

# BOOK REVIEWS



We again have a number of interesting publications to bring to your attention:

**THUNDER IN THE DESERT: THE STRATEGY AND TACTICS OF THE PERSIAN GULF WAR.** By James Blackwell. Bantam Books, 1991. 252 Pages. \$12.50, Softbound. The author is a 1974 West Point graduate who served 13 years on active duty as an Armor officer before accepting medical retirement. He is now a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, D.C.

During the Gulf War, he served as a military affairs analyst for the Cable News Network (CNN). Drawing on those experiences, along with CSIS material, a trip to the Gulf area with the then Army Chief of Staff, and official but unclassified documents, he has put together a readable account of the war. He calls his book "a first draft of history . . . not the final word on what happened . . ." And it is just that, but it is still one of the better overall accounts we have seen, though we would have appreciated more on the ground forces and their preparations for combat.

Infantrymen will find the two chapters on the ground war itself of particular interest. The final chapter, too, with its suggestions for future U.S. policies in the Middle East, should also be noted, although we admit the writing is couched in typical think-tank language.

**AN HISTORICAL GUIDE TO ARMS AND ARMOR.** By Stephen Bull. Edited by Terry North. Facts on File, 1992. 224 Pages. \$35.00. This is a big, beautiful, fascinating book, especially for a collector, a military buff, or anyone interested in the history of weaponry. It has 300 photographs (more than 200 of them in color), a bibliography, an index, a very fine foreword, and a nicely done introduction.

The author's principal task was to describe portable arms and armor from the time of the Greeks and Romans to the early 19th Century. He did this in an outstanding manner, using five chronological chapters, each covering one major period of western history, plus two more chapters to provide an introduction to oriental arms and armor.

**U.S. ARMY UNIFORMS OF WORLD**

**WAR II.** By Shelby L. Stanton. Stackpole Books, 1991. 288 Pages. \$32.45.

Two years ago this same author—noted for his order-of-battle books and other publications—brought out his book on the Army's uniforms of the Vietnam War era. In the present book, he documents the clothing and individual equipment items the U.S. Army developed for and issued to its soldiers during World War II, from helmets to protective clothing and equipment and footwear.

He focuses on the combat uniform, its evolution over time and its use in battle. He includes detailed information about a number of items, and also includes information on clothing issued to the women who served in the Army during the war.

The book contains more than 400 photographs, test results from various Army boards, and a brief section on the Army's pre-war uniforms. Most of the photographs have not been published previously.

**EPITOMA REI MILITARIS.** By Flavivus Vegetius Renuatus. Edited with an English translation by Leo F. Stelten. American University Studies, Series XVII, Classical Languages and Literature, Volume 11. Peter Lang, 1990. 334 Pages. \$53.95. This is a new study—with the Latin text on one side of a page and its English translation on the other—of a military classic originally written around 400 A.D. In his introduction, the editor tells us in shortened form something about the writer—who was probably not a soldier but "a collector and compiler of what the ancients said and wrote on"—and the writer's influence on later ages.

In fact, as Stelten points out, this "work was regarded almost as a military Bible during the Middle Ages." Is there anything here for the "modern" soldier and leader? Try these quotations:

- The selected recruit should not be immediately registered with the mark of military service before he has really been tested by training. . . the less useful must be rejected and in their place the most valiant must be substituted. For in every battle the advantage lies not so much in numbers as in courage.

- *It is equally important that during the*

*summer months every recruit be taught to swim.*

- *Also the recruits must be forced very frequently to make marches using the military step and at the same time to carry loads weighing up to sixty pounds.*

- *An army profits from work but grows weak through leisure.*

- *Let him who trusts in his infantry troops seek places suitable for the infantry and carry the action more through the infantry.*

Professional infantrymen should not overlook this last one.

**GUIDE TO MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.** 3d Edition. By Dan Cragg. Stackpole Books, 1991. 496 Pages. \$17.95, Softbound. The author realizes, of course, the changes that are taking place today as the nation's armed forces are drawn down and posts and bases around the world are closed.

