

BOOK REVIEWS



Once again we have a number of interesting publications to tell you about:

• **FORWARD INTO BATTLE: FIGHTING TACTICS FROM WATERLOO TO THE NEAR FUTURE.** Second Edition, Revised and Updated. By Paddy Griffith (Presidio Press, 1991. 228 Pages. \$24.95). When the first edition of this work appeared in 1981, it had the unfortunate experience — at least in U.S. military circles — of being overshadowed by a somewhat similar book on infantry tactics. At the time, it deserved far better treatment from U.S. Infantrymen. Hopefully, this new edition will attract a larger audience, although the recent events in Southwest Asia will undoubtedly be used as ammunition by the author's critics.

The author has one major objective — “to analyze the continuous development of the minor tactics and weapons of land warfare from Napoleonic times to the near future, not forgetting the often misleading interpretations that have been placed upon it by analysts and historians.” He accomplishes his mission.

Underlying the author's various theses is the belief that no matter the nature of the next war, “training, unit cohesion and military professionalism” of the highest order will be required, particularly from those who will engage in close combat. And no matter the advances in technology, the author believes there will be close combat, in which “groups of soldiers come face to face across ‘no-man’s-land’: the lethal but crucial area where the outcome of combat is decided.”

All Infantrymen are urged to read this book. It offers much for them to think about.

• **OPERATION JUST CAUSE: THE U.S. INTERVENTION IN PANAMA.** Edited by Bruce W. Watson and Peter G. Tsouras (Westview Press, 1990. 245 Pages. \$29.95, Softbound). In this book, 15 essayists, all but one of whom has a close connection with a U.S. Government agency, present their thoughts on Operation JUST CAUSE — its background, the operation itself, and the aftermath. Several of the essays are quite short, others are relatively long; most cover six to seven printed pages. All are based principally on secondary sources, with U.S. newspaper and periodical citations predominant.

Although the essays are uneven in both length and content, all are worth reading, even though on occasion a hint of disapproval of U.S. actions comes through. Infantrymen will be particularly interested in Lorenzo Caldwell's “The Anatomy of JUST CAUSE: The Forces Involved, the Adequacy of Intelligence, and Its Success as a Joint Operation.”

Airborne enthusiasts should welcome these two books:

• **USA AIRBORNE 50th ANNIVERSARY.** Bert Hagerman, Editor (Turner Publishing Company, P.O. Box 3101, Paducah, KY 42002-3101, 1990. 512 Pages. \$55.00). Big, bold, beautiful — the only words we can think of at the moment to describe this book. It has a tremendous amount of information between its covers, as well as numerous photographs, colorful patches and insignia of various kinds, charts and tables, plus information on the Rangers, the First Special Service Force, and Special Forces.

• **THE ALL AMERICANS: THE 82d AIRBORNE.** By Leroy Thompson (A David and Charles Book. Sterling, 1990. 192 Pages). The author traces the comings and goings of the division from its early days as an Infantry unit in World War I to the end of 1987. He supplements his narrative with numerous photographs and colorful insignia layouts. The book also has several appendixes, a bibliography, and an index, all useful features.

Armor enthusiasts, as well as members of the 24th Infantry Division, will want to look at:

• **THE ARMORED FIST.** By the Editors of TIME-LIFE Books (TIME-LIFE Books, 1990. 176 Pages. \$14.99, plus shipping and handling). This is the first in a planned 24-volume series titled THE NEW FACE OF WAR. After a brief introductory chapter, it discusses the great tank battles of the 1973 war in the Middle East, the training and eventual movement of the 24th Infantry Division to Southwest Asia, the National Training Center, antiarmor weapons and their employment, and modern tanks and their capabilities and limitations. Lots of photographs and drawings enliven the text, while the bibliography and the index are valuable aids.

