

BOOK REVIEWS



We are always pleased to tell you about some of the publications we have received for review from various publishing houses in the United States and in foreign countries. We thought you should know about these:

• **VIETNAM PRIMER: LESSONS LEARNED:** By S.L.A. Marshall and Lieutenant Colonel David H. Hackworth. A 1983 Reprint of an official U.S. Army publication originally printed in 1967 (Lancer Militaria, P.O. Box 886, Mt. Ida, Arkansas 71957. 58 Pages, \$3.00, Softbound). The authors of this pamphlet were sent to Vietnam in December 1966 by General Harold K. Johnson, then the Army's Chief of Staff, on a 90-day mission to train combat historians in the technique of conducting combat interviews. Hackworth had only recently returned from Vietnam where he had spent a year in combat as a brigade executive officer and then battalion commander in the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Marshall was well-known in Army circles for his experiences in two wars analyzing combat operations.

As a result, the two men were able to reconstruct most of the combat actions of the preceding six months. But they felt more was needed—something in writing that highlighted the lessons that had been learned and that could be used by young infantry leaders preparing to go to Vietnam. As Hackworth puts it in his recently published book, *ABOUT FACE* (a review of which appears later in this section), what was needed was "a handy-dandy little guide of do's and don't's on how to fight the bad guys." This "primer" is the result, and it was published by the Army and given wide distribution.

General Johnson had this to say in his Foreword: "Their study is presented not as the official solution to all the ills that beset combat troops in Vietnam but as the authors' own considered corrective and guide for the effective conduct of small unit operations. . . . it can be read with

profit by all soldiers."

• **RUSI AND BRASSEY'S DEFENCE YEARBOOK 1989.** Edited by The Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies, London. 99th Year of Publication (Pergamon-Brassey's, 1989. 361 Pages. \$63.00). This particular edition of a long-standing series of yearbooks is divided into three major parts—an introductory feature on change and reality in the immediate future, an issues part that contains 20 individual essays on a variety of subjects by noted contributors from around the world, and a final part that has chronologies and other types of reference data. Several of the essays should be of interest to infantrymen—chemical weapons proliferation, the Egyptian Army today, the Soviets in Afghanistan, *glasnost* and the Soviet military services, and military developments in space.

• **AK47: THE COMPLETE KALASHNIKOV FAMILY OF ASSAULT RIFLES.** By Duncan Long (Paladin Press, 1988. 185 Pages. \$14.00, Softbound). In addition to providing a history of the Kalashnikov family of rifles, the author provides such information as the specifications for each model, streamlined field stripping and cleaning procedures, and ammunition loads and accessories. He also offers some thoughts about the best AK47-style sniper rifles, semiautomatic weapons, and light machineguns.

• **POWER PACK: U.S. INTERVENTION IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, 1965-1966.** By Lawrence A. Yates. Leavenworth Papers Number 15 (Combat Studies Institute, CGSC, 1988. USGPO S/N 008-020-01149-5. 236 Pages. \$9.00, Softbound). The author is a historian with the Combat Studies Institute and has long been interested in cold war history and military operations at the low intensity level. He feels that this particular operation "offers insight into a basic dilemma the United States

faces in Latin America today" and should therefore be studied in that light. He emphasizes the military role in the operation without neglecting the political side and is able to point out a number of problems that plagued the military commanders as they went about their business of carrying out their mission. Despite the problems, the author concludes that Power Pack "fulfilled the requirements of a successful stability operation."

• **DRAGON OPERATIONS: HOSTAGE RESCUES IN THE CONGO, 1964-1965.** By Major Thomas P. Odom. Leavenworth Papers Number 14 (Combat Studies Institute, CGSC, 1988. USGPO S/N 008-020-01147-9. 240 Pages. \$9.50, Softbound). The author was formerly assigned to the Combat Studies Institute and in this study analyzes the series of events that led up to and flowed from the commitment of Belgian paracommandoes to free hundreds of European hostages being held in the cities of Stanleyville and Paulis in the then newly independent Republic of the Congo. He uses both primary and secondary sources to explain the U.S. role in the two operations as well as the international aspects of the overall mission. He offers many cogent lessons for our future thought and consideration and points out the difficulties inherent in any attempt to free hostages.

• **A CHRONOLOGY OF CONFLICT AND RESOLUTION, 1945-1985.** By John E. Jessup (Greenwood Press, 1989. 952 Pages. \$85.00). This is an ideal reference work, for it contains more than 10,000 entries arranged chronologically by year, month, and day. Each entry is a concise, factual description of an event together with relevant background information and identification of the locale and the major participants. As the author puts it, "this is a chronology of conflict rather than of war." His intent is "that it should be used as a research tool." Fortunately, it does contain a detailed index as well

as a glossary of abbreviations.

• **THE WAY WE WERE.** By Ken Bell (University of Toronto Press, 1988. 256 Pages. \$39.95). Today, the author is one of Canada's leading photographers. Yesterday, he served during World War II with the Canadian Army's Film and Photo Unit. In this nicely put together book, he compares the then and now—Sicily, Italy, and northwest Europe of 1943-1945 and those same areas today. In some cases, he has found the same people and rephotographed them in the same places. This is a fascinating study of war and peace—war at its grimest, peace at its loveliest. Anyone who served in the places mentioned, Canadian or not, should not overlook this one.

• **THE FACTS ON FILE WORLD POLITICAL ALMANAC.** Compiled by Chris Cook (Facts on File, 1989. 453 Pages). This book contains a mass of useful information on the political world since 1945—international organizations, diplomacy and treaties, warfare and armed forces, and elections and political parties. The author also includes brief biographical details of major statesmen and a glossary of international political terms.

Here are some of our longer reviews:

ABOUT FACE: THE ODYSSEY OF A WARRIOR. By Colonel David H. Hackworth and Julie Sherman (Simon and Schuster, 1989. 875 Pages. \$24.95).

In the matter of war, there are some individuals who can start wars, some who can fight wars, and some who can stop wars. Retired U.S. Army Colonel David H. Hackworth definitely belongs in the second category. No one in the United States Army between 1950 and 1971 knew more about infantry combat at the platoon, company, and battalion levels than did this man— orphaned at an early age, a school drop-out, a street fighter with street smarts, a sergeant at 19, a commissioned officer at 20, a colonel at 40.

Hackworth began learning about infantry combat in Korea in late 1950; he ended his combat career in the Vietnam Delta in 1971. Along the way he earned two Distinguished Service Crosses, ten Silver Stars, seven Bronze Stars, and eight Pur-

ple Hearts, and was known throughout the infantry community as a "warrior." He had made friends in high places (and a host of enemies), attended courses of instruction at Forts Benning and Leavenworth, written for publication (the *Vietnam Primer* mentioned above is one of his early efforts), and had earned two college degrees.

But beneath the veneer of civilized man, there remained the street fighter, willing to take on anyone who disagreed with him. With few exceptions he held the officer corps in contempt; he despised most of the senior commanders under whom he served, particularly those in Vietnam.

Eventually, his emotions won out and he went public with his disagreements with the way the war was being fought in Vietnam. The Army was not having any of this and retired him, but only after subjecting him to considerable humiliation. Since his retirement, he has lived most of his years in Australia.

The book is too long; some of the more personal events could easily have been omitted without harming the main story. But Hackworth does have a lot of good things to say about training soldiers and about leading those soldiers in combat.

At least two of the chapters are outstanding—16, "Box Seat," and 17, "Corporate Headquarters." (S.L.A. Marshall will never be the same.) And it is a story of U.S. infantrymen at war—a dirty, grimy, costly, bloody business at best. Ernie Pyle and Bill Mauldin told of it their way; Dave Hackworth tells of it his way.

A PORTRAIT OF THE STARS AND STRIPES. By Bud Hannings. Edited by Raymond Lukens (Seniram Publishing Inc., P.O. Box 432, Glenside, Pennsylvania 19038, 1988. 430 Pages. \$39.95).

Bud Hannings, former U.S. Marine, does not believe that patriotism is a dirty word or that it is dead in our country. He does feel it needs a push or two every now and then and in this book—produced at his own expense and on his own time—he gives it that push. To him, there have been no greater patriots than those who

have served in the ranks of the country's armed forces and who have willingly offered their lives to protect and defend the Stars and Stripes and all our flag stands for.

This volume is the first of a planned three; it covers the period in our history from 1770 through 1918. It amounts to a comprehensive history of the U.S. armed forces written in a narrative style and arranged in chronological order by day. To that, Hannings adds much useful reference data and a detailed index.

Although the completed book is a true labor of love, it is also a valued reference tool, one that should be on the shelves of every library in this country.

INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE EQUIPMENT CATALOGUE (IDEC), 1988-1989. Three Volumes (Monch Publishing Group, Bonn, Federal Republic of Germany, 1988. 1,150 total pages. DM 365. Distributed in the U.S. and Canada by The Nautical and Aviation Publishing Company, 101 W. Read Street, Suite 314, Baltimore, Maryland 21201).

Some four years ago we had the good fortune to review IDEC 1985. We thought the publishers did a fine job in presenting a huge volume of information concerning defense equipment and defense industries. They have done equally well with this latest edition, and it is also a fine reference publication.

The three volumes describe new developments as well as existing defense systems, subsystems, components, and services. Some 600 firms from 26 countries, in fact, present more than 2,500 products. The entries are arranged according to the U.S. Federal Supply Classification (FSC) system, and 3,000 color illustrations complement the written product descriptions.

Volume I contains the users guide, explains the defense equipment procurement organizations in 29 countries, and explains the FSC system. Volume II has the product presentations from FSC Groups 10 to 23, and Volume III the product presentations from FSC Groups 24 to 101.

ROOTS OF STRATEGY, BOOK 2 (Stackpole, 1987. 560 pages. \$12.95, Softbound). Reviewed by Captain Thomas M. Jordan, United States Army.

This book is must reading for the U.S. infantryman. Within its pages are the compiled thoughts on warfare of three of the most venerable scholars known to man: Ardant du Picq, Carl Von Clausewitz, and Antoine Jomini. Most of the book is made up of condensed versions of du Picq's "Battle Studies" and Jomini's "Summary of the Art of War." The portion dealing with Clausewitz is a short treatise titled "The Most Important Principles for the Conduct of War."

Most of the ideas discussed are as applicable to warfighting today as they were in the authors' times. Reading and studying this book can only improve one's understanding of warfare and its effects on man. These three works provide much of the foundation for our present-day doctrine and represent major contributions to the development of modern military thought.

Each text is preceded by excellent introductory summaries. I found these most valuable because they highlight the authors' lives and the essence of their philosophies.

The book is well worth its price and should be in every military professional's library.

THE EVOLUTION OF BLITZKRIEG TACTICS: GERMANY DEFENDS ITSELF AGAINST POLAND, 1918-1933. By Robert M. Citino (Greenwood Press, 1987. 209 Pages. \$32.95). Reviewed by Doctor Charles E. White, USAIS Historian.

This very interesting study examines the strategic, operational, and tactical thinking of the German Army's leaders from the defeat in World War I to the Nazi seizure of power. Its primary focus is on the Polish threat to German security in the east, and the Reichswehr's efforts to cope with the problems associated with defending Germany's eastern borders.

The author contends that the restric-

tions placed on Germany by the Versailles treaty actually aided her in the development of her so-called "blitzkrieg" tactics. Molded by two superb generals—Hans von Seeckt and Wilhelm Groener—the Reichswehr became the best-trained army in German history.

For the astute student of war, these assertions are nothing new or revealing. What is unique about the book is the way the author goes about proving that the evolution of Germany's offensive doctrine was a direct result of its defensive planning during the interwar period.

This is a well-researched and detailed study of how Germany built an army, developed a doctrine, and translated that doctrine into practice through realistic education and training. While the author does at times assume that his reader is familiar with events in Europe during the interwar years, this in no way detracts from the value of his book. It has great merit and needs to be read by military professionals.

INTO THE WILDERNESS WITH THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC. By Robert Garth Scott (Indiana University Press, 1985. 236 pages. \$9.95, Softbound). Reviewed by Major Don Rightmyer, United States Air Force.

When the Union Army of the Potomac crossed Virginia's Rapidan River in early May 1864, it had a new commander, Ulysses S. Grant. The days ahead under that new commander would bring a vastly different style of war to the eastern theater of operations.

As the Federal units crossed the Virginia river, their route of march led them into the Wilderness, remembered bitterly by many of the veterans because of the fighting that had taken place there in 1863. The still unburied remains of some of their fallen comrades had an even more sobering effect.