In this edition of what has become the standard work on the subject, Dan Cragg has incorporated only those changes that had taken place by the fall of 1990. The guide itself is divided into two major sections, domestic and overseas. A smaller third section contains maps showing the location of each installation, at home and abroad, by service. It is an extremely useful reference.

We have received four more interesting publications from the Osprey Publishing Company in England, and we believe you will enjoy each one.

**KAISERSCHLACHT 1918—THE FINAL GERMAN OFFENSIVE.** By Randal Gray. 1991. 96 Pages. Campaign Series Number 11, Softbound.

**CULLODEN 1746—THE HIGHLAND CLANS' LAST CHARGE.** By Peter Harrington. 1991. 96 Pages. Campaign Series Number 12. Softbound.

**AFRIKAKORPS, 1941-43.** Text by Gordon Williamson, color plates by Ron Volstad. 1991. 64 Pages. Elite Series Number 34. Softbound.

**THE TEXAS RANGERS.** Text by Stephen Hardin, color plates by Richard Hook. 1991. 64 Pages. Elite Series Number 35. Softbound.

Now here are some of our longer reviews:

**THE DRIFT TO WAR, 1922-1939.** By Richard Lamb. St. Martin's Press, 1989. 372 Pages. \$24.95. Reviewed by Lieutenant Colonel Cole C. Kingseed, United States Army.

In recent years, an increasing number of revisionist historians have examined the causes of World War II. British author Richard Lamb contributes to this growing historiography in this insightful analysis of British foreign policy. What is surprising about Lamb's account is that he casts his own country in such an unfavorable light. According to him, British diplomacy was a sad tale from which few in high places emerged with credit.

Drawing upon previously unpublished primary sources, Lamb notes the irony in British policy in that it was particularly harsh on democratic German governments over the subjects of reparations and rearmament, but extraordinarily lenient on Adolf Hitler. The author argues, not always convincingly, that it was the ineptitude of British statesmen that paved the way for the Nazis' rise to power in the 1932 German elections, then drove Mussolini into Hitler's camp during the Abyssinian crisis, and finally scared Stalin into signing the Soviet-German nonaggression pact and secret protocol in August 1939.

Lamb reserves his sharpest criticism for Neville Chamberlain, whose very name has become synonymous with "appeasement." The diplomatic archives now reveal that Hitler completely bluffed Chamberlain at Munich as to German military potential. If Chamberlain had formed an alliance with France and declared war against Germany in 1938, the Soviet Union might have joined the western allies and eliminated the Nazi threat once and for all. The years of peace that Chamberlain purchased at the expense of Czechoslovakia were far more beneficial to Germany's war production than to Britain's.

The chief fault of this book, and it is a major one, is that the author may give too much credit to Great Britain as the principal actor on the European diplomatic stage of the 1930s. It was Hitler—rather than Stanley Baldwin, J.R. MacDonald, and Chamberlain—who exerted the most influence and dominated European politics after 1933. To a degree, British statesmen simply reflected the pacifist mood of their country, and the unity that characterized the British after 1940 did not exist before the onset of the war.

Still, this book is a valuable contribution

to our understanding of how and why nations go to war. This is definitely revisionist history at its provocative best.

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**SILENT WARFARE: UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD OF INTELLIGENCE.** By Abram N. Shulsky. Brassey's (US), 1991. 222 Pages. \$19.95. Reviewed by Captain Richard Ugino, United States Army National Guard.

It is rare when a book about intelligence is entertaining, informative, and educational all at the same time. In this book, Abram Shulsky, a senior fellow at the National Strategy and Information Center in Washington, draws on his vast background in the field and provides one of the best intelligence "primers" I have seen in the past ten years. What Shulsky does best is to demystify intelligence and offer a thoughtful, serious view of the subject.

Although the book is theoretical, it includes a good overview of the basics. Thus, there is a good section on the definition of the terms "HUMINT" and "TECHINT," another on such "transnational" threats as narcotics trafficking and international terrorism. There is another excellent section titled "Democracy and Secrecy" in which the author examines the checks and balances that control intelligence agencies in democratic societies.

