

BOOK REVIEWS



The Osprey Publishing Company of London continues to send us copies of its various uniform books. Among the latest ones we have received are these:

- **THE BRITISH ARMY IN THE 1980s.** Text and color plates by Mike Chappell. Elite Series 14. 1988. 64 Pages, Softbound.

- **NATO ARMIES TODAY.** Text by Nigel Thomas, color plates by Ron Volstad. Elite Series 16. 1988. 64 Pages, Softbound.

- **ARAB ARMIES OF THE MIDDLE EAST WARS (2).** Text by Samuel M. Katz, color plates by Ron Volstad. Men-at-Arms Series 194. 1988. 48 Pages, Softbound.

- **HUNGARY AND THE FALL OF EASTERN EUROPE, 1000-1568.** Text by David Nicolle, color plates by Angus McBride. Men-at-Arms Series 195. 1988. 48 Pages, Softbound.

- **THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE, 1873-1987.** Text by David Ross and Robin May, color plates by Richard Hook. Men-at-Arms Series 197. 1988. 48 Pages, Softbound.

- **THE BRITISH ARMY ON CAMPAIGN, 1816-1902 (3).** Text by Michael Barthorp, color plates by Pierre Turner. Men-at-Arms Series 198. 1988. 48 Pages, Softbound.

Here are a number of other books we want you to know about:

- **THE PARAMETERS OF WAR: MILITARY HISTORY FROM THE JOURNAL OF THE U.S. ARMY WAR COLLEGE.** Edited by Lloyd J. Matthews and Dale E. Brown. Pergamon-Brassey's, 1987. 301 Pages. Softbound. This is a fine collection of military history essays culled from the pages of *Parameters*, the Army War College's professional bulletin. The 22 essays are divided into five broad categories—military history (the nature and practice of the

craft), great battles, aspects of the great captains, civil-military relations, and history as a prelude to doctrine.

- **1988 WEAPON SYSTEMS, UNITED STATES ARMY.** USGPO S/N 008-020-01131-2. 149 Pages. \$9.00, Softbound. This is the latest version of an annual publication that highlights the weapon systems and other equipment that are products of the Army's research, development, and acquisition program. It is an excellent reference publication.

- **GUIDE TO MODERN DEFENSE AND STRATEGY.** By David Robertson. Gale, 1987. 324 Pages. \$65.00. First published in England as *A Dictionary of Modern Defence and Strategy*, this book is just that—a dictionary of terms. But the author has fleshed out each term with an essay of average length of 350 words—including one on "Infantry"—and provides in each essay considerable cross-referencing and the inclusion of related concepts.

- **NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY/VIET CONG UNIFORMS AND FIELD EQUIPMENT, 1965-1975.** By Dennis C. Katallo and Allen J. Bending. MILTEC Enterprises (900 Rohlwing Road, Addison, IL 60101), 1988. 60 Pages. \$12.00, Softbound. This is the first in a planned series designed for collectors and researchers. Items are listed, with photographs of each, under such general headings as headgear, small arms, footwear, and field equipment. The authors have included a NVA/VC regimental order of battle, a bibliography, and the names and addresses of militaria dealers.

- **THE WORLD SINCE 1945.** By T. E. Vadney. Facts on File, 1987. 576 Pages. \$29.95. This is a survey of recent global history in which the author selects particular happenings as examples of more general trends and

then explores those cases in some detail. He highlights political events and occasionally goes back past 1945 to provide necessary background for the events he discusses.

- **HANDBOOKS TO THE MODERN WORLD: THE MIDDLE EAST.** Edited by Michael Adams. Revised and Updated version of the 1971 Edition. Facts on File, 1987. 865 Pages. \$45.00. This volume examines the general background of the Middle East and then covers each country in the region twice—in a factual, statistical overview and in a detailed, analytical article. Separate sections concentrate on political affairs, economic issues, and social problems.