But unlike his predecessors, Grant's goal was to push through the Wilderness and engage Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia as soon as possible. Lee's goal, on the other hand, was to force Grant and his soldiers back across the Rapidan. The result—the battle of the Wilderness, fought on 6 and 7 May 1864.

This book has something for every reader. At its best it is the definitive story of the savage two-day struggle that has been largely ignored in the annals of Civil War history. The written narrative describes actions down to brigade level, and it is liberally illustrated with excellent battlefield maps that clarify the sometimes confusing unit movements.

The book will also appeal to the general reader as the author describes combat actions in areas so densely thicketed that soldiers could not see their enemy and the plight of the wounded soldiers who were burned alive in the flaming forests and undergrowth.

In the end, both armies raced toward their next engagement at Spotsylvania Court House and the subsequent campaign that finally ended at Appomattox Court House.

This is an outstanding Civil War history that thoroughly covers the efforts of both armies in one of the most difficult battles of the entire war.

SUPERFORTRESS: THE B-29 AND AMERICAN AIR POWER. By General Curtis LeMay and Bill Yenne. McGraw-Hill, 1988. 222 Pages. \$18.95). Reviewed by Lieutenant Colonel Jack Mudie, United States Air Force Retired.

The long range intercontinental bomber that was eventually born as the B-29 was conceived in the mind of aviation visionary Billy Mitchell in the 1920s. Initially, it was an engineering paper, first designated the B-15, but only one was ever built. The project stopped in its tracks when the United States prepared to go to war in 1940 and 1941 and emphasis shifted to producing the already tested B-17 and B-24 bombers.

Eventually, the effort was renewed. First flown in 1942, the B-29 endured one hazardous test flight after another. But the aircraft was ordered into production, and testing and development continued even while aircrews were being assembled and trained for the massive air war planned against Japan. Even command and control was argued between the Navy, Army, and Army Air Force, with the B-29s finally being

assigned directly to General Hap Arnold, the head of the Air Staff in Washington, acting as the agent of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff.

With the help of hard-driving Curtis LeMay and a nucleus of experienced air crews from the air war over Europe, the B-29s proved their worth and Japan was pulverized by an ever increasing tempo of B-29 raids, culminating in the nuclear attacks against Nagasaki and Hiroshima. While the argument will probably never be settled as to whether the nuclear bomb's use was absolutely necessary, LeMay clearly states his belief that its use helped the Japanese "hasten the surrender process already underway," thereby saving at least one million American and three million Japanese casualties.

The appendix has a number of interesting tables that show all the major B-29 actions of the 20th Air Force and the development chronology of the various B-29 models. A number of photographs and illustrations are included, but the omission of a map of the area of operations is a glaring mistake in any military history. Nevertheless, this is an excellent reference for those interested in the air war against Japan during World War II.

TO CHANGE AN ARMY. By Harold R. Winton (University Press of Kansas, 1988. 284 Pages. \$29.95). Reviewed by Captain Harold E. Raugh, Jr., United States Army.

Military historians have long attributed the development of mechanization and armored warfare in the British Army to the writings and influence of B.H. Liddell-Hart and J.F.C. Fuller. There were, however, a number of other soldiers who remained in the British Army during the interwar years who played a significant, albeit less recognized, role in the modernization of that army.

One of them was General Sir John Burnett-Stuart, and this book concentrates on his role in the evolution of British Army tactics and doctrine between 1927 and 1938. Even though he held several important commands during that period of time and was instrumental in directing and assessing the trials of the

Experimental Mechanized Force, in conceiving and supervising Britain's first large-scale mechanized operations in the desert, and in formulating the doctrine for the emerging Mobile Division, his role has remained relatively obscure. In this book, Burnett-Stuart's contribution has been ably placed within the larger context of British military doctrinal reform in general.

The author is a serving U.S. Army officer, and the book is based on his doctoral dissertation. His scholarship is impeccable and he has made use of a large number of unpublished sources and private papers. It is well-written and sheds much light on the British Army's subsequent performance in World War II.

KOMMANDO: GERMAN SPECIAL FORCES OF WORLD WAR II. By James Lucas (St. Martin's Press, 1985. 245 Pages. \$16.95). Reviewed by Captain F.R. Hayse, United States Army.

