly in leading his forces into battle. Still, Rhoades offers a somewhat different view of the many problems that plagued the Confederate high command in the east during the early years of the war.

• DILEMMAS OF THE DESERT WAR: A NEW LOOK AT THE LIBYAN CAMPAIGN, 1940-1942. By Michael Carver (Indiana University Press, 1986. 160 Pages. $20.00). Eighty years after and 2,000 miles away from the events cited in Jeffrey Rhoades's book, another general officer, Neil Ritchie, then commander of the British Eighth Army in the North African desert, was relieved of his command after his army had been roughly handled by Erwin Rommel and the *Deutsches Afrika Korps* (DAK). The author, now retired, is a distinguished British Army officer. He served in North Africa as a staff officer during the events about which he writes, and he has written previously about certain of those events.

He defends Ritchie, who later commanded a corps in Northwest Europe, but admits that Ritchie did not do enough to fend off his superior, General Claude Auchinleck. He feels that Ritchie, from the moment he assumed command late in November 1941, should have demanded "either that he should be allowed freedom to command his army in his own way, or be replaced."

The author does admit, however, that command throughout the Eighth Army at practically every level was never very effective and that it broke down almost continuously. Rommel certainly had a lot to do with that, but to Carver the British commanders in North Africa in 1941 and 1942 "were faced with a form of warfare completely novel to all, for which their experience and training was of little value." For this, they and their soldiers paid a high price.

• THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR AND WESTERN SECURITY, 1984-1987. By Anthony H. Cordesman. The RUSI Military Power Series (Jane's, 1987. 185 Pages. $28.00). The author refers to the fighting that has been going on between Iran and Iraq since September 1979 as a "war of lies" because each side "seeks to distort the perception of its own populace and the outside world for propaganda reasons." And although he admits his book "involves a lot of guesswork" and "draws heavily on the day to day reporting in the press," this plus his own superior knowledge of the Middle East gives his writing a distinct aura of credibility.

For various reasons Cordesman concentrates on the fighting that has occurred between January 1984 and early May 1987. (His narrative ends before the U.S. Navy began escorting oil tankers.) He also discusses Iran's covert relations with the United States, the tanker war, the strategic importance of the conflict and its effect on both future Western policies and the Iranian revolution, and the problem of energy on a global scale.

Overall, his is a well done work and deserves to be read by every infantryman.

• U.S. MARINES IN GRENADA, 1983. By Ronald H. Spector (USMC PCN 190-003097-00. Superintendent of Documents, 1987. 35 Pages, Softbound). The author is a Marine Corps Reserve officer and the Director of Naval History. In

keeping with the Corps' tradition of writing contemporary military history, he was called to active duty to prepare a monograph that would tell the Marine Corps' role in Operation Urgent Fury.

He does not claim that this is a complete story of the operation; his object is "to deal as completely as possible with Marine participation in that operation." This he does quite well. A seasoned military historian with several excellent books to his credit (including the first volume in the Army's official history of the Vietnam War), Spector traces the actions of the 22d Marine Amphibious Unit from its necessarily hurried initial planning in mid-October 1983 (it was then at sea on its way to Lebanon) to its departure from Grenada on 2 November to continue its original mission.

He discusses the various heliborne and amphibious assaults the Marine units conducted, the joint Marine-U.S. Army Ranger operation at Grand Anse, and the Marine occupation of the island of Carriacou.

Spector has done an excellent piece of work for the Marine Corps. His narrative is strong, solid, and straightforward; it should stand the test of time from a historical viewpoint.

• FORT SNELLING: COLOSSUS OF THE WILDERNESS. By Steve Hall (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1987. 44 Pages. $5.95, Softbound). This most attractive publication contains a brief history (as well as numerous photographs and maps) of Fort Snelling from its founding at the junction of the Mississippi and St. Peter's Rivers by Henry Leavenworth and his 5th Infantry in 1819. Leavenworth did not build the permanent fort; that burden fell on the shoulders of Josiah Snelling, who took command of the 5th Infantry in the summer of 1820. The author suggests that the completed fort "bespeaks a vision not found in any other American frontier fortification" and "that few men would have created such an extravagant monument."

Fully one-half of this publication is devoted to Snelling and the building of "his" fort. Unfortunately for the post, the military frontier continued to move westward and before long the fort's military significance declined and it became "a ceremonial campground and a point of embarkation for a receding wilderness." And in 1858 the fort was actually sold to a private speculator.

