

# BOOK REVIEWS



This time around, we would like to call your attention to several recently published research surveys, each of which deserves your attention:

- **FALLEN IN BATTLE: AMERICAN GENERAL OFFICER COMBAT FATALITIES FROM 1775.** By Russell K. Brown (Greenwood Press, 1988. 269 Pages. \$39.95). This study identifies and recounts the careers of those general officers (and admirals) who have died at the hands of an enemy force or while on combat operations, except through clearly accidental causes—killed in action; missing in action, declared dead; died of wounds; executed or died while a prisoner of war. (Confederate officers are included.) Officers who became generals in American forces but were killed in combat while fighting with foreign forces, and Americans who were generals in foreign forces, have not been included. The book also has seven informative appendixes, a bibliography, and an index.

- **THE PEACETIME ARMY, 1900-1941: A RESEARCH GUIDE.** By Marvin Fletcher. Research Guides in Military Studies Number 1 (Greenwood Press, 1988. 200 Pages. \$37.95). After giving a detailed overview of the many changes that occurred during this 40-year period, the author presents two major sections of annotated bibliography covering 1900-1917 and 1919-1941 respectively. He cites more than 900 works, including books, articles, dissertations, and government documents. Most have been published within the past 20 years. Comprehensive name and subject indexes and suggestions for further research complete the volume. He has not included items that dealt primarily with the Navy or with the development of airpower.

- **SPECIAL OPERATIONS AND ELITE UNITS, 1939-1988: A RESEARCH GUIDE.** By Roger Beaumont. Research Guides in Military Studies

Number 2 (Greenwood Press, 1988. 243 Pages. \$39.95). Following a detailed introductory essay, this study is divided into 10 categories. The entries in each are arranged alphabetically. Complete author, title, and subject indexes are included while four appendixes provide supplemental information on elite forces and counterterrorist operations. As the author points out, his study "is subjective and organized arbitrarily" and he has given only "a broad sampling of material." Neither of these detract in any way from the overall value of his study.

- **ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT, DEFENSE AND MILITARY, INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND PEACE: AN ANNOTATED GUIDE TO SOURCES, 1980-1987.** By Stephen E. Atkins (ABC-Clío, 1988. 400 Pages. \$65.00). This reference guide is arranged by broad topic in four chapters: arms control and disarmament, defense and military, international security, and peace. There are 1,596 entries, and each of the chapters opens with a brief essay on the scope of the subject. Subject, title, and author indexes are included.

The Sterling Publishing Company has sent us several well illustrated publications we think you will find interesting and informative:

- **STORMING EAGLES: GERMAN AIRBORNE FORCES IN WORLD WAR II.** By James Lucas (1988. 191 Pages. \$24.95).

- **WAR GAMES! REHEARSAL FOR BATTLE.** By Arnold Meisner and Will Fowler (1988. 144 Pages. \$24.95).

- **THE CROSS AND THE CRES-CENT: A HISTORY OF THE CRUSADES.** By Malcolm Billings (1988. 240 Pages. \$19.95).

The Osprey Publishing Company of London also has been sending us copies of its latest publications in its Men-at-Arms and Elite series:

- **LOUIS XIV'S ARMY.** By Rene Chartrand. Color plates by Francis Back.

Men-at-Arms Number 203 (1988. 48 Pages. \$7.95, Softbound).

- **WELLINGTON'S SPECIALIST TROOPS.** By Phillip Haythornthwaite. Color plates by Bryan Fosten. Men-at-Arms Number 204 (1988. 48 Pages. \$7.95, Softbound).

- **U.S. ARMY COMBAT EQUIPMENTS, 1910-1988.** By Gordon L. Rottman. Color plates by Ron Volstad. Men-at-Arms Number 205 (1989. 48 Pages. \$7.95, Softbound).

- **THE HANOVERIAN ARMY OF THE NAPOLEONIC WARS, 1789-1816.** By Peter Hofschroer. Color plates by Bryan Fosten. Men-at-Arms Number 206 (1989. 48 Pages. \$7.95, Softbound).

- **AMERICAN CIVIL WAR ARMIES (5): VOLUNTEER MILITIA.** By Philip Katcher. Color plates by Ron Volstad. Men-at-Arms Number 207 (1989. 48 Pages. \$7.95, Softbound).

- **LAWRENCE AND THE ARAB REVOLTS, 1914-1918.** By David Nicolle. Color plates by Richard Hook. Men-at-Arms Number 208 (1989. 48 Pages. \$7.95, Softbound).

