

BOOK REVIEWS



We have recently received a number of interesting items from the U.S. Superintendent of Documents:

• **THE NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER IMAGES OF AN ARMY IN ACTION: A PRINT SET.** The 18 prints in this set are reproductions of paintings prepared at the Center of Military History by a group of active duty soldier-artists. (CMH Pub 70-36. USGPO S/N 008-029-00178-1. \$15.00.) The set is dedicated to all noncommissioned officers and to those who aspire to become NCOs with the hope that an increased knowledge of the history of the NCO corps will reinforce their pride in the corps and in the Army which it serves. The prints illustrate how NCOs have trained soldiers, led small units, and carried out a host of other special missions over the past 200 years.

• **AIR FORCE BASES: REFERENCE SERIES, VOLUME I. ACTIVE AIR FORCE BASES WITHIN THE UNITED STATES ON 17 SEPTEMBER 1982.** By Robert Mueller, United States Air Force Historical Research Center, Office of Air Force History, 1989. USGPO S/N 008-070-00627-8. 633 Pages. \$31.00. This volume deals, in a statistical format, with the histories of 89 Air Force bases up to the date shown above, which marked the 75th anniversary of military aviation in the United States. The volume lists the dates of activation, occupancy, closure, and transferral; the units stationed at each installation; the chief support organizations; and the names of the commanders.

• **UNITED STATES ARMY IN THE WORLD WAR, 1917-1919: VOLUME 2, POLICY-FORMING DOCUMENTS OF THE AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES** (CMH Pub 23-7, 1989. USGPO S/N 008-029-00180-2. 651 Pages. \$46.00) and **UNITED STATES ARMY IN THE WORLD WAR, 1917-1919: VOLUME 3, TRAINING AND**

USE OF AMERICAN UNITS WITH THE BRITISH AND FRENCH (CMH Pub 23-8, 1989. USGPO S/N 008-029-00188-8. 743 Pages. \$28.00). These are two more volumes in the Army's Center of Military History reprints of a series of volumes on the World War I era. (See **INFANTRY**, November-December 1988, page 48.) These volumes, as the others in the series, were originally published between 1931 and 1949. A total of 17 volumes will make up the complete set. There is a great deal of fascinating material in these volumes, and much that could be considered pertinent today when discussing infantry tactics and techniques.

• **THE HARMON MEMORIAL LECTURES IN MILITARY HISTORY, 1959-1987: A COLLECTION OF THE FIRST THIRTY HARMON LECTURES GIVEN AT THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY.** Edited by Lieutenant Colonel Harry R. Borowski, Office of Air Force History, 1988. USGPO S/N 008-070-00625-1. 636 Pages. \$31.00. Lieutenant General Hubert R. Harmon was the first superintendent of the U.S. Air Force Academy. He was a strong advocate of the use of military history both to understand the world we live in and to shape its destiny. In 1959, as a tribute to his distinguished career, the Academy started a military history lecture series. This volume consolidates all of the Harmon lectures through 1987; they are arranged by subject—military history, biography and leadership, soldiers and armies, strategy and tactics, military thought and reform, and the military and society. All of this

NOTE TO READERS: All of the books mentioned in this review section may be purchased directly from the publisher or from your nearest book dealer. We do not sell books. We will furnish a publisher's address upon request.

makes for some very fine reading.

• **THE ROLE OF FEDERAL MILITARY FORCES IN DOMESTIC DISORDERS, 1789-1878.** By Robert W. Coakley, Army Historical Series, Center of Military History, 1988. CMH Pub 30-13. USGPO S/N 008-029-00167-5. 372 Pages. \$22.00. This is the first of three projected volumes on the use of federal military forces in domestic disorders within the United States. The author focuses his narrative on the pattern of military intervention in each case, including its legal basis and the way in which the troops were used once they were ordered in. He emphasizes the point that the three volumes—he is currently working on the second one—deal only with the use of military force under federal control. In light of recent events, infantrymen should be aware of this excellent historical work, which relates relevant historical experiences to professional issues of today and tomorrow.

• **AMERICAN MILITARY HISTORY.** Army Historical Series, Center of Military History, 1989. Partially revised edition. First printed in 1969. CMH Pub 30-1. USGPO S/N 008-029-00189-6. 755 Pages. \$35.00. Although this military history was originally planned as a textbook for use in the senior ROTC course, it has proved to be quite popular with other groups. This partially revised edition includes Chapters 1-27 from the 1973 edition and a completely new version of Chapter 28, "The U.S. Army in Vietnam." It also includes a new bibliography as well as a new list of suggested readings and a partially revised index. The Center does plan to bring out, at some future date, a further revised edition to include the many significant events that have taken place since Vietnam.