Reclaimed in 1861, the fort was expanded several times during the succeeding 80 years to meet the needs of wartime armies and department headquarters. Finally given

up by the Active Army in 1946, the fort is home today to several Army Reserve units.

• POWER AND PRINCIPLE: ARMED INTERVENTION IN WILSONIAN FOREIGN POLICY. By Frederick S. Calhoun (Kent State University Press, 1986. 333 Pages. $28.00). During his eight years as President of the United States, Woodrow Wilson committed this country's military forces seven different times (including World War I) to armed interventions in pursuit of his own foreign policy. As the author points out, Wilson established a record of armed interventions "as yet unsurpassed by his successors." As a result, he believes that "force has become an important tactic in American foreign policy in large part because Wilson showed how convenient an alternative it was."

Calhoun, the historian for the U.S. Marshalls Service, does a fine job of detailing Wilson's reasons for each intervention, the results obtained, and the lessons those armed interventions might hold for the future. Underlying this country's foreign policy at the time was Wilson's belief that "the United States was tied irrevocably with events beyond its borders" and that "he and his successors would have an essential role in the conduct of international relations."

In addition to discussing the interventions, the author details Wilson's often stormy relations with the military hierarchy. Wilson believed strongly in the concept of civilian supremacy and to him "the mission of America is the only thing that a sailor or a soldier should think about. He has nothing to do with the formulation of her policy." It is this aspect of the book that will probably appeal to the professional soldier. In fact, as a result of this kind of discussion of the military role in U.S. society as stated by one president, this book is must reading for the soldier.

Here are some of our longer reviews:

THE RESCUERS: THE WORLD'S TOP ANTI-TERRORIST UNITS. By Leroy Thompson (Paladin Press, 1986. 241 Pages. $17.95). Reviewed by Captain F.R. Hayse, United States Army.

Terrorism, and especially the nihilistic type that is most prevalent in the Western world today, is a growing threat that has forced many nations to designate a specific military or national police unit to carry out anti-terrorist or hostage rescue operations. And while the goals of these various units may be the same, as the author points out, their individual training and means of employment vary widely.

Leroy Thompson does a creditable job of covering the world's top anti-terrorist forces—their fundamental operational concepts, their training, and their equipment. He is

primarily concerned with the nuts and bolts of the units and not with the theoretical approach to the study of terrorism and anti-terrorist operations.

Although most of what Thompson covers in this book is already well known to those who are familiar with such units and their operations, his compilation of available unclassified information—with appendixes on weapons and equipment, distinctive unit insignia, units and terms, and terrorist groups—makes this a good reference book. It gives interested readers an idea of just how prevalent anti-terrorist operations have become and how important they are in protecting a country's property and its citizens.

THE PERFECT WAR: TECHNOWAR IN VIETNAM. By James William Gibson (The Atlantic Monthly Press, 1986. 523 Pages. $24.95). reviewed by Doctor Mike Fisher, University of Kansas.

Infantrymen who served in Vietnam saw little perfection. Rather they learned to survive and succeed in the often unordered ebb and flow of this nation's longest war.

Historian James Gibson searches for the causes of this disorder, and what he finds will delight, baffle, and perhaps anger students of the war. He unrelentingly pursues his thesis that our failure evolved from our tactical and strategical dependence on military technology, often shaping the evidence to fit his conclusions.

Using official records, oral interviews, media accounts, and other sources, Gibson recounts a litany of U.S. military mistakes. We learn of bombing runs made without bombs, set in motion only to raise the number of sorties. We read of Marines burning villages and killing civilians. We note that the famed 173d Airborne Brigade had but a skeleton force in the field because its logistical tail wagged its combat head. Even the CIA failed, the reader learns, because it did not burn money that was sent into Saigon in 1975 just before that city fell to the invaders.

The author, a non-combatant, seeks to impose order on the battlefield, a surface that seldom proves level. Perhaps more important, he disregards what happened in 1972 after U.S. men and arms left South Vietnam. To know what happened in Vietnam is not always to understand that country or the war that so consumed our own. This is the author's dilemma.

WHAT ARE GENERALS MADE OF? By Major General Aubrey Newman, United States Army Retired (Presidio, 1987. 314 Pages. $18.95). Reviewed by Lieutenant Colonel David R. Kiernan, United States Army.