In our last issue, we called your attention to a publication from GDW Games titled THE DESERT SHIELD FACT BOOK: FACTS ABOUT THE CRISIS. That publication appeared before the air and ground phases of the war in Southwest Asia had been completed. Now, GDW Games has produced a new publication that builds on the earlier one and covers the war from beginning to end: GULF WAR FACT BOOK. By Frank Chadwick (GDW Games, P.O. Box 1646, Bloomington, IL 61702-1646, 1991. 104 Pages. \$10.00, Softbound). In addition to a fast-moving narrative, it contains a number of excellent maps, tables, charts, and drawings. The narrative offers a background study; information on the opposing forces and their equipment and the air and ground campaigns; and a discussion of AirLand Battle doctrine. In the last chapter, the author presents his thoughts on why things happened as they did and the important role realistic training by the U.S. forces played in the final outcome.

There are several other publications we want you to know about:

• **SOVIET MILITARY POWER 1990.** Ninth Edition. U.S. Department of Defense (USGPO S/N 008-000-00565-6. 111 Pages. \$6.50, Softbound). Recognizing the tremendous changes that are occurring in the Soviet Union today, the compilers of this annual publication admit that any assessment of Soviet power has become far more difficult than in the past. Still, they feel that “the military might of the Soviet Union is enormous and remains targeted on the United States and its allies.” They also believe that this will not change in the foreseeable future and offer their assessments of that might for our edification. The compilers discuss such subjects as general purpose forces and the U.S.-Soviet balance, Soviet foreign policy, space programs, strategic defenses, and the prospects for the future.

• **AMERICA'S NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARKS: A GUIDE.** By Joseph E. Stevens. Maps by Beth Silverman. (University of Oklahoma Press, 1990. 352 Pages. \$29.95). This fine publication is divided into 38 chapters, one for each battlefield park administered by the U.S. National Park

Service, and contains 52 maps plus 80 illustrations. Each chapter tells the story of a particular battle and contains detailed, self-guided walking and automobile tours keyed to the Park Service's numbered tour maps. Military history in this country has not been better served.

• **WEAPONS: AN INTERNATIONAL ENCYCLOPEDIA FROM 5,000 B.C. TO 2,000 A.D.** (The Diagram Group [London]. St. Martin's Press, 1990. 336 Pages. \$27.95). This outstanding work, first published in the United States in 1981, has been accepted by many as the most comprehensive one-volume illustrated reference on the history of weaponry from the earliest times to the present, and slightly beyond.

This edition is a completely updated version of the original with more than 2,500 illustrations of a representative selection of all types of weapons from all ages and cultures. It also has a new 16-page chapter covering the key developments in the field of weaponry since 1981. All indexes and tables and the bibliography have been updated. It is well to keep in mind that the book's emphasis is on weapons used for combat between human beings. Those used for the hunting of animals or for recreation are generally excluded. Infantrymen should relish this one.

• **WINCHESTER: AN AMERICAN LEGEND.** By R.L. Wilson. Photography by G. Allan Brown. (Random House, 1991. 404 Pages. \$65.00). The author is considered the most knowledgeable expert on the history of American arms. In this beautifully put-together book, he presents the authorized history of the company and its products from 1849 to the present. This book is a companion volume to his **COLT: AN AMERICAN LEGEND**, which was published several years ago.

In addition to discussing the Winchester line and its accessories and ammunition, he includes a chapter aimed specifically at the collector and an appendix that lists serial numbers and years for all models. There are more than 300 full-color photographs and more than 110 black-and-white photographs and illustrations. This is another book Infantrymen should relish.

Here are a number of our longer reviews:
THE WAR IN SOUTH VIETNAM: THE YEARS OF THE OFFENSIVE, 1965-1968. By John Schlight (Office of Air Force History, United States Air Force, 1988. USGPO S/N 008-070-00612-0. 452 Pages. \$24.00). Reviewed by Lieutenant Colonel Jack Mudie, United States Air Force Retired.

This latest volume in a series of official histories on the air war in Southeast Asia focuses chiefly on the U.S. Air Force's actions in South Vietnam. Later volumes in the series will cover activities in Laos and over North Vietnam.

The author, a retired U.S. Air Force officer and a teaching historian, has done a fine job of presenting, chronologically, the growth of bases, equipment, and personnel to accomplish the Air Force's missions. Close air support of ground combat operations and the airlift of supplies and troops were the two principal missions, and their development and execution are thoroughly described. Other missions — such as defoliation, psychological warfare, reconnaissance, and intelligence — are also described but in less detail.

