

BOOK REVIEWS



The Army's Center of Military History should be roundly applauded for bringing back in facsimile reprint format a series of volumes on the World War I era. These books were originally published between 1931 and 1949.

The first five volumes in the series—titled the *Order of Battle of the United States Land Forces in the World War*—are now available from the Superintendent of Documents. The five volumes are subtitled as follows:

- VOLUME 1, AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES: GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, ARMIES, ARMY CORPS, SERVICES OF SUPPLY, SEPARATE FORCES (USGPO S/N 008-029-00164-1. 1988. 412 Pages. \$21.00).

- VOLUME 2, AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES: DIVISIONS (USGPO S/N 008-029-00165-9. 1988. 451 Pages. \$22.00).

- VOLUME 3, PART 1, ZONE OF THE INTERIOR: ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITIES OF THE WAR DEPARTMENT (USGPO S/N for all three parts of Volume 3 is 008-029-00166-7. 1988. 547 Pages. Price for all three parts is \$36.00).

- VOLUME 3, PART 2, ZONE OF THE INTERIOR: TERRITORIAL DEPARTMENTS, TACTICAL DIVISIONS ORGANIZED IN 1918, AND POSTS, CAMPS, AND STATIONS (1988. 1,002 Pages).

- VOLUME 3, PART 3, ZONE OF THE INTERIOR: DIRECTORY OF TROOPS (1988. 1,593 Pages).

Another interesting publication from the Center is one published jointly with the Office of Air Force History. It is *A PATTERN FOR JOINT OPERATIONS: WORLD WAR II CLOSE AIR SUPPORT, NORTH AFRICA*, by Daniel R. Mor-

tensen (USGPO S/N 008-029-00161-6. 1987. 104 Pages. \$5.50, Softbound). This is one of the first studies ever done on the origins of modern close air support practices during World War II.

The Office of History, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has also sent us some publications that infantrymen should find of considerable interest:

- PUT 'EM ACROSS: A HISTORY OF THE 2d ENGINEER SPECIAL BRIGADE, 1942-1945 (A 1988 facsimile reprint of the 1946 edition, which was printed by a commercial house. USGPO S/N 008-022-00246-4. 278 Pages. \$20.00, Softbound).

- THE NATION BUILDERS: A SESQUICENTENNIAL HISTORY OF THE CORPS OF TOPOGRAPHICAL ENGINEERS, 1838-1863, edited by Frank N. Schubert (USGPO S/N 008-022-00248-1. 1988. 81 Pages. \$2.75, Softbound).

- HOLDING THE LINE: THE 51st ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION AND THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, DECEMBER 1944 - JANUARY 1945, by Ken Hechler (USGPO S/N 008-022-00247-2. 1988. 66 Pages. \$4.50, Softbound).

We have also received a number of other recently published books we think you should know about:

- GERMAN TANKS OF WORLD WAR II, by George Forty (Sterling, 1988. 160 Pages. \$24.95). This book resembles in its layout and design the author's 1983 book on U.S. tanks in World War II. In this one, the author describes the design and construction of all of the German tanks of the World War II era, and spices his narrative with many excellent photographs and numerous accounts of individual tank engagements.

- WORLD WAR II THROUGH GERMAN EYES, by James Lucas

(Sterling, 1987. 192 Pages. \$24.95). Basing his narrative on extensive research and interviews with men and women who lived through the pre-war and war years in Germany, the author shows what the German people themselves thought of their leaders, their armed forces, the death camps, their enemies, and the conduct of the war. One of the most important points the author makes is that "Hitler commanded the loyalty of the great mass of the German people. They trusted him to produce even at the eleventh hour some wonder weapon, some political miracle which would win the war and justify the losses which had been endured and the sufferings which they had had to undergo."