In 66 brief chapters, General Newman provides a timeless primer for the military leader. Drawing upon his experiences from a successful career that began as a cadet at the U.S. Military Academy in 1921, he succinctly describes the challenges of Army life in a colorful, poignant manner. Epitomizing an ability to see the universe in a grain of sand, Newman's vignettes are as timely and appropriate now as they were 50 years ago.

The book, despite its title, is universal in its applicability. For the young officer and the noncommissioned officer, there are "how-to checklists" and lessons learned that can be immediately translated into practical application. On the other hand, a civilian reader will have little difficulty in seeing the soldier-leader as "Everyman" dealing with the decision-making process armed only with human qualities rather than as a stoic martinet quoting Army regulations. Finally, the history buff can see in this book the foibles of the personalities who drove the events of World War II.

The real strength of Newman's work rests on his ability to take his environment, assimilate its sights, sounds, and characters, and incorporate the blend into a microcosm that infuses the lessons of life today with the same validity they had yesterday.

The lesson of this book is a simple one—when in doubt, use common sense.

JANE'S INFANTRY WEAPONS, 1987-88. Thirteenth Edition. Edited by Ian V. Hogg (Jane's, 1987. 1,036 Pages. $150.00).

This latest edition of the infantryman's "weapons bible" contains Ian Hogg's usual interesting editorial musings and the customary detailed technical data on point target weapons, area weapons, antiaircraft and antitank weapons, electronics and optics, training aids and simulators, and body armor, and it also has an eight-page section titled "identification of obsolete weapons." In it are photographs of 64 weapons generally considered obsolete but which occasionally appear in various parts of the world carried by all sorts of people. For example, there is the U.S. Browning M1917A1 water-cooled machinegun, the U.S. Johnson semiautomatic rifle, and the U.S. Thompson submachinegun.

Hogg offers some interesting comments about what he calls the "Great American Pistol Contest" and calls attention to the newest entry, the Ruger P-85.

The book also has several glossaries of terms, an addenda section that updates the main body of the book, a table of national inventories, and an index.

JANE'S WEAPON SYSTEMS, 1987-88. Eighteenth Edition. Edited by Bernard Blake (Jane's, 1987. 1,197 pages. $159.50).

This new edition of an old standby—the second to be edited by Bernard Blake—is as useful and informative as ever. It does have a somewhat different interior format, for it is now divided into only four main sections to cover strategic,

land, sea, and air systems and equipment. There is still an addenda section to update the main body of the book; an analysis section in which much of the information presented in this and other Jane's yearbooks is arranged in tabular form; a glossary of acronyms and abbreviations; an explanation of Jane's code numbers; and an index.

Of particular importance to the infantryman is the material contained in the land section. Here he will find detailed information about army fire control systems, battlefield support systems (MLRS, Pershing, and the like), antitank guided missiles, portable antiaircraft guided missiles (Redeye, Blowpipe, for example), and ground radar systems and electronic warfare equipment.

In his foreword, Blake talks about current arms control negotiations and their possible ramifications; the need for the Western European nations to develop in the near future a combined European defense policy; and naval matters, including the escalating naval war in the Persian Gulf.

DEMOCRACY, STRATEGY, AND VIETNAM: IMPLICATIONS FOR AMERICAN POLICYMAKING. Edited by George K. Osborn, *et. al.* (Lexington Books, 1987. 373 Pages. $35.00). Reviewed by Doctor Joe P. Dunn, Converse College.

This book is the product of the 23d Annual West Point Senior Conference, a symposium of scholars, journalists, political figures, government officials, and military officers that was held in June 1985. The subject was "Vietnam: Did It Make A Difference?"

The book contains essays by 17 contributors and a final interpretive summation by the editors, who are members of West Point's Department of Social Sciences. Obviously the perspectives, arguments, and value of the individual essays vary considerably. The essays address a host of questions on the effect of the war on the Army, the intelligence community, the media, and the like, and on the war's meaning, legacy, and lessons.

Unfortunately, many of the essays are disappointing. But others are excellent, such as Robert Komer's "The Long-Term Significance of the Vietnam Experience" and the editors', "Did Vietnam Make A Difference? No! Conclusions and Implications." Both express what is the predominant view of most of the contributors, that Vietnam was not a watershed. They believe that for all of that war's short term effects and associated trauma, the global situation we face today would be largely the same with or without it. This statement, of course, is a tremendous oversimplification of what the whole volume is attempting to address.