The constant struggle for overall control of air assets was never resolved to anyone's satisfaction, and the author carefully tries to present all sides of the competing arguments. He also discusses fairly such interservice problems as the Air Force and Marine Corps differences over the control of tactical fighters and the Army and the Air Force differences on the dedicated use of the Caribou aircraft.

The author concludes that, within the Air Force itself, the Southeast Asian experience has resulted in a major modification of the balance between strategic and tactical air power in an effort to provide more effective deterrence at all levels of conflict instead of depending upon strategic air power alone.

The book is well illustrated and contains detailed charts of the Air Force's order of battle in South Vietnam from 1962 through 1968. It is, overall, an excellent reference document.

DRAWING THE LINE: THE KOREAN WAR, 1950-1953. By Richard Whelan (Little, Brown, 1990. 379 Pages. \$24.95). Reviewed by Lieutenant Colonel Donald C. Snedeker, United States Army.

The United States, it seems, has rediscovered the Korean War. And with the recent acknowledgment of the 40th anniversary of the start of our most misunderstood war, we have been exposed to a flood of books, magazine articles, and television reports, all of which have tried to clear up the misunderstandings.

Did the U.S. lose the Korean War? Why did the U.S. lose the Korean War? Why didn't we see that Red China was about to enter the war? Why didn't we learn the "real" lessons from Korea and thus prevent the Vietnam War?

Korea was indeed a crucial event in the history of the U.S. policy of containment — perhaps *the* crucial event. In any case, it was in Korea in June 1950 that the U.S. decided to draw the line and put "godless" communism on notice that the West was not going to sit idly by and accept naked aggression without a whimper.

Today, as we watch the policy of containment come to fruition as the Cold War dies, it is important to return to that singularly important event. As we move further away from the Korean War itself and put it in the context of the entire Cold War containment era, it appears more and more that Korea — instead of being the first war the U.S. lost — was one of the battles we won (although not necessarily in the traditional sense) along the way to victory in the Cold War.

This book will help a reader put the war into the right context. Getting there, however, may be too bumpy a road for some, because much of the author's analysis is fairly radical. For example, he proposes that it was the U.S. demand for Japan's unconditional surrender in World War II that led to the Cold War; that the Marshall Plan prevented Korean reunification; and that President Truman's decision to allow air and naval action north of the 38th Parallel made it "inevitable that sooner or later U.S./UN/ROK forces would, if they could, invade North Korea with the goal of uniting the entire peninsula. . . ."

But once a reader gets past the inflammatory rhetoric and the equally inevitable comparisons between Korea and Vietnam (which were, after all, both in Asia), the book provides an excellent analysis of the political and military events surrounding the Korean War. More important, the book puts into a proper context the meaning of those events.

For those who think the Korean War is an uninteresting relic of a by-gone era, the words of John Foster Dulles ring as true today as they did when they were written on 14 July 1950: "Neither equity nor good sense dictates that an unprovoked act of aggression should occur without risk of loss to the aggressor. If there can be armed aggression under conditions such that failure involves no permanent loss, then that puts a premium on aggression." Sound familiar?

MELTING POT SOLDIERS: THE UNION'S ETHNIC REGIMENTS. By William L. Burton (Iowa State University Press, 1988. 282 Pages. \$29.95). Reviewed

by Major Don Rightmyer, United States Air Force.

Most of the North's fighting forces during the Civil War were made up of volunteers, either called up in the early days by the individual states in response to President Lincoln's initial request for troops or in later years in response to the need for additional units and replacements.

This book takes a look at a special type of military unit within the Union army — those that were unique because they were filled almost completely with troops from one particular ethnic group. The author first examines the history of European immigration into the United States during the early 19th century, and focuses on three ethnic groups that had a significant effect on the social and political life of the country at the time: the Irish, the Germans, and the Scandinavians.

Most of the book is devoted to the author's examination of how these ethnic groups confronted the Civil War crisis and molded themselves into the Northern war effort. He provides interesting information on the recruiting methods used to get the men into the ranks and something of the culture they brought to the daily life of the Northern soldier.

The author also examines the military performance and battle records of the various ethnic units that saw active service in the various theaters of operations. While a few of these units had special names, most carried numerical designations.