- THE ATLAS OF AMERICAN HISTORY, by Robert H. Ferrell, cartography by Richard Natkiel (Facts on File, 1987. 192 Pages. \$24.95). This is an outstanding reference work, with some 200 maps supporting a book-length text that reconstructs our entire history. In addition, the book contains numerous statistical tables, graphs, charts, more than 100 paintings, drawings, and photographs, and a comprehensive index.

- ENTER THE DRAGON: CHINA'S UNDECLARED WAR AGAINST THE U.S. IN KOREA, 1950-1951, by Russell Spurr (Newmarket Press, 1988. 384 Pages. \$22.95). A different sort of history is presented in this book, primarily because the author, a well-known foreign and military correspondent, gives us a look at the Chinese side of the Korean War. This is not a detailed history of that war, but it does make interesting reading. A reader has to wonder, though, how the Chinese soldiers the author interviewed were able to recall with such exactness their 30-year old conversations.

• **MAJOR DEFENSE SYSTEMS PRODUCERS—USA 1988**, edited by R. Noyes and D. J. DeRenzo (Noyes and Summerville, Mill Road at Grand Avenue, Park Ridge, NJ 07656. 1988. 380 pages. \$96.00). This guide outlines the activities of the 208 top defense system producers in the United States. The firms are organized alphabetically by parent company, with all divisions, subsidiaries, and affiliates included under their parent companies. A separate listing shows the five important non-profit federally funded research and development centers.

• **WEAPONS AND WARFARE: CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS AND THEIR ROLES IN BATTLE**, edited by Major General Ken Perkins (Pergamon-Brassey's, 1987. 272 Pages. \$37.50). Eleven eminent authorities express their personal views on the future of such diverse subjects as helicopters and fixed wing aircraft, tank warfare, mortar and artillery systems, small arms, and electronic warfare.

• **THE DICTIONARY OF BATTLES**, edited by David Chandler (Henry Holt, 1988. 256 Pages. \$24.95). Seven writers lend their narrative and historical skills to this very fine reference book. Each writer singles out the crucial battles and campaigns that occurred during the particular periods of world history about which they are writing. Special maps and battle plans complement the narratives, which contain far more than simple battle histories.

• **WHO WAS WHO IN THE CIVIL WAR**, by Stewart Sifakis (Facts on File, 1988. 766 Pages. \$45.00). The author is a journalist and long time Civil War buff. In this book he offers 2,500 concise biographical sketches of all 583 Union and 425 Confederate officers who achieved the rank of general officer, as well as officers of lesser rank, soldiers who distinguished themselves in battle and civilians who contributed to their causes. Naval officers are also included.

Now here are some of our longer reviews:

THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN VIETNAM. By Clark Dougan, Stephen Weiss, and the Editors of the Boston Publishing Company (W. W. Norton, 1988. 352 Pages. \$39.95). Reviewed by Doctor Joe P. Dunn, Converse College.

This is probably the best of more than a dozen single-volume pictorial histories of the Vietnam War currently in print. Written and edited by the same team that produced the 25-volume illustrated history *The Vietnam Experience*, it covers the war from the mid-1950s through the fall of Saigon and the Vietnam Monument.

As with all the books in the earlier multi-volume series, it combines excellent text with fascinating and illuminating pictures, most full-page and in color. Each of the eight units includes an interview with an eyewitness to the events highlighted.

If one surveys the extant pictorial histories, the same pictures—in many cases classics of the war—surface in each volume. But this particular volume for the most part uses photographs not previously published. It is an eclectic collection that includes scenes from basic training, combat of all kinds, day-to-day life away from the field in Vietnam, the anti-war movement at home, POWs, and much more. The text is succinct, balanced, and interesting.

Although this is a fine product, its price will limit its purchase predominately to libraries or those who collect such volumes. This is a shame since the book is quite useful for the lay reader.

THE FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE: THE MILITARY EXPLANATION. By Arther Ferrill (Thames and Hudson, 1986. 192 Pages. \$22.50). Reviewed by Leroy Thompson, Manchester, Missouri.