- **TANK VERSUS TANK: THE ILLUSTRATED STORY OF ARMORED BATTLEFIELD CONFLICT IN THE 20TH CENTURY.** By Kenneth Macksey. Salem House, 1988. 192 Pages. \$24.95. The author is a retired British Army armor officer who has published a number of other books on armored warfare. In this book, he again traces the development of the tank and its weaponry and the part it has played in the various wars of this century. In a concluding chapter, he suggests a possible tank versus tank engagement in the 1990s. He believes that the tank has "an assured future" and that "no equally satisfactory means has been found to dominate combat by terror and by immense striking power high mobility and a reasonable level of protection in one, albeit very expensive, vehicle."

- **FIREPOWER: A HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN HEAVY TANK** By R. P. Hunnicutt. Presidio Press 1988. 224 Pages. \$40.00. In this book, the author traces the development of the U.S. heavy tank from the Mark VIII through the M103A

Only one Army battalion stationed overseas (originally the 899th Tank Battalion, later the 2d Heavy Tank Battalion, 33d Armor) ever received the heavy tank—in early 1958 it was issued the 120mm gun tank M103. Interestingly enough, the U.S. Marine Corps was the principal user of the M103 tank series, which was the only heavy tank ever standardized by the U.S. for troop service. The author also includes the many proposals and experimental vehicles that were never accepted for further development and production, and gives the details of the most important vehicles and their weapons.

Now here are some of our longer reviews:

THE U.S. ARMY WAR COLLEGE GUIDE TO THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG. Edited by Doctor Jay Luvaas and Colonel Harold W. Nelson (South Mountain Press, 1986. 240 Pages. \$18.95).

THE U.S. ARMY WAR COLLEGE GUIDE TO THE BATTLE OF ANTIETAM: THE MARYLAND CAMPAIGN OF 1862. Edited by Doctor Jay Luvaas and Colonel Harold W. Nelson (South Mountain Press, 1987. 310 Pages. \$21.95). Both books reviewed by Major Don Rightmyer, United States Air Force.

There are a variety of ways to read, enjoy, and benefit from our Civil War military history. One of the best ways is to grab some walking shoes and head for the actual battlefields where soldiers from the North and the South struggled, fought, bled, and died. Today, many of our national battlefields, all manned by knowledgeable staff members, are geared to assist a visitor in his battlefield wanderings.

If you do decide to visit any of the Civil War battlefields, you should take with you an authoritative battlefield guide, similar to one of the guides mentioned in this review. These guides, the first two in a planned Army War College series, are excellent tools for understanding these two hard-fought Civil War battles.

The editors use first-hand accounts of the men who fought in the battles as well as battle reports from the offi-

cial series of Civil War records. The battle descriptions are clearly arranged and organized along with specific instructions on how and where to walk or drive to get the most from a particular area. Several excellent maps and period photographs are also included.

But even if a reader of these books never sets foot on one or the other of the battlefields, he will benefit from simply reading them.

AUSTRALIA'S WAR IN VIETNAM. By Frank Frost (Allen and Unwin, 1987. 211 Pages. \$34.95). Reviewed by Doctor Joe P. Dunn, Converse College.

Australia sent forces to Vietnam to extend diplomatic and political support to the United States and the Republic of Vietnam and to demonstrate that Australia considered the conflict an important one. Based at Nui Dat in Phuoc Tuy Province, some 47,000 Australians served between 1966 and 1971, with a peak commitment of 8,300. The Australians and New Zealanders, who served together in joint units, were the only U.S. allies who were not financially supported by the Americans.

Although the Australian task force conducted many proficient military operations, it experienced great difficulties in working with local RVN forces, and in combatting the NLF infrastructure in the province. It was a trying and difficult experience for the men of the task force.

Some previous work has been done on the Australian effort, but this is the most detailed, systematic study available. The author used Australian and U.S. records as well as extensive interviews in this well-researched volume, which was originally his doctoral thesis completed in 1976. Although the writing is a bit dry and reads like government-sponsored official history, it is a most useful addition to the literature on the Vietnam war and our larger understanding of the trials of allied cooperation.