- **THE WAR IN CAMBODIA, 1970-1975.** By Kenneth Conboy and Kenneth Bowra. Color plates by Mike Chappell. Men-at-Arms Number 209 (1989. 48 Pages. \$7.95, Softbound).

- **INSIDE THE U.S. ARMY TODAY.** By Gordon L. Rottman. Color plates by Ron Volstad. Elite Series Number 20 (1988. 64 Pages. Softbound).

- **THE ZULUS.** By Ian Knight. Color plates by Angus McBride. Elite Series Number 21 (1989. 64 Pages. Softbound).

The U.S. Army Center of Military History has recently published the first of its new series of staff ride brochures, or battlefield guides, that are intended for self-guided tours and group study. It is **THE BATTLE OF NEW MARKET**, by Joseph W.A. Whitehorne (1988. 54 Pages, Softbound \$2.00. USGPO S/N 008-029-00187-0).

This publication covers the events sur-

rounding the battle that took place on 15 May 1864 as part of the Union Army's campaign to seize control of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. All major points of interest are covered, including monuments, tourist centers, the museum and battlefield park, with today's roads clearly marked to ease the user's movement around the battlefield.

The brochure is available to all Army units through normal publication distribution channels. Non-Army personnel and agencies can order copies from the Government Printing Office.

Here are a number of our longer reviews:

**1914.** By Lyn Macdonald (Atheneum, 1988. 446 Pages. \$24.95). Reviewed by Colonel D.A. Rolston, United States Army.

Lyn Macdonald is probably my favorite military writer. While others may produce more thorough and complete histories of military actions, and some few may render more dramatic portrayals of individuals, no one brings to a reader greater realism and perception.

This book, Macdonald's latest, covers the first few months of World War I. In her foreword the author tells us that she had intended to carry the work into 1915, but found the first few months of the war to be a separate story in themselves. She therefore has had to dwell on strategic planning and on politics to provide a proper background.

Unfortunately, the latter factor, in my opinion, is the explanation for this book's lack of force and effect when compared to her earlier works. The masterful balance between the individual soldier's perspective and the historical perspective is missing in this book. While still very readable, it simply is not up to her standard. It lacks the dramatic depth and shock of her previous efforts and does not provide the scope for a proper history.

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**THRESHOLD OF WAR: FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT AND AMERICAN ENTRY INTO WORLD WAR II.** By Waldo Heinrichs (Oxford University Press, 1988. 279 Pages. \$19.95).

Reviewed by Doctor Mike Fisher, Kansas State University.

Distinguished Temple University historian Waldo Heinrichs, in this fine historical synthesis, examines in detail the causes and motives that dictated the entry of the United States into World War II. It fills the void of 35 years of historical silence regarding a comprehensive effort to evaluate the precipitating events that led President Roosevelt and the nation away from isolationism and into war.

The value of this book evolves from the keen understanding and careful arrangement Heinrichs gives to the circumstances that led to the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941. From the diplomatic combinations, Heinrichs postulates that the bombing was the final piece in the careful arrangement of events by Roosevelt and his strategists to lead the American people into the war.

Heinrichs's thesis rests on his belief that Roosevelt sought war with the Axis powers but needed a precipitating event to bring the nation enthusiastically and cohesively into a global war. American entry into the war would not only stabilize the worsening international situation but would also provide the necessary industrial and economic catalyst to lift the nation from the depression that had devastated the American people since 1929.

Heinrichs demonstrates a masterful ability to shape and marshal the historical evidence that provides the foundation for his argument. But readers may note that he relies on the premise that Roosevelt and Winston Churchill were in almost total control of the events that dictated the final decision to go to war.

Often in the history of man, though, decisions percolate upward through the immediacy of events rather than trickle down as the result of carefully made decisions. Readers should keep this historical fact in mind as they read this book, remembering that all too often the rush of events outruns the plans of even the most perceptive strategists. Only with the passage of time do the decisions of yesterday become the carefully measured mathematical equations that grace the pages of history.

**SERVICE ETIQUETTE.** By Oretha D. Swartz. Fourth Edition (Naval Institute Press, 1988. 566 Pages. \$19.95).

This is one of those books that belong in the personal library of every serving Infantry officer and senior noncommissioned officer, Active Army and Reserve Components alike. It is often referred to as "the bible of military protocol," and it has been just that since the first edition was published 30 years ago.

This new edition, the first revision in more than 10 years, offers up-to-date information on such diverse subjects as official cards, smoking regulations, the evolving status of women in the services, and information specifically directed to reservists, members of the Maritime Service, and retirees. The chapter on service and civilian dress is particularly useful with its handy ready reference chart.