Although this is a somewhat specialized book because of its subject and focus, it does provide an interesting look at the Civil War from the viewpoint of the ethnic Northern soldiers. It is definitely a worthwhile historical study.

BENEDICT ARNOLD: PATRIOT AND TRAITOR. By Willard S. Randall (William Morrow, 1990. 667 Pages. \$27.95). Reviewed by Lieutenant Colonel Cole C. Kingseed, United States Army.

This is the first major biography in 35 years of our country's most famous traitor. It is the story of one of the most complex figures of the American Revolution, and prize-winning journalist Willard Randall has produced the most comprehensive biography of Arnold yet written.

By all contemporary accounts, Arnold was the best fighting general on the American side during the first three years of the war, and the author explains why he was held in such wide esteem. Unfortunately,

Arnold felt he never received the recognition and fame he deserved — and sought. Too, he faced court-martial proceedings for the misuse of his office and received a written reprimand from George Washington for his "peculiarly reprehensible" conduct.

Starting a secret correspondence with British authorities in 1779, Arnold soon stepped out along the trail of treason and conspiracy that ultimately led in 1780 to his attempt to deliver West Point and Washington himself to the British.

The author presents a sympathetic portrait of his subject and sheds new light on Arnold's treachery, including the significant role played by Arnold's wife, Peggy Shippen. His book, which is likely to become the definitive biography of Benedict Arnold, is very much recommended to all who are interested in the American Revolution.

THE ANGLO-AMERICAN WAR WITH RUSSIA, 1918-1919. By Benjamin D. Rhodes (Greenwood Press, 1988. Contributions in Military Studies Number 71. 192 Pages. \$35.00). Reviewed by Chris Timmers, Charlotte, North Carolina.

When a country's political leaders elect to fight a war on unfamiliar terrain with less than first-rate troops whose mission is vague, failure almost seems to be a foregone conclusion. If one adds that those troops will be part of a multi-national force under the command of an officer from another country, failure then seems to be guaranteed. In a winter campaign in Northern Russia from May 1918 to mid-1919, more than 200 U.S. soldiers (and more than 300 British soldiers) died to affirm what, in historical hindsight, seems so obvious.

In early 1918, the Allies had reason to be worried about Russia. The Kerensky provisional government had been overthrown by the Bolsheviks in October 1917, and had taken Russia out of the war against Germany. This, in turn, permitted Germany to shift to the west huge numbers of troops and quantities of materiel. Too, the Allies feared that the considerable amount of military stores they had sent to Russia might be seized by Germany.

The British government, which favored intervention in Northern Russia by way of Murmansk and Archangel, successfully drew the United States in and by June 1918 an entire U.S. infantry regiment with supporting elements were on their way to Archangel. What then occurred during the next 12 months is, by now, almost standard lore in the history of winter warfare,

especially winter warfare in Russia: severely cold temperatures, incredible physical hardships, non-functioning or poorly functioning weapon systems because of the arctic-like weather, and atrocities committed by both sides.

The author's narrative strength is not so much in his explanation of the U.S. involvement in the expedition but in his explanation of U.S. failure. His work is a truly scholarly one, and this is an age when that adjective has been misused and abused many times over.

But a scholarly work is not for all readers. This one should be read not only to gain an understanding of a somewhat obscure World War I theater of operations, but also to gain a better appreciation of the history of U.S.-Soviet relations.

Is there anything wrong with the book? Two things, neither serious. First, the index could have been more comprehensive. And second, for some reason known only to the publisher, the book is printed in a typewriter typeface that gives it a college term-paper appearance. Reading page after page of typewritten script can be quite tiring.

For serious students of military history, though, this book is indispensable. If you are a casual reader, leave it alone.

COMPANY COMMAND: THE BOTTOM LINE. By Colonel John G. Meyer, Jr. (National Defense University Press, 1990. USGPO S/N 008-020-01178-9. 235 Pages. \$6.50, Softbound). Reviewed by Captain Duane L. Smith, United States Army.

The author, a serving U.S. Army officer, is well qualified to write this kind of book. He has commanded at both company and battalion levels and has been selected for brigade command. But he did not rely only on his own experience; he conducted numerous interviews during a two-year period with other officers who had commanded companies.