THE ARMY AND VIETNAM. By Andrew F. Krepinevich, Jr. (The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986. 318 Pages.) Reviewed by Captain Michael E. Long, United States Army.

When he wrote this book, the author was a serving U.S. Army officer teaching national security affairs at the Military Academy. The book itself raised quite a few eyebrows, for it was, and is, a controversial work.

The author argues, for example, that the Army and the entire U.S. military structure were trapped in a peculiar sort of mindset—"more bombs, guns, and troops could eventually lead to victory." Unfortunately, the Army, oriented as it was at the time to mid-intensity warfare, could not readily adjust to the demands of counterinsurgency, jungle warfare, and firepower restraints.

The arguments the author has marshalled are presented in ten well-reasoned and well-documented chapters. Overall, it was the pervasive thought of fighting a conventional war on the part of the higher level commanders that led to many of the difficulties the U.S. military forces encountered in Vietnam. Perhaps the most convincing support of the author's theses can be found in General Omar Bradley's statement: "Vietnam was the wrong war—at the wrong place, at the wrong time, with the wrong Army."

Hopefully, we will not repeat the mistakes we made in Vietnam. With that in mind, this book is highly recommended for all Army officers and military historians.

FROM OSS TO GREEN BERET: THE BIRTH OF SPECIAL FORCES. By Aaron Bank (Presidio Press, 1986. 236 Pages. \$16.95). Reviewed by Captain F. R. Hayse, United States Army.

On 19 June 1952, the 10th Special Forces Group was activated at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. This was the first SF group to be activated and, appropriately, its first commander was

also the man who was largely responsible for its inception—Colonel Aaron Bank.

An OSS operative both in southern France and in Indochina during World War II, Colonel Bank's experiences with guerrilla forces were to prove pivotal in convincing the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff that a Special Forces unit was both feasible and necessary, and that it should be an Army unit.

The book is easy to read and fills a general gap in our knowledge concerning how the U.S. Army tried to learn from its World War II and Korean War experiences with "elite" units—their organization, missions, and command and control—and to use those lessons to meet future Army needs.

With the current emphasis on special operations and the expansion of Special Forces, books like this one are needed to ensure that we understand how we got where we are today so that we can plan where we want to go tomorrow. It makes particularly excellent reading for the Special Forces community.

ON THE MEANING OF VICTORY: ESSAYS ON STRATEGY.
By Edward N. Luttwak (Simon and Schuster, 1986. 315 Pages. \$18.95).
Reviewed by Lieutenant Colonel John C. Spence III, United States Army Reserve.

Edward Luttwak, in this book, has made another thoughtful contribution to the current debate over reform of the U.S. military establishment. In reality, it is a collection of his essays previously published in such journals of opinion as *Commentary* and *The New Republic*.

Luttwak constantly stresses the need to recognize the Soviet Union for what it is: a world power that is not hesitant to use military force to further its geopolitical goals. Consequently, he argues that the United States cannot disregard the role of military force in the contemporary world.

Although the various essays were written over a period of time, many of the conclusions Luttwak reaches seem

as valid today as when they were first written. Not all of his criticisms of the U.S. military services are necessarily valid, however. For example, he argues for curriculum reform at West Point and at the U.S. Air Force Academy without offering any supporting evidence.

But taken as a whole, this is a worthwhile collection of essays that should be read by professional soldiers as well as private citizens who are concerned about the future of our country.

GALLIPOLI, 1915: PENS, PENCILS, AND CAMERAS AT WAR.
By Peter H. Liddle (Pergamon-Brassey's, 1985. \$16.95).
Reviewed by Captain Harold E. Raugh, Jr., United States Army.

The year 1985 marked the 70th anniversary of the ill-fated Gallipoli campaign of World War I, an event that has been indelibly etched into British and Commonwealth history and memory, and one that refuses to fade from the national conscience. To be sure, as the author puts it, about Gallipoli "there will always hang an aura of very special human endeavour in most extraordinary, pitiful and tragic circumstances."