• **PANAMA: A COUNTRY STUDY.** Fourth Edition. Edited by Sandra W. Meditz and Dennis M. Hanratty. Area

Handbook Series, Library of Congress, 1989. DA Pamphlet 550-46. USGPO S/N 008-020-01170-3. 338 Pages. \$17.00. The information in this volume, one in a continuing series of area handbooks, is current as of December 1987. The volume itself treats in a compact and objective manner the dominant social, political, economic, and military aspects of contemporary Panama. It makes its appearance at a most opportune time.

Contrary to some opinions, the Soviet military forces have not disappeared from the face of the earth. Rather, they still represent a formidable fighting force and it is well that all U.S. infantrymen keep up with the current literature concerning that force. Here are a few of the most recent publications we recommend:

- **SOVIET MILITARY POWER, 1989: PROSPECTS FOR CHANGE.** Written and produced by the Department of Defense. USGPO S/N 008-000-00538-9. 159 Pages, Softbound. This is an annual publication in a series that began in 1981. It provides an authoritative report on the Soviet Union's military forces and the threat they represent to the United States and its allies.

- **SOVIET MILITARY DOCTRINE: CONTINUITY, FORMULATION, AND DISSEMINATION.** By Harriet Fast Scott and William F. Scott. Westview Press, 1988. 315 Pages. \$45.00. The authors are among the premier experts on Soviet military affairs in the United States. They argue that "while we should not ignore the possibility of actual change in the Kremlin's goals, we must be realistic about the chance of that happening." And while new slogans have appeared in Soviet writings and proclamations, the authors question how much we can take on trust alone. They also believe "it is improbable that any change will alter the Marxist-Leninist goal of scientific communism: the overthrow of capitalism, which in the final analysis means any nation outside of the Soviet orbit. This objective will remain the basis thrust of Soviet military doctrine."

- **RED BANNER: THE SOVIET MILITARY SYSTEM IN PEACE AND WAR.** By Christopher Donnelly. Jane's, 1988. 288 Pages. \$52.50. The author of

this book is also recognized as a world-renowned Soviet military expert. In this particular publication he explains how the Soviet military forces have evolved, how they are structured, and what their training and doctrine teaches them about the West—their perceived enemy. His primary concern is with the Soviet soldiers themselves, the human element in the military equation, for, as he says, "It is they whom we must understand; it is they who must be motivated to fight if armed forces are to be more than a collection of ironmongery; and it is they who need knowledge and skill in ever greater quantity and quality. If they fail, then the system fails, no matter how well equipped it is, or how high the level of technology and sophistication."

- **CLAWS OF THE BEAR: THE HISTORY OF THE RED ARMY FROM THE REVOLUTION TO THE PRESENT.** By Brian Moynahan. A Marc Jaffe Book. Houghton Mifflin, 1989. 468 Pages. \$24.95. The author is the European editor of the *London Sunday Times*. Using mostly secondary sources, bolstered by a number of unpublished ones, and interviews with former members of the Soviet armed forces, he tells his story with considerable verve. The book is divided into three parts—from 1917 to the outbreak of World War II; World War II; and the events from 1945 to the present that have shaped the Soviet armed forces into the fighting force it is today. The author's approach is more the journalist's than the historian's, and his concentration is largely focused on the Soviet Army. His book does not have the same detail as the two mentioned above but it is definitely worth reading.

Many of us tend to forget when we talk today about the Army's future participation in low intensity conflicts that the Army was involved in just such a conflict at the turn of this century. In fact, as one author has written, "the Philippine insurrection of 1899 to 1902 is still the best case study of the American military in a counter-insurgent role." In a recently published book, we are reminded of that conflict—**THE U.S. ARMY AND COUNTERINSURGENCY IN THE PHILIPPINE WAR,**

1899-1902. By Brian McAllister Li. The University of North Carolina Press, 1989. 258 Pages. \$34.95.

The author, who was a visiting professor of history at Old Dominion University when he wrote this book, restricts his discussion to the events on the island of Luzon, which had been divided by the Army for control purposes into four districts. He presumes a certain amount of knowledge on the part of his reader, particularly knowledge of what has been written and said in the past. For example, the Army has been severely criticized by some writers for its supposed brutality in carrying out its pacification campaigns, particularly in southern Luzon.