Other chapters discuss everyday good manners, the social side of life, the art of conversation, general correspondence, entertaining in the home, table manners, protocol, weddings, and religion.

As we said at the beginning of this review, this is a book you do not want to overlook.

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**NO NAME ON THE BULLET: A BIOGRAPHY OF AUDIE MURPHY.** By Don Graham (Viking, 1989. 324 Pages. \$19.95). Reviewed by Ralph W. Widener, Jr., Dallas, Texas.

My first reaction to this book was "What could anyone write about Audie Murphy that has not already been said by Harold Simpson in his monumental 1975 book, AUDIE MURPHY: AMERICAN SOLDIER?"

I thought, "Not much." But I like this book because it covers Murphy's life more succinctly than the Simpson book. The author, a professor of English at the University of Texas at Austin, tells an easy-to-read story of Murphy's "growing up" years in the midst of stark poverty; his "finest hour"—the nearly 400 days he spent with the famed 15th Infantry Regiment of the equally famous 3d Infantry Division; his slow but steady maturing as an actor; and, interwoven throughout, his troubled life up to the time of his death in an airplane crash in

Virginia at the relatively young age of 47.

The book's title is the same as the title of Murphy's 25th movie, "the best western he ever made," according to the author.

I was disappointed that Graham did not include any pictures in his book, and especially the one of Murphy that appeared on the front cover of *Life Magazine* for 16 July 1945. That picture, more than anything else, catapulted Audie Murphy into America's consciousness. A bibliography would also have been helpful. There are some references in the book to other authors, but the one whose book this one most closely resembles does not even rate an Honorable Mention.

It can be said that if this book had been a movie one could attach the statement "suitable except for language" to it. And the author has a propensity for using words that send readers to a dictionary to discover their meaning in relation to what he is saying in a particular sentence.

The book should have general reader appeal. Infantry soldiers will enjoy it, and especially the chapters that deal with World War II, for they show why Audie Murphy was a cut above the average soldier and how he became the most decorated one of that war.

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**JANE'S SECURITY AND CO-IN EQUIPMENT, 1988-1989. First Edition. Edited by Ian V. Hogg (Jane's, 1988. 544 Pages. \$110.00).**

The publisher feels that a specialized reference series of this kind has been needed for some time, considering "we now have a different breed of insurgent and a new species of terrorist."

The editor of this first edition in the new series is a well-known figure in publishing circles who has proved particularly adept at pulling together a mass of technical data and turning it into a comprehensive and comprehensible publication. He does admit to having some trying moments with this one, particularly in determining his groupings. As he points out, for example, this is "a field which does not divide itself into neat and tidy categories as do most military

fields." And he knows he has gaps in his collection of data because many of the companies he queried did not deign to reply. The latter, he believes, will sort itself out for future issues.

The book, then, has five general categories—firearms; operational equipment (vehicles, motorcycles, aircraft, boats, surveillance equipment, and EOD equipment); riot control equipment; armor and protection; and C3I equipment. It also has an addendum with up-dated information; an index of manufacturers; and a most useful alphabetical index.

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**THE DAY IS OURS. By William M. Dwyer (Viking, 1983. 426 Pages. \$22.50). Reviewed by Captain Michael E. Long, United States Army.**

The fall of 1776 has been characterized as one of the most critical periods of the American Revolution. George Washington's Continental Army was in a state of complete chaos, and with enlistments at an all-time low, discipline and desertion rates were of great concern. This well written work provides many first-hand reports as the author tracks the American Army's retreat across New Jersey before the British and Hessian forces.

The author has done a fine job with his material and he has drawn from many primary source documents. The book's only drawback is the obvious lack of illustrations to explain the various schemes of maneuver. But the narrative holds the reader's interest from beginning to end, and it provides fresh insight into what could be considered the eight most important weeks of the Revolutionary War period.

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**EDWARD LANSDALE: THE UN-QUIET AMERICAN. By Cecil B. Currey (Houghton-Mifflin, 1989. 448 Pages. \$24.95). Reviewed by Doctor Joe P. Dunn, Converse College.**

Recently, Neil Sheehan's highly acclaimed *A Bright and Shining Lie* has ensconced John Paul Vann as the martyr of Vietnam. But before Vann, this role belonged to Edward Lansdale.