This is a fine book for its price, and it is recommended to readers who have little real knowledge of the intelligence field and community.

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**SWORDS AROUND A THRONE: NAPOLEON'S GRANDE ARMEE.** By John R. Elting. The Free Press, 1988. 769 Pages. \$35.00. Reviewed by Lieutenant Colonel John C. Spence, III, United States Army Reserve.

Retired Army Colonel John R. Elting has previously written impressive volumes on military history and strategy, but this latest book may be his best. In fact, this highly detailed analysis of the Grande Armee may become the definitive encyclopedia of the Napoleonic era.

Elting has meticulously researched the entire period as well as the preceding periods of royalist and revolutionary France. He devotes individual chapters to specific subject areas, and addresses virtually every subject. Comparisons and contrasts are drawn between the prerevolutionary armies of the Bourbon dynasty and the army that became increasingly professionalized when

Napoleon assumed duties as Consul. The book contains a detailed treatment of strategy and tactics, force structure, use of allied troops, and the incorporation of foreign mercenaries into the French forces.

The book is filled with illuminating examples of the way Napoleon, the soldier, commanded the respect and devotion of countless other soldiers. These soldiers of the Grande Armee followed their emperor to the snowy wastes of Russia and to final defeat at Waterloo. Most significantly, Napoleon always identified with his soldiers. When one of them died in battle and left an infant child, Napoleon would personally adopt the child as his own.

A student of contemporary military organization will find many antecedents in Napoleon's military philosophy and concept of organization. His Chief of Staff, Marshal Louis Alexandre Berthier, issued operational instructions to subordinate staff officers—staff principles now embodied in Field Manual 101-5, Staff Organization and Operations. One of Napoleon's permanent legacies to the modern-day commander was the requirement that each unit submit a daily status report to its next higher headquarters. Matters to be covered included unit strength, casualties, supplies available, and the enemy situation.

This book is a fitting addition to the literature on the French Revolution.

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**HITLER'S GLADIATOR: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF OBERSTGRUPPENFUEHRER AND PANZERGENERAL-OBERST DER WAFFEN-SS SEPP DIETRICH.** By Charles Messenger. Brassey's, 1988. 245 Pages. \$26.95. Reviewed by Captain Stephen A. Johnson, United States Army.

Charles Messenger, a noted military historian, has given us the most comprehensive biography available on Josef "Sepp" Dietrich, one of Germany's most controversial Waffen-SS field commanders in World War II.

Dietrich entered World War I in 1914 as an enlisted man in an artillery unit sent to fight in France. In 1915 he became a non-commissioned officer and the following year became involved with the German "Storm Troops." In early 1918 he joined the German tank units fighting in France and was still with them when the war ended.

During the years between the wars, Dietrich fought with the paramilitary "Freikorps" units. In 1928 he joined the Nazi Party and then the SS. He was noticed early

by Hitler and was increasingly used as Hitler's personal bodyguard.

In 1930, Dietrich won a seat in the governmental body (Reichstag) and was given charge of all SS activities in southern Germany. He had become part of Hitler's inner circle.

Hitler's trust in Dietrich was indicated by two actions. First, Dietrich was ordered to form a special company-sized guard unit to be known as *Leibstandarte* for the protection of the Reich Chancellory in 1933 after Hitler became Chancellor. Next, in 1934, Hitler personally selected Dietrich to organize the execution of the leaders of the SA, which became known as the "Night of the Long Knives."

When Germany invaded Poland and then France, Dietrich led the *Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler*, which had grown from a ceremonial guard unit to a motorized rifle regiment, into combat in both campaigns. In 1941, he led this unit, now brigade size, during the Balkan campaign. The *Leibstandarte* entered the Russian campaign as a motorized rifle division, where it fought until July 1942. At this time, it was reorganized, in France, into an SS Panzergrenadier Division. Dietrich returned to Russia with the division and stayed until June 1943.