Although he admits "there were clear instances when Army policies were unnecessarily harsh and when soldiers were guilty of atrocities," he feels that there is "little evidence to support those who believe that the U.S. occupation of the Philippines was little more than an orgy of racism and atrocities. Rather, the Army responded in a wide variety of ways, both successful and unsuccessful, to the differing challenges it faced. It is this diversity, both in the Filipino resistance and the American response, that makes the Philippine War so fascinating."

The book contains many lessons for today's infantrymen, and particularly for those who, at all levels, might lead American soldiers into a low intensity conflict or who might direct a counterinsurgency effort. It is must reading.

We have also received a large number of interesting books on World War II. Here are several we recommend highly:

- **BEYOND THE BEACHHEAD: THE 29th INFANTRY DIVISION IN NORMANDY.** BY Joseph Balkoski. Stackpole Books, 1989. 320 Pages. \$19.95.

- **BATTLES AND BATTLESCENES OF WORLD WAR TWO.** By David G. Chandler. Macmillan, 1989. 160 Pages. \$19.95.

- **WITS OF WAR: UNOFFICIAL GI HUMOR-HISTORY OF WORLD WAR II.** By Edwin J. Swineford. Kilroy Was There Press (Box 5462, Fresno, CA 93704), 1989. 658 Pages. \$19.75.

Softbound.

• **AUGUST 1944: THE CAMPAIGN FOR FRANCE.** By Robert A. Miller. Presidio Press, 1988. 280 Pages. \$17.95.

• **ASSAULT CROSSING: THE RIVER SEINE, 1944.** By Ken Ford. Sterling, 1988. 192 Pages. \$19.95.

• **THE SECOND WORLD WAR: A COMPLETE HISTORY.** By Martin Gilbert. Henry Holt, 1989. 846 Pages. \$29.95.

• **RHINELAND: THE BATTLE TO END THE WAR.** By W. Denis Whitaker and Shelagh Whitaker. St. Martin's, 1989. 422 Pages. \$24.95.

• **ALLIES: GREAT U.S. AND RUSSIAN WORLD WAR II PHOTOGRAPHS.** Published by Hugh Lauter Levin Associates. Distributed by MacMillan, 1989. 200 Pages. \$35.00.

• **CORREGIDOR: THE ROCK FORCE ASSAULT, 1945.** By E.M. Flanagan, Jr. Presidio Press, 1988. 331 Pages. \$18.95.

• **THE DOOMED EXPEDITION: THE CAMPAIGN IN NORWAY, 1940.** By Jack Adams. A Leo Cooper Book. The Shoe String Press, 1989. 199 Pages. \$29.50.

• **ULTRA AND MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY.** By Ralph Bennett. William Morrow, 1989. 496 Pages. \$25.00.

And here are some of our longer reviews:

JANE'S INFANTRY WEAPONS, 1989-90. 15th Edition. Edited by Ian V. Hogg (Jane's, 1989. 858 Pages. \$170.00).

Once again, infantrymen are urged to read Ian Hogg's Foreword (pages 31-35). In particular, his ideas on the 5.56mm cartridge are provocative and should be the subject of considerable discussion. If he is correct in his beliefs, perhaps we should be giving more thought to this caliber of cartridge for our machineguns. This edition has the usual sections devoted to personal weapons, crew-served weapons, ammunition, and ancillary equipment, plus a set of data tables that permit the making of rapid comparisons. An addenda section updates the main portions of the volume. The last part of the volume contains a table of national inventories, an index of manufacturers, and an alphabetical index. As

we have said in the past, all infantrymen should become familiar with this book's content; the information it contains is invaluable.

THE MILITARY BALANCE, 1989-1990. (Published by Brassey's for the International Institute for Strategic Studies, 1989. 252 Pages. \$35.00, Softbound).

This authoritative annual publication has taken on a new look this year—a striking cover and a somewhat different typographical arrangement on the inside. But its factual presentation of information on the armed forces of the world has not changed, and its premier position among reference handbooks remains unchallenged. With data current as of 1 June 1989, this edition is arranged in the usual manner—one major section is made up of national entries grouped by regions; the other major section contains analytical essays and tables on various subject areas. Of particular interest to infantrymen is the essay in the second section titled "NATO and Warsaw Pact Conventional Forces."

WARTIME: UNDERSTANDING AND BEHAVIOR IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR. By Paul Fussell (Oxford University Press, 1989. 330 Pages. \$19.95. Reviewed by Colonel Rolfe L. Hillman, United States Army Retired).

Paul Fussell's present conviction is that the history of our participation in World War II has been sanitized and romanticized by the sentimental, the loony patriotic, and the ignorant. "America has not yet understood what the Second World War was like. . . ." In this book, he uses a wide range of topics to tell how bad it really was and how, in his view, the general public was propagandized, censored, and shielded.

Fussell was one of Fort Benning's Officer Candidate School graduates in the spring of 1944 and a year later was wounded while leading a rifle platoon in the 103d Infantry Division in France. (In another book, he explains his dark and ironical view of war as being the result of his having become "a speaker who is

really a [highly peeved] infantryman, disguised as a literary and cultural commentator.") From that standpoint, he thoroughly sanitizes—but not in any particularly new or startling fashion—the experience of the American soldier in and out of combat with, as in his other writings, a peculiar expertise in the matter of bodily dismemberment.

The book contains an absorbing store of reflections on the psychological and emotional atmosphere of the war, but by the end we get a message that Fussell rates the war as not only ridiculous but useless. And that does not sit well with those of us who are in or on the fringes of the loony patriotic.

Paul Fussell emerged from academia to public acclaim with *The Great War and Modern Memory* in 1975, and comparison is inevitable. Well, then, *Wartime* does not do for World War II what *The Great War* did for World War I.

LYNDON JOHNSON'S WAR: THE ROAD TO STALEMATE IN VIETNAM. By Larry Berman (Norton, 1989. 254 Pages. \$18.95). Reviewed by Doctor Joe P. Dunn, Converse College.

The author's earlier book, *Planning a Tragedy: The Americanization of the War in Vietnam* (1982), the account of the decision to take over the war, was a monumental contribution. This sequel is one of the most important books now available on the Vietnam War.

As in the first volume, Berman employs just released materials to get inside the decision making process. The picture he develops is one of great disagreement among the advisors, especially a disillusioned Robert McNamara, and President Johnson caught in a dilemma that became more complex with every passing day. It was a war Johnson could not get out of, yet it was increasingly clear that it could not be won.

President Johnson insisted that this was not "his war," but the evidence contradicts this assertion. He chose to escalate in 1965; he chose to accept the Westmoreland attrition strategy that was the road to stalemate; he chose to try to sneak the war by the American people rather than mobilize the nation for a long,

painful struggle; he chose to play down the costs and lean toward more optimistic scenarios; he chose to hide the anticipated enemy build-up prior to Tet; and he hoped for a miracle to get out with his place in history intact. In sum, as Berman aptly demonstrates, it was Lyndon Johnson's war, and his failure. In the end, he paid the political price.

For all who try to understand the decision making process of the war, this is an essential book.

THE LONG GRAY LINE. By Rick Atkinson (Houghton Mifflin, 1989. \$24.95). Reviewed by Captain Tim Mishkofski, United States Army.

Don't be turned off by the title of this book thinking it is only about West Point and West Pointers. In reality, the story of the U.S. Military Academy's Class of 1966 is the story of the United States Army from the death of John Kennedy to the election of Ronald Reagan.

The author, a newspaper journalist and an Army brat, tells a compassionate, even-handed story of a generation of American youth who came of age on the crest of what has been called the "Pax Americana" only to be savagely brought to earth by a lost war and its aftermath.

The lieutenants that trained at Fort Benning in 1966 had an Infantry war to look forward to and little else. They believed the myths young men must believe to face an unknown enemy. Regardless of the source of their commissions, they felt that successful soldiers needed to see combat early in their careers. They later learned that battles are fought by youths as much because of their unfamiliarity with death as their strength and enthusiasm. For the most part, they fought with courage and honor.

And then Atkinson shows the bill the country had to pay for the war. He tells of the home front as it began to berate the Army in the immediate post-war years for taking part in a lost war. He covers the Army of the 1970s in great detail, thoughtfully and objectively.

This book certainly caused me to examine my motives for becoming a soldier. It hurt my heart, but it made me proud. As George Crocker put it—he was

a member of that West Point Class of 1966—"This is a low ebb. You have to have faith. While the Army may be down now, it's just temporary. The Army is one of the great, enduring institutions. It is one of the things that has held us together as a nation. It will rebound. There are better days ahead."

To me, this book is a tribute to those soldiers who stuck it out in those dark days of drugs and black lights, regardless of whether they went to West Point or to a night school taught in a motor pool.