Many similarities existed between the two men. Both were military mavericks who devoted years to Vietnam and understood the Vietnamese and the war far better than those who mis-ran it. Both were bitter critics of the bureaucratic, high technology, large-scale military approach to an insurgency problem. Both insisted that the Vietnamese had to win or lose the contest; the United States could not do it for them. Both fought with the establishment, made bitter enemies, and were shunted aside. Their reputations, however, assured that they would not be ignored. The degree of myth and legend that surrounds each man is extensive.

A biography of Lansdale is a welcome contribution. But Cecil Currey, author of the notorious book titled *Self-Destruction: The Disintegration and Decay of the United States Army During the Vietnam Era* (1981) is only partially successful. Although his hagiographic portrait is interesting, he does not go beyond a surface understanding of the man, the controversies, and the reactions he inspired. Much more needs to be known about the career of this controversial and shadowy person who was, according to William Colby, "one of the greatest spies in history." Until CIA and other records of the period become available, however, this book will probably remain the standard biography.

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**THE OTHER DESERT WAR: BRITISH SPECIAL FORCES IN NORTH AFRICA, 1940-1943. By John W. Gordon (Greenwood Press, 1987. 241 Pages. \$39.95). Reviewed by Captain F.R. Hayse, United States Army.**

This is the story of a key period in the evolution of Anglo-American special forces. It is exciting, clear, and well-written history, and can be enjoyed by anyone from novice wargamers to senior service school students. Its clear text, extensive footnotes, and index of sources make it a must for those whose professional interests include special operations in a desert environment.

In addition to discussing the events of North Africa between 1940 and 1943, the

author, a professor of history at the Citadel, tells of the desert wars in North Africa and the Middle East both during World War I and after, and of the Italian invasion of Ethiopia in 1935.

Most readers may be aware of the legendary exploits of the Long Range Desert Group and of the origins and early operations of the Special Air Service, but only a limited amount of space has been given these operations in previous works. Gordon corrects this oversight and tells a good story about a part of the world that continues to concern us today.

**TAKE THAT HILL: ROYAL MARINES IN THE FALKLANDS WAR.** By Nick Vaux (Pergamon-Brassey's, 1987. 261 Pages. \$21.95). Reviewed by Leroy Thompson, Manchester, Missouri.

The author commanded the British 42 Royal Marine Commando during the Falklands War. Beginning with his unit's alert for deployment to the South Atlantic and ending with its victorious return to England, he has written a very human record of his Commandoes in combat. For an American, his account is especially readable since Vaux had only recently returned from an exchange assignment with the U.S. Marine Corps and draws interesting parallels between U.S. amphibious doctrine and the British landings on South Georgia and in the Falklands.

Another interesting portion of the book concerns the problems Vaux encountered on the long voyage from England in keeping his troops fit and ready to go immediately into combat. His was a situation that any U.S. infantry officer and noncommissioned officer can expect to encounter in the future.

Vaux tells of the trials and triumphs of his Commandoes once they went ashore. Throughout, he conveys the sense of professionalism exhibited by his Marines who were seeing their first combat. This is a book all U.S. infantrymen should enjoy reading, because the war, by and large, was an infantryman's war.

**PLEIKU: THE DAWN OF HELICOPTER WARFARE IN VIETNAM.**

By J.D. Coleman (St. Martin's Press, 1988. 315 Pages. \$19.95.) Reviewed by Command Sergeant Major John W. Cooper, United States Army Reserve.

In this slim volume, the author, a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel who saw service in both Korea and Vietnam, has written a dramatic account of the 1st Cavalry Division's battles in the Ia Drang valley in South Vietnam in the fall of 1965. At the time, he was a public affairs officer with the division; he not only took part in the Pleiku campaign, he also wrote the official after action review.

After discussing the development of airmobility doctrine in the U.S. Army from the early 1950s on and of the tests conducted by the specially organized 11th Air Assault Division (which turned into the 1st Cavalry Division in mid-1965), he tells of the division's deployment to Vietnam and its first battles.

The real strength of the book lies in its vivid descriptions of the division's battles in late 1965. The division went looking for North Vietnamese Army soldiers and found them in large numbers on and around the Chu Pong Massif near the Drang River. The author contends that as a result of the battles that were then fought, culminating in the final ones at LZ Columbus, the future of airmobility was secured and the helicopter would make a continuing contribution to the U.S. conduct of the war in Vietnam.

Sixteen pages of photographs nicely complement the narrative. But the book does need more detailed maps; the ones in it are not adequate for readers who want to see positions and follow unit movements in detail.

This criticism notwithstanding, this is a dramatic account of helicopter warfare in Vietnam that will be of great interest to all military professionals who are interested in the Vietnam War.