He has organized his book so that it can be used as both a learning and a reference tool. It summarizes the important things a company commander must accomplish if he is going to complete a successful command tour. It is divided into functional areas — training, military justice, maintenance, supply, administration, and the like. In each area, the author offers examples of hypothetical and actual situations, practical tips, quotations from respected military leaders, a discussion of how to deal with important issues, a summary, and references to essential Army publications.

Overall, this book is a valuable resource that can be used as a textbook in all advanced courses and in an installation company commander's course. It is equally useful in battalion and brigade officer professional development classes for stimulating discussion on this most important subject.

GENERAL REINHARD GEHLEN: THE CIA CONNECTION. By Mary Ellen Reese (George Mason University Press, 1990. 240 Pages. \$19.95). Reviewed by Captain Rick Ugino, United States Army National Guard.

In the years since the end of World War II, no topic seems to have stirred U.S. passions with the same fervor as the supposed protection given by Allied intelligence agencies to former Nazi party members and former German officers. In this well-researched and well-written book, the author tells the complete story of one of the most successful of these "protectees" — General Reinhard Gehlen, the "father" of the West German BND, or Military Intelligence Service.

Gehlen successfully negotiated himself and many members of his former team, who had concentrated on gathering intelligence about the Soviet armed forces during the war years, into U.S. employment, after the British refused his offer. Perhaps their lack of hard data on the Soviets caused the U.S. agencies involved to take in Gehlen, although he does deserve credit for his foresight and brilliance in crafting a new German military intelligence organization.

As the author puts it, "Americans looked at Gehlen as an Intelligence asset. . . . Gehlen was looking at a broader picture, a picture of post-war Germany in a new Europe."

This book makes for most interesting reading. Of particular interest is the author's description of Gehlen's Vatican contacts. The book's only drawback is the abundance of discursive footnotes; much of the material in them would have been better served if it had been incorporated into the author's narrative.

It is fascinating and reads like a good spy thriller.

ASHES TO ASHES: THE PHOENIX PROGRAM AND THE VIETNAM WAR. By Dale Andrade (Lexington Books, 1990. 331 Pages. \$22.95). Reviewed by Doctor Joe P. Dunn, Converse College.

Few aspects of the Vietnam War are as

little understood and inspire as much emotion as the Phoenix Program. Myths, charges, and misinformation about the program abound. Most of what has been written about it generates more heat than light.

Thus, this first serious and systematic study of the program is an important and fascinating contribution to the war's literature. The author is a military historian who specializes in special operations; he only recently joined the Army's Center of Military History.

The book traces the evolution of Phoenix, its various forms of operations, successes and failures, frustrations and errors, zenith and demise, and its effect on the war. The author's perspective is clear: Phoenix was an absolutely necessary approach to tackling the serious problem posed by the Viet Cong infrastructure, and it did enjoy considerable success in its counterinsurgency effort.

The informative and important narrative keeps the reader spellbound throughout. Along with the recently published *Slow Burn: The Rise and Bitter Fall of American Intelligence in Vietnam*, by Orrin DeForest and David Chanoff, it is one of the more significant books to come out on the war as we begin to gain a truer understanding of the role of intelligence and special operations during the conflict.

RECENT AND RECOMMENDED

THE COMANDANTE SPEAKS: MEMOIRS OF AN EL SALVADORAN GUERRILLA LEADER. Edited by Courtney E. Prisk. Westview Press, 1991. 145 Pages. \$25.00, Softcover.

THE MULTINATIONAL FORCE IN BEIRUT, 1982-1984. Edited by Anthony McDermott and Kjell Skjelsbaek. Florida International University Press, 1991. 293 Pages. \$29.95.

THE REGIMENT: LET THE CITIZENS BEAR ARMS! By Harry M. Kemp. Eakin Publications (P.O. Box 90159, Austin, TX 78709-0159), 1990. 395 Pages. \$24.95.

THE MEXICAN WAR JOURNAL AND LETTERS OF RALPH W. KIRKHAM. Edited by Robert Ryal Miller. Texas A&M University Press, 1991. 141 Pages. \$34.50.

BEYOND THE THAW: A NEW NATIONAL STRATEGY. By S.J. Deitchman. Westview Press, 1991. 258 Pages. \$49.95.

THE MARCH OF THE MONTANA COLUMN: A PRELUDE TO THE CUSTER DISASTER. By Lieutenant James H. Bradley, edited by Edgar I. Stewart, with a new foreword by Paul L. Hedren. Originally published in hardcover in 1961. University of Oklahoma Press, 1991. 216 Pages. \$9.95, Softcover.

FIRST ACROSS THE RHINE: THE 291st ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION IN FRANCE, BELGIUM, AND GERMANY. By Colonel David E. Pergrin, with Eric Hammel. Ivy Books. A reprint of the 1989 hardcover

edition. Ballantine Books, 1990. 347 Pages. \$4.95.

PRINCIPAL FOREIGN DEFENSE SYSTEMS PRODUCERS, 1990-1991. Edited by R. Noyes and D.J. DeRenzo. Noyes Publications (Mill Road at Grand Ave., Park Ridge, NJ 07656), 1990. 335 Pages. \$72.00, Softbound.

DIARY OF THE AMERICAN WAR: A HESSIAN JOURNAL. By Captain Johann Ewald. Yale University Press, 1979. 467 Pages. \$27.50.

A WILDERNESS OF MISERIES: WAR AND WARRIORS IN EARLY AMERICA. By John E. Ferling. Greenwood Press, 1980. 227 Pages. \$25.00.

VIETNAM MEDAL OF HONOR HEROES. By Edward F. Murphy. Ballantine Books, 1990. 276 Pages. \$4.95, Paperback.

WAR DEFENCE ALMANAC: THE BALANCE OF MILITARY POWER. Monch Publishing Group, 1990. 272 Pages. \$6.00, Softbound.

DEFENSE ELECTRONICS AND COMPUTING. Number 4. Editorial Supplement to the December 1989 issue of INTERNATIONAL DEFENSE REVIEW. Jane's Information Group, 1989. 32 Pages. Softbound.

EUROPEAN ARMS CONTROL: PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS. Edited by Ronald L. Hatchett. Texas A&M University Press, 1990. 224 Pages. \$29.50.

GUNBOAT DIPLOMACY AND THE BOMB: NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND THE U.S. NAVY. By Eric H. Arnett. Praeger. 175 Pages. \$39.95.

A TREASURY OF CIVIL WAR TALES. By Webb Garrison. First published in 1988. Ballantine Books, 1990. 261 Pages. \$4.95, Softbound.

FLYING START: A FIGHTER PILOT'S WAR YEARS. By Hugh Dundas. A Thomas Dunne Book. St. Martin's Press, 1990. 180 Pages. \$16.95, Softbound.

THE HISTORY OF CAVALRY. By Zvonimir Grbasic and Velimir Vuksic. Facts on File, 1989. 280 Pages. \$40.00, Hardbound.

THE EMPIRE AT WAR. By John Bowie. David & Charles, 1990. 127 Pages. \$29.95.

A PERSONAL STORY OF THE BATTLE FOR TUMBLEDOWN MOUNTAIN AND ITS AFTERMATH. By John Lawrence and Robert Lawrence. David & Charles, 1990. 196 Pages. \$29.95.

APOCALYPSE UNDONE: MY SURVIVAL OF JAPANESE IMPRISONMENT DURING WORLD WAR II. By Preston John Hubbard. Vanderbilt University Press, 1990. 263 Pages. \$23.95.

FIGHTING WORDS: THE CORRESPONDENTS OF WORLD WAR II. By Richard Collier. A Thomas Dunne Book. St. Martin's Press, 1990. 230 Pages. \$17.95.

ONE SHOT—ONE KILL. By Charles W. Sasser and Craig Roberts. Pocket Books, 1990. 260 Pages. \$4.95.

UNTOLD STORIES FROM THE FALKLANDS WAR. By Michael Bilton and Peter Kosminsky. David & Charles, 1990. 311 Pages. \$34.95.

PACIFIC MICROPHONE. By William J. Dunn. Texas A&M University Press, 1988. \$19.95.

THE DESERT GENERALS. By Correlli Barnett. Indiana University Press, 1983. 351 Pages. \$17.95.