MARCHING OVER AFRICA: LETTERS FROM VICTORIAN SOLDIERS. By Frank Emery (David and Charles, 1986. 204 Pages. \$29.95). Reviewed by Captain Harold E. Raugh, Jr., United States Army.

The enlisted British soldiers in Queen Victoria's army were, according to Rudyard Kipling, "foul-mouthed, godless, and utterly careless of their duties to wives and children." But Frank Emery shows this stereotype to be false and unrealistic.

A multitude of military campaigns were conducted by the British Army during Victoria's long reign, many in Africa. Emery adroitly uses a number of letters from soldiers to show the activities, thoughts, and feelings of those men who took part in the Abyssinian campaign (1868), Ashanti War (1873), Zulu War (1879), 1st Boer War (1880-1881), and campaigns in Egypt and the Sudan between 1882 to 1898.

Contrary to popular belief, soldiers in the ranks were fairly well-educated and for the author, the letters bring "unexpected credit to the ordinary soldier for his powers of expression." The soldiers' descriptions of blood, sweat, and tears prove that combat is much more than an emotionless affair between anonymous automatons.

Three maps illustrate the various African campaigns as do sketches of military life by participants and by contemporary newspaper illustrations. The "Sources" (seven pages) are quite informative and interesting, but the bibliography is markedly sparse.

This is an interesting, thought-

provoking, and well written book although its price is a bit high. The reader will be rewarded, however, with not only an enthralling chronicle of Victorian military campaigning in Africa but, more importantly, with a greater insight into the thoughts, feelings, and concerns of the soldiers in the ranks—an army's most valuable asset.

RECENT AND RECOMMENDED

CRY COMANCHE: THE 2nd U.S. CAVALRY IN TEXAS, 1855-1861. By Harold B. Simpson. Hill College Press (P.O. Box 61 Hillsboro, TX 76645), 1988. 186 Pages. \$15.00

BAYONETS IN THE STREETS: THE USE OF TROOPS IN CIVIL DISTURBANCES. 2nd Revised Edition. Edited by Robin Higham. Sunflower University Press (1531 Yuma, Box 1009, Manhattan, KS 66502-4228), 1989. 26 Pages. \$11.95, Softbound.

BATTLE FOR WHITE RUSSIA: THE DESTRUCTION OF ARMY GROUP CENTER JUNE 1944. By Gerd Niepold. Translated by Richard Simpkin. Original German edition published in 1985. Brassey's, 1987. 287 Pages. \$48.00

PANZER COMMANDER: THE MEMOIRS OF COLONEL HANS VON LUCK. By Hans von Luck. Praeger, 1989. 301 Pages. \$24.95.

MAKERS OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE. An AFA Book. Edited by John L. Frisbee. Pergamon-Brassey's, 1989. 347 Pages. \$25.01.

THE AMERICAN FIELD SERVICE ARCHIVES OF WORLD WAR I, 1914-1917. Compiled by L. D. Geller. Bibliographies and Indexes in World History, Number 16. Greenwood Press, 1989. 144 Pages. \$49.95.

CARRIER WARS: NAVAL AVIATION FROM WORLD WAR II TO THE PERSIAN GULF. By Edwin P. Hoyt. McGraw-Hill, 1989. 274 Pages. \$19.95.

STRENGTH FOR THE FIGHT: A HISTORY OF BLACK AMERICANS IN THE MILITARY. By Bernard C. Nalty. The Free Press, 1986. 424 Pages. \$22.50.

CLANDESTINE WARFARE: WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT OF THE SOE AND OSS. By James Ladd and Keith Melton. Sterling, 1988. 159 Pages. \$24.95.

VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS: DISPLACED PERSONS AND OTHER WAR VICTIMS IN VIETNAM, 1954-1975. By Louis A. Wiesner. Contributions to the Study of World History, Number 14. Greenwood Press, 1988. 448 Pages.

HIGH ROAD, LOW ROAD: DIPLOMACY AND PUBLIC ACTIONS IN SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY. By Gerhard Wettig. Pergamon, 1989. 164 Pages. \$28.00.

RETHINKING NUCLEAR STRATEGY. By Stephen J. Cimbala. Scholarly Resources, 1988. 278 Pages. \$40.00.

U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY AND STRATEGY: DOCUMENTS AND POLICY PROPOSALS. By Sam C. Sarkesian and Robert A. Vitas. Greenwood Press, 1988. 440 Pages.