Analyzing the reasons for the fall of the Roman Empire has been a pastime among historians since Edward Gibbon penned his great work 200 years ago. The tendency, however, has been to pay more attention to the social reasons for Rome's decline than

to the military ones. Not so for Arther Ferrill, who concentrates his attention on certain changes in the Roman military system that he feels precipitated Rome's demise.

This book should prove useful to those who read widely in ancient military history as a stimulus to their thinking about the points the author raises; it should prove equally useful to readers who do not have the same background—they will find that the book provides a useful overview of the military history of the later Roman Empire.

Ferrill begins by discussing various other theories that have been advanced for Rome's decline and then gives his own beliefs. He tells of the major operations and battles of the period and relates them to Rome's decline. He feels, for example, that the battle of Adrianople was of critical importance because of the loss of a large number of highly trained Roman soldiers who could not be replaced.

But he believes that the two primary military factors that caused Rome's fall were the large number of barbarians taken into the army and the shift away from strongly defended borders backed by a few mobile legions toward a policy of maintaining a large central reserve with only a few units on the borders.

All in all, I recommend this book most highly, and particularly to those readers who are interested in the study of grand strategy.

U.S. MARINES IN VIETNAM: VIETNAMIZATION AND REDEPLOYMENT, 1970-1971. By Graham A. Cosmas and Terrence P. Murray (History and Museums Division, U.S. Marine Corps, 1986. 487 Pages \$22.95). Reviewed by Doctor Mike Fisher, Kansas State University.

This volume is the fifth in a planned series of ten that will tell the official history of the Marine involvement in Vietnam. It covers the last 18 months of operations in the I Corps area, which consisted of the five northernmost provinces of South Vietnam.

niques of warfare have grown increasingly complex, in many ways the basics of armed combat remain remarkably unchanged. He amplifies this thesis through a chronological examination of the benchmark battles known to modern man.

He paints with a broad brush and unflinching captures the technical dimension of man's inherent preoccupation with war. History buffs will find this book to be either an excellent introduction to or a review of the operational aspects of military history. Military theorists and professional soldiers will find it to be a compendium of military thought, a provocative tool that caps the author's brilliant and still uncompleted career.

In addition, good writing makes good history, and this book can also be read as a literary primer that teaches by example the importance of using active verbs and simple sentence structure to create prose of strength and vitality.

The future? Jones envisions small, mobile, elaborately equipped professional armies engaging one another in conflicts of short duration, high intensity, and constant movement.

Perhaps. But an underlying yet undeveloped theme in this book demonstrates the inherent ability of insurgent forces during low intensity or guerrilla wars to overcome conventional arms despite long odds. The actualities of war, terrain, weather, leadership, and morale remain separated from the operational variables upon which Jones essentially focuses in his book.

The combination of luck, leadership, discipline, and morale have overcome superior tactics, advanced weaponry, and better equipment since time immemorial. Our late misadventure in South Vietnam should serve as a painful reminder to us.

DRAFTEE DIVISION: THE 88TH INFANTRY DIVISION IN WORLD WAR II, by John Sloan Brown (University Press of Kentucky, 1986. 225 Pages. \$25.00). Reviewed by

Doctor Charles E. White, USAIS Historian.

Without question this is the finest unit history yet written of any U.S. division. What makes it so is the way the author analyzes the broad historical forces that shaped the division during the war years. It is also a case study of the citizen-soldier in modern war.

The history of the 88th Infantry Division, known as the "Blue Devil Division," illustrates a genuinely American response to the crisis of war. John Brown provides in an early chapter an excellent overview of the social, political, cultural, economic, and military factors that have shaped the debate in this country over the merits of the citizen soldier versus those of the professional soldier. He then places the 88th Division into this historical context and develops his study by analyzing the division's experiences during its activation, training, and deployment, and then during its combat days in Italy.

He concludes that the 88th Division was as good as, if not better than, any Allied or Axis World War II division. (In fact, he devotes an appendix to dispelling the myth of *Wehrmacht* superiority that is so prevalent in the U.S. Army today.)

As the official records show, the 88th Division was far superior to most of the U.S. divisions that saw combat during the war. It progressed from mobilization to embarkation in just 16 months, bettering the record of all but four of the 90 World War II U.S. divisions. From the evidence, it is easy to conclude that the Blue Devil division laid to rest some 200 years of controversy over the value of the citizen soldier.

This is a well researched and well written book, one that hopefully will become the model for future unit histories. It provides great insights on how to turn citizens into soldiers and is recommended for all military and civilian leaders, particularly those in force development and training.

RECENT AND RECOMMENDED PUBLICATIONS OF THE U.S. ARMY CENTER OF MILITARY HISTORY, 1987-88, compiled by Wyvetra B. Yeldell (CMH Publication 105-2, 1988. For sale by the U.S. Superintendent of Documents. Distribution PIN: 062866-000. 62 Pages, Softbound.

RED STAR OVER SOUTHERN AFRICA, by Morgan Norval (Selous Foundation Press, Washington, D.C., 1988. 218 Pages. \$18.95).

THE ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF SPORTS AT THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY, by Joseph E. Dineen (The Downing Company, 5659 Virginia Beach Boulevard, Norfolk, VA 23502, 1988. 328 Pages. \$34.95).

AMERICAN HERITAGE CIVIL WAR CALENDAR 1989 (Workman Publishing, 1 West 39th Street, New York, NY 10018, 1988. 28 Pages. \$8.95).

THE 101st AIRBORNE DIVISION'S DEFENSE OF BASTOGNE. By Ralph M. Mitchell. U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, 1987. USGPO S/N 008-020-01127-4. 56 Pages. \$1.75, Softbound.

SDI: HAS AMERICA TOLD HER STORY TO THE WORLD? Report of the Institute for Foreign Policy Analysis. By Dean Godson. Pergamon-Brassey's, 1987. 73 Pages. \$9.95, Softbound.

THE SOVIET PERSPECTIVE ON THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE. By Dmitry Mikheyev. A Foreign Policy Report. Pergamon-Brassey's, 1987. 95 Pages. \$9.95, Softbound.

COMBAT CREW. By John Comer. William Morrow, 1988. 288 Pages. \$16.95.

TOTAL WAR: HOW IT IS, HOW IT GOT THAT WAY. By Thomas Powers and Ruthven Tremain. William Morrow, 1988. 188 Pages. \$16.95.

MUTINY IN FORCE X. By Bill Glendon. David and Charles, 1988. 239 Pages. \$30.95.

BRITISH SECURITY POLICY AND THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. By Martin Holmes, et al. Special Report 1987, Institute for Foreign Policy Analysis. Pergamon-Brassey's, 1987. 140 Pages. \$9.95, Softbound.

NICARAGUA VERSUS THE UNITED STATES: A LOOK AT THE FACTS. By Robert F. Turner. Special Report 1987, Institute for Foreign Policy Analysis. Pergamon-Brassey's, 1988. 165 Pages. \$9.95, Softbound.

THE FINAL MEMORANDA OF MAJOR GENERAL RALPH H. VAN DEMAN, FATHER OF U.S. MILITARY INTELLIGENCE. Edited by Ralph E. Weber. Scholarly Resources, 1988. 191 Pages. \$30.00.

SEAPOWERS IN GLOBAL POLITICS, 1494-1993. By George Modelski and William R. Thompson. University of Washington Press, 1988. 394 Pages. \$35.00.

DEFENDING AMERICA'S SECURITY. By Frederick H. Hartmann and Robert L. Wendzel. Pergamon-Brassey's, 1988. 363 Pages. \$16.95, Softbound.

WAR WITHOUT MEN: ROBOTS ON THE FUTURE BATTLEFIELD. By Steven M. Shaker and Alan R. Wise. Volume II of the Future Warfare Series. Pergamon-Brassey's, 1988. 196 Pages. \$19.95.