When one thinks or speaks of Special Forces, he is more than likely referring to the current U.S. Army Special Forces, the so-called Green Berets. Unknown to many who claim to be expert in guerrilla warfare or in low intensity warfare and special operations, however, is the extensive use Nazi Germany made of special forces during World War II.

This book serves as a corrective as it encompasses all of Germany's wartime special operational forces—the Brandenburgers and the concept of vertical envelopment, the SS 500 Parachute Battalion, the Navy's special boat and frogman squadrons, the Luftwaffe's KG 200 squadrons, and the partisan-like *Wehr-wolfen*.

Unfortunately, this book does have a number of faults. The author gives only limited information about many of the units he writes about and does not nearly satisfy those readers who want a more detailed account of how those units were organized, trained, and used. There is also an almost complete lack of operational diagrams and maps.

Despite these problems, overall this is a good book and is worth reading. It does

provide a historical look at the use of special forces as force multipliers in conventional military operations.

RECENT AND RECOMMENDED

MASSACRE AT ORADOUR. By Robin Mackness. Random House, 1989. 165 Pages. \$17.95.

MY ENEMY, MY BROTHER: MEN AND DAYS AT GETTYSBURG. By Joseph E. Persico. Second Edition. First edition published in 1977. Macmillan, 1989. 273 Pages. \$9.95, Softbound.

MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN THE RYUKYU ISLANDS, 1945-1950. By Arnold G. Fisch, Jr. Center of Military History, Department of the Army, 1988. USGPO S/N 008-029-00155-1. 353 Pages. \$14.00, Softbound.

THE LAST MAGNIFICENT WAR. Edited by Harold Elk Straubing. Paragon House, 1989. 418 Pages. \$24.95.

AGENT ORANGE AND VIETNAM: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY. By Caroline D. Harnly. Scarecrow Press, 1988. 413 Pages. \$37.50.

AMERICA, THE GULF, AND ISRAEL: CENTCOM (CENTRAL COMMAND) AND EMERGING U.S. REGIONAL SECURITY POLICIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST. By Dore Gold. Westview Press, 1989. 118 Pages. \$18.00, Softbound.

RAID ON CABANATUAN. By Forrest Bryant Johnson. A revised version of the 1978 edition published under the title *HOUR OF REDEMPTION*. A Thousand Autumns Press (760 Hermosa Palms Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89123), 1988. 314 Pages. \$24.95.

GREAT BATTLEFIELDS OF THE WORLD. By John Macdonald. A reprint of the 1985 edition. Macmillan, 1988. 200 Pages. \$19.95, Softbound.

GREAT BATTLEFIELDS OF WORLD WAR II. By John Macdonald. A reprint of the 1986 edition. Macmillan, 1988. 192 Pages. \$19.95, Softbound.

CHEKISTY: A HISTORY OF THE KGB. By John J. Dziak. Ivy Books. Ballantine, 1988. 264 Pages. \$3.95, Softbound.

THE CHINESE COMMUNIST ARMED FORCES. By Paul H.B. Godwin. Air University Press, 1988. USGPO S/N 008-070-00606-5. 163 Pages. \$8.50, Softbound.

LIFE ON THE LINE: STORIES OF VIETNAM AIR COMBAT. By Philip D. Chinnery. St. Martin's Press, 1989. 256 Pages. \$17.95.

WITH BRITISH SNIPERS TO THE REICH. By Captain C. Shore. Originally published in 1948. Paladin Press, 1988. 351 Pages.

PROSPECTS FOR SECURITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. Edited by Robert O'Neill. The Shoe String Press, 1989. 245 Pages. \$32.50.

THE DRAGON'S TEETH: INSIDE CHINA'S ARMED FORCES. Text and photographs by John Robert Young. Crown Publishers, 1987. 224 Pages. \$29.95.

CURRENT MILITARY LITERATURE, VOLUME 4, NUMBER 6. Edited by Major General J.I.H. Owen. Oxford, England: The Military Press, 1988. 156 Pages. Softbound.

BATTLES OF THE SAMURAI. By Stephen Turnbull. Sterling, 1987. 126 Pages. \$19.95.