Dietrich then became the commander of the I SS Panzer Corps in France and commanded it during the Allied invasion at Normandy in 1944. He then commanded the 6th Panzer Army during the Battle of the Bulge against the Allies and in Hungary against the Russians. (After the war, Dietrich was tried and convicted as a war criminal for the massacre of U.S. soldiers at Malmedy during the Battle of the Bulge.)

Messenger covers several areas of particular interest. He examines Dietrich's relationship with Hitler and his rise in rank and responsibility, along with his strengths and weaknesses as a commander during World War II.

Messenger's intent is to tell Dietrich's story according to the facts available, not to whitewash or excuse him, and he has done an admirable job.

Much of the book deals with Dietrich's times rather than his life. This is largely due to the lack of diaries, personal papers, and other first-hand accounts on Dietrich. I recommend this book only to serious students of military history.

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**GREAT BATTLES OF THE BRITISH ARMY, AS COMMEMORATED IN THE SANDHURST COMPANIES.** Edit-

ed by David G. Chandler. University of North Carolina Press, 1991. 288 Pages. \$34.95. Reviewed by Major Harold E. Raugh, Jr., United States Army.

The pride and spirit of the British Army and its magnificent battle victories continue to fascinate soldiers and other military enthusiasts. To celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the foundation of Royal Military Academy Woolwich, eminent military historian David G. Chandler assembled a first-rate team of subject matter experts to write narratives and objective assessments of the 16 battles for which the current Sandhurst cadet companies were named. (It is worth noting that the Royal Military Academy Woolwich, which trained engineers, was amalgamated with the Royal Military College Sandhurst in 1947 to form the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.)

The first battle chronicled is Blenheim, 1704 (written by Chandler). Others are from the Napoleonic era and other eras, with five battles from World War I and six from World War II. All chapters are of uniformly high quality, but those by Chandler (who also wrote on Salamanca, 1812), Jeffrey Grey (Gaza, 1917), and Lord Carver (First and Second Battles of Alamein, 1942) stand out.

One of the many great strengths of this work is that each chapter includes two well-drawn maps, one in color depicting the relevant battle and another in monochrome of the larger campaign area. The orders of battle of the opposing forces are also given, and each chapter is extensively illustrated and contains a short annotated bibliography for that particular battle. Twelve detailed appendixes provide information on the evolution of the cadet companies and list the awards and honors made to former cadets.

Chandler, in his general introduction, explains the criteria used to select the cadet company names and concludes that many battles—"seen as triumphs of individual human courage, moral as well as physical, over fear of death, wounds and the unexpected"—could have been representative of the various eras and wars. Indeed, the aim of this excellent book is "to commemorate the valour of the sons of Woolwich and Sandhurst, of the men they led, [and] the Allies they fought alongside." There is no doubt that this goal has been achieved.

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**STONEWALL JACKSON: PORTRAIT OF A SOLDIER.** By John Bowers. William Morrow and Company, 1989. 367 Pages. \$19.95. Reviewed by

Major Don Rightmyer, United States Air Force.

"Stonewall"—the name by which Thomas J. Jackson was best known after the July 1861 battle of First Manassas—seemed to convey a larger-than-life image that no mortal deserves. Barnard Bee, the general who gave Jackson that nickname at Bull Run, was himself mortally wounded only moments later on that battlefield. But Jackson's military career lasted another two years until he was tragically shot by some of his own troops while returning from an evening reconnaissance of the battlefield at Chancellorsville. The intervening months in Jackson's life quickly became the stuff of legend. In truth, though, he was only a human being who answered the call to duty, served as he felt led to serve, and poured his life into the cause for which he stood. That is the story of this book.

John Bowers has taken an approach somewhat different from that of others in the past in preparing this biography. His narrative not only provides a new accounting of this military man's experiences and performance, but it also provides more insight into the truly human and mortal aspects of Jackson's service under fire.

For example, while the author discusses the general's strategy and decision-making, he also points out some of the places where his human nature took a heavy toll. There was a price to pay for the reputation his Stonewall Brigade had earned as "foot cavalry," and it really showed as Jackson and his men quickly left the Shenandoah Valley and went to Robert E. Lee's assistance in the defense of Richmond. Jackson's apparent failure to follow the campaign plan as agreed upon can be directly attributed to the fact that he was exhausted and basically asleep on his feet.

Overall, Bowers has provided a highly readable story of a military leader whose life has attracted the study and attention of military students over the years. He provides some valuable insights into Jackson's ability to instill into his fighting men a tremendously strong sense of loyalty. Jackson not only generated the loyalty of those below him, but his actions earned him an immeasurable sense of worth in General Lee's eyes as well.

This book is highly recommended for its lively coverage of Jackson's Shenandoah campaign and for its thoroughly interesting analysis of his service in the Confederacy. It will prove worthwhile to the professional military student and the general reader alike.

**WAR BY OTHER MEANS: SOVIET POWER, WEST GERMAN RESISTANCE, AND THE BATTLE OF THE EUROMISSILES.** By Jeffrey Herf. The Free Press, 1991. 233 Pages. \$27.95. Reviewed by Lieutenant Colonel Donald C. Snedeker, United States Army.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the Soviet Union went to war with NATO—war, that is, by other means. In a paraphrase of Clausewitz's often-misquoted dictum that war is the extension of political power by other means, the author believes the Soviet Union conducted a war against the United States and Western Europe—but especially against the Germans—by means other than military.

The battlefield was Europe—more precisely, the European public forum—and the reason was Euromissiles, the deployed Soviet SS-20s and the U.S. Pershing IIs and GLCMs that were to be deployed in response. The war was brutal, no holds barred. It was winner take all, and loser lose all.

Jeffrey Herf, who now teaches European politics at Emory University, presents a clean, logically organized, well-researched review and analysis of the public debate surrounding the Euromissiles, from the time German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt first raised the issue in public in 1977 to the final governmental decisions and deployment in 1983. He does so in language that will appeal to followers of the principles of practical politics. His yardstick for measuring the policies and decisions of various public and political figures is their ability to balance peace and freedom, diplomacy and power, as elements of one whole.

But the book is more than just a recounting of the names, places, and events. The author has researched his topic well, and he provides considerable detail on the social trends within the academic and intellectual communities in Germany that provided the unique context for the Euromissile debate. The evolution of post-World War II West German policy, within the political parties as well as within the public itself, is what made the debate play out like the best Agatha Christie thriller. The Bonn Government's decision on deployment was never absolutely certain until the final vote was cast—as well as whether that vote would be cast in the Bundestag or on the streets.

One might ask if it is worth the effort to read such "ancient" history, now that the Wall has fallen and confrontation has been replaced by cooperation. Indeed it is, for the reader will come away with a better

understanding of the evolution of German political thinking from post-World War II through the "war by other means" up to the end of the Cold War. As Herf writes, "It is hard to imagine the political transformation of 1989 without the deployments of 1983."

**VALLEY OF DECISION: THE SIEGE OF KHE SANH.** By John Prados and Ray W. Stubbe. Houghton Mifflin, 1991. 551 Pages. \$29.95. Reviewed by Dr. Joe P. Dunn, Converse College.

Khe Sanh was General William Westmoreland's battle, a large-scale, conventional engagement that produced massive enemy body counts. He contended that it was one of the most damaging blows inflicted upon North Vietnam and that it discredited "the myth of General Giap's military genius." Westmoreland claimed that, of all the decisions he made in Vietnam, he was proudest of the commitment to hold Khe Sanh.

Other commentators believe that it was Westmoreland who was discredited. General Earle Wheeler stated that Khe Sanh had served Hanoi's purpose, and British analyst Sir Robert Thompson remarked that "the absurdity of Khe Sanh will rate a book by itself."

This complete account of the controversial battle, its origins, and its aftermath is a good blend of document research and personal experience drawn from interviews. John Prados (an authority on intelligence and clandestine activity) and Ray Stubbe (whose extensive diary as Navy chaplain during the siege and whose indefatigable interviews establish him as the student of the Khe Sanh experience) provide a balanced interpretation that is somewhat critical of Westmoreland's perspective.

The book is superior to two interesting previous works—Robert Pisor's *The End of the Line: The Siege of Khe Sanh* (1982) and Eric Hammel's *Khe Sanh: Siege in the Clouds, an Oral History* (1989). It includes new material on Military Assistance Command Vietnam Special Operations Group (MACVSOG) and other intelligence activity in the Khe Sanh area before the siege. It also has a good bibliography and good photographs and maps.

**RECENT AND RECOMMENDED**  
**OUR MAN IN PANAMA: THE SHREWD RISE AND BRUTAL FALL OF MANUEL NORIEGA.** By John Dinges. Revised and Updated. Originally published in hardcover in 1990. Times Books. Random House, 1991. 432 Pages. \$13.00, Softbound.

**THE ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF WEST POINT.** By Theodore J. Crackel. Original photography by Ted Spiegel. Abrams (100 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011), 1991. 320 Pages. \$75.00.

**NEVER GET LOST: THE GREEN BERET'S COMPASS COURSE.** By Don Paul. New Edition. First published in 1983. Pathfinder Publications (Hamakua Center, Suite 401, 150 Hamakua Drive, Kailua, Oahu, Hawaii 96734), 1991. 118 Pages. \$9.95, Softbound.

**BATTLE OF THE BISMARCK SEA.** By Lex McAulay. St. Martin's Press, 1991. 226 Pages. \$19.95.

**WITHOUT QUARTER: THE WICHITA EXPEDITION AND THE FIGHT ON CROOKED CREEK.** By William Y. Chalfant. University of Oklahoma Press, 1991. 192 Pages. \$19.95.

**ALMANAC OF MODERN TERRORISM.** By Jay M. Shafritz, E.F. Gibbons, Jr., and Gregory E.J. Scott. Facts on File, 1991. 290 Pages. \$29.95.

**THE BATTLES OF CORAL SEA AND MIDWAY, 1942: A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY.** By Myron J. Smith, Jr. Bibliographies of Battles and Leaders Number 5. Greenwood Press, 1991. 184 Pages. \$55.00.

**AMERICA AND THE WAR WITH IRAQ: A BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR INSTRUCTORS.** By Patrick D. Reagan. D.C. Heath, 1991. 24 Pages, Softbound.

**TOY SOLDIERS: MEMOIR OF A COMBAT PLATOON LEADER IN KOREA.** By John A. Sullivan. McFarland, 1991. 172 Pages. \$21.95.

**LOW-APTITUDE MEN IN THE MILITARY: WHO PROFITS, WHO PAYS?** By Janice H. Laurence and Peter F. Ramsberger. Praeger, 1991. 200 Pages. \$42.95.

**STALIN: A TIME FOR JUDGEMENT.** By Jonathan Lewis and Philip Whitehead. Michelin House (81 Fulham Road, London SW3 6RB, England), 1991. First published in hardcover in 1990. A Thames Mandarin Paperback. 189 Pages.

**FRONT AND CENTER: HEROES, WAR STORIES, AND ARMY LIFE.** Edited by L. James Binder. An AUSA Book. Brassey's (US), 1991. 250 Pages. \$15.95, Softcover.

**THE NEW STATE OF WAR AND PEACE: AN INTERNATIONAL ATLAS.** By Michael Kidron and Dan Smith. Touchstone Books. Simon and Schuster, 1991. 127 Pages. \$14.95, Softbound.

**THE CHANCY WAR: WINNING IN CHINA, BURMA, AND INDIA IN WORLD WAR II.** By Edward Fischer. Orion Books. Crown Publishers, 1991. 250 Pages. \$23.00.

**NEVER LOOK BACK: A HISTORY OF WORLD WAR II IN THE PACIFIC.** By William A. Renzi and Mark D. Roehrs. M.E. Sharpe, Inc. (80 Business Park Drive, Armonk, NY 10504), 1991. 224 Pages.