This lavishly illustrated, enthralling book is a collection of photographs, diary and letter excerpts, and sketches from participants in this ignominious venture of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. Many of the items in this book have never before been published, and they portray and relate the human facets of war that should be studied by all aspiring leaders.

This story of a mighty military undertaking, told in the words and pictures of those who were there, is highly recommended to all, especially enthusiasts of World War I.

RECENT AND RECOMMENDED WAR MEMORIALS AS POLITICAL LANDSCAPE: THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE AND BEYOND. By James M. Mayo. Praeger, 1988. 320 Pages. \$42.95.
MESSERSCHMITTS OVER SICILY. By Johannes Steinhoff. The Nautical and Aviation Publishing Company of America,

1987. Originally published in German in 1969. 270 Pages. \$19.95.

LET THE DRUMS BEAT: A HISTORY OF THE DETROIT LIGHT GUARD. By Stanley D. Solvick. Wayne State University Press, 1988. 174 Pages. \$25.00.

A NEW EXCALIBUR: THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TANK, 1909-1939. By A.J. Smithers. Hippocrene Books, 1987. 262 Pages. \$29.95.

TACTICS: A SOVIET VIEW. Editor: V.G. Reznichenko. Moscow, 1984. Translated and published under the auspices of the U.S. Air Force. *Soviet Military Thought Series Number 21.* USGPO, 1987. S/N 008-070-00589-1. 250 Pages. \$7.00, Paperbound.

ARCHEOLOGICAL INSIGHTS INTO THE CUSTER BATTLE: AN ASSESSMENT OF THE 1984 FIELD SEASON. By Douglas D. Scott and Richard A. Fox, Jr., with a contribution by Dick Harmon. University of Oklahoma Press, 1987. 146 Pages. \$9.95, Softbound.

THE INITIAL PERIOD OF WAR—A SOVIET VIEW. By S.P. Ivanov. Translated and published under the auspices of the U.S. Air Force. U.S. Government Printing Office, 1986. Reprint of the 1974 Edition. S/N 008-070-00573-5. 320 Pages. \$9.50, Softbound.

DOCTRINE, THE ALLIANCE, AND ARMS CONTROL. Edited by Robert O'Neill. Shoe String Press, 1987. 232 Pages. \$29.50.

THE MILITARY IN AFRICAN POLITICS. Edited by John W. Harbeson. Praeger, 1987. 208 Pages. \$35.95.

THE LATIN AMERICAN MILITARY INSTITUTION. Edited by Robert Wesson. Praeger, 1986. 237 Pages. \$37.95.

VOICES OF COMBAT: A CENTURY OF LIBERTY AND WAR SONGS, 1765-1865. By Kent A. Bowman. Greenwood, 1987. 172 Pages. \$39.95.

UNITED STATES AIRBORNE FORCES, 1940-1986. By Leroy Thompson. Blandford War Photo-Files. Sterling, 1986. 219 Pages. \$9.95, Softbound.

BRITISH BATTLE INSIGNIA (2), 1939-1945. By Mike Chappell. Men-at-Arms Series Number 187. Osprey, 1987. 48 Pages. \$7.95, Softbound.

THE RUSSIAN ARMY OF THE NAPOLEONIC WARS (I): INFANTRY, 1799-1814. By Philip Haythornthwaite. Color Plates by Paul Hannon. Men-at-Arms Series Number 185. Osprey, 1987. 48 Pages. \$7.95, Softbound.

THE APACHES. By Jason Hook. Color Plates by Richard Hook. Men-at-Arms Series Number 186. Osprey, 1987. 48 Pages. \$7.95, Softbound.

POLISH ARMIES, 1569-1696 (I). By Richard Brzezinski. Plates by Angus McBride. Men-at-Arms Series Number 184. Osprey, 1987. 48 Pages. \$7.95, Softbound.

SELLING THE ROPE TO HANG CAPITALISM: THE DEBATE ON WEST-EAST TRADE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. Edited by Charles M. Perry and Robert L. Pfaltzgraff, Jr. Pergamon-Brassey's, 1987. 246 Pages. \$30.00.