Finally, the book's title is unfortunate because it sounds unfocused and dull. The editors would have been well advised to capture the spirit and purpose of the enterprise by using the title of the conference.

RECENT AND RECOMMENDED

1988 MILITARY HISTORY CALENDAR. By Raymond R. Lyman. Paladin Press, 1987. $8.95.

SOUTH AFRICA'S SECURITY DILEMMAS. By Christopher Coker. Praeger, 1987. 112 Pages. $29.95.

ARMS CONTROL AND THE ATLANTIC COMMUNITY. By Werner Feld. Praeger, 1987. 192 Pages. $35.95.

FIRST USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS: UNDER THE CONSTITUTION, WHO DECIDES? By Peter Raven-Hansen. Greenwood, 1987. 252 Pages. $37.95.

CONTEMPORARY TERRORISM. Edited by William Gutteridge. Facts on File, 1986. 225 Pages. $9.95, Softbound.

TACTICS: A SOVIET VIEW. By V. G. Reznichenko. A 1987 Reprint of the 1984 Edition. Published under the Auspices of the U.S. Air Force. USGPO S/N 008-070-00589-1. Superintendent of Documents. 256 Pages. $7.00, Softbound.

WORLD MILITARY EXPENDITURES AND ARMS TRANSFERS, 1986. United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, 1987. USGPO S/N 002-000-00092-0. Superintendent of Documents. 168 Pages. $8.00, Softbound.

CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTORY, 1987-1988. Joint Committee on Printing, 1987. USGPO S/N 052-070-06239-8. Superintendent of Documents. 1,628 Pages. $15.00, Softbound.

AMTRACS: AMERICAN AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT VEHICLES. By Steven Zaloga. Color Plates by Terry Hadler. Vanguard Series Number 45. Osprey, 1987. 48 Pages. $7.95, Softbound.

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR ARMIES (4): STATE TROOPS. By Philip Katcher. Color Plates by Ron Volstad. Men-at-Arms Series Number 190. Osprey, 1987. 48 Pages. $7.95, Softbound.

THE RUSSIAN ARMY OF THE NAPOLEONIC WARS (2): CAVALRY, 1798-1814. By Philip Haythornthwaite. Color Plates by Bryan Fosten. Men-at-Arms Series Number 189. Osprey 1987. 48 Pages. $7.95.

THE BRITISH ARMY ON CAMPAIGN, 1816-1902 (I): 1816-1853. By Michael Barthorp. Color Plates by Pierre Turner. Men-at-Arms Series 193. Osprey, 1987. 48 Pages. $7.95.

UNDERSTANDING WAR: HISTORY AND THEORY OF COMBAT. By Trevor N. Dupuy. Paragon House, 1987. 320 Pages. $24.95.

A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PUBLICATIONS OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIA CONFLICT. Compiled by Lieutenant Colonel Adrian G. Traas. Southeast Asia History Branch, Histories Division, U.S. Army Center of Military History, July 1987. 19 Pages.

ARMOUR 1987. An *International Defense Review* Editorial Supplement. Interavia, Switzerland, 1987. 58 Pages. $8.00, Softbound.

THE ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR: SKY SOLDIERS. By F. Clifton Berry, Jr. Bantam Books, 1987. 158 Pages. $6.95.

THE ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR: ARMOR. By James Arnold. Bantam Books, 1987. 158 Pages. $6.95.

THE ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR: CARRIER OPERATIONS. By Edward J. Marolda. Bantam Books, 1987. 158 pages. $6.95.

THE ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR: MARINES . By Edwin H. Summers. Bantam Books, 1987. 158 Pages. $6.95.

***BICENTENNIAL OF THE CONSTITUTION: A RESOURCE GUIDE.* Department of the Army, 1987. USGPO S/N 008-020-01112-6. Superintendent of Documents. 141 Pages. $9.00, Softbound.**

BATTLE FOR ULSTER: A STUDY OF INTERNAL SECURITY. By the National Defense University Press, 1987. USGPO S/N 008-020-01101-1. Superintendent of Documents. 153 Pages. $3.75, Softbound.