#### RECENT AND RECOMMENDED

**STRATEGIC AIR DEFENSE.** Edited by Stephen J. Cimbala (Scholarly Resources, 1989. 275 Pages. \$40.00).

**THE CYRANO FLEET: FRANCE AND ITS NAVY, 1940-1942.** By Charles W. Kohurger, Jr. (Praeger, 1989. 151 Pages. \$38.95).

**AND THE RUSSIANS STAYED: THE**

**SOVIETIZATION OF CUBA, A PERSONAL PORTRAIT.** By Nestor T. Carbonell (William Morrow, 1989. 384 Pages. \$22.95).

**THE DREADFUL FURY: ADVANCED MILITARY TECHNOLOGY AND THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE.** By Michael Moodie (Praeger, 1989. 160 Pages. \$10.95, Softbound).

**GOUTPOSTS AND ALLIES: U.S. ARMY LOGISTICS IN THE COLD WAR, 1945-1953.** By James A. Huston (Susquehanna University Press (440 Forsgate Drive, Cranbury, NJ 08512), 1988. 349 Pages. \$39.50).

**THE MILITARY: MORE THAN JUST A JOB?** Edited by Charles C. Moskos and Frank R. Good (Pergamon, 1988. 305 Pages. \$30.00).

**ANATOMY OF A DIVISION: THE 1ST CAV IN VIETNAM.** By Shelby L. Stanton (Presidio, 1987. 268 Pages. \$17.95).

**ARGENTINE AIR FORCE IN THE FALKLANDS CONFLICT.** By Salvador Mafe Huertes and Jesus Romero Briasco. Warbirds Illustrated Number 45. Sterling, 1987. 72 Pages. \$9.95, Softbound.

**U.S. MECHANIZED FIREPOWER TODAY.** By Steven Zaloga and Arnold Meisner. Tanks Illustrated Number 26. Sterling, 1987. 72 Pages. \$9.95, Softbound.

**F-104 STARFIGHTER.** By Peter R. Foster. Warbirds Illustrated Number 46. Sterling, 1987. 64 Pages. \$12.95.

**BRITISH ARMY ON CAMPAIGN, 1816-1902 (4): 1882-1902.** Text by Michael Barthorp. Color Plates by Pierre Turner. Men-at-Arms Series 201. Osprey, 1988. 48 Pages. Softbound.

**EL CID AND THE RECONQUISTA, 1000-1492.** Text by David Nicolle. Color Plates by Angus McBride. Men-at-Arms Series 200. Osprey. 48 Pages. Softbound.

**MODERN AFRICAN WARS (2): ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE, 1961-1974.** Text by Peter Abbott and Manuel Ribeiro Rodrigues. Color Plates by Ron Volstad. Men-at-Arms Series 202. Osprey, 1988. 48 Pages. Softbound.

**NAPOLEON'S SPECIALIST TROOPS.** Text by Phillip Haythornthwaite. Color Plates by Bryan Fosten. Men-at-Arms Series 199. Osprey, 1988. 48 Pages. Softbound.

**UNPUBLISHED ACTIVITIES OF WORLD WAR II.** By Earl J. Roberts. Scanly Press (2861 Sanders Court, Melbourne, FL 32935), 1988. 344 Pages. \$16.95.

**MIGHTY STONEWALL.** By Frank E. Vandiver. Originally published in 1957. Texas A&M University Press, 1988. 547 Pages. \$13.95, Softbound.

**NEW WEAPON TECHNOLOGIES AND THE ABM TREATY.** By Herbert Lin. Pergamon-Brassey's, 1988. 96 Pages. \$12.95, Softbound.

**SDI, WHAT COULD HAPPEN: EIGHT POSSIBLE STAR WARS SCENARIOS.** By John Rhea. Stackpole, 1988. 144 Pages. \$7.95, Softbound.

**CHINA'S MILITARY MODERNIZATION: INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS.** Edited by Larry M. Wortzel. Contributions in Military Studies Number 72. Greenwood Press, 1988. 224 Pages. \$37.95.

**WHY THE SOVIETS VIOLATE ARMS CONTROL TREATIES.** By Joseph D. Douglass, Jr. Pergamon-Brassey's, 1988. 203 Pages. \$32.00.

**THE GREEN BERET'S COMPASS COURSE.** By Don Paul. Fourth Edition. Pathfinder Publications (150 Hamakua, Suite 401, Kailua, HI 96734), 1988. 90 Pages. \$6.95, Softbound.