

# BOOK REVIEWS



**BOUNCE THE RHINE.** By Charles Whiting. Avon Books, 1992. 212 Pages. \$4.99, Softbound. First published in hardcover in 1985. Reviewed by Lieutenant Colonel Donald C. Snedeker, United States Army Retired.

In the days of Caesar, the Rhine River marked the edge of the civilized world. In late 1944 and early 1945, it was the last great barrier blocking the advance of the Allied armies into the German homeland. Breaking the back of the Atlantic Wall in Normandy had required Herculean effort and all the ingenuity the Allies could muster. Cracking the Siegfried Line had demanded raw courage and tenacity. But the Rhine—Father Rhine, the epitome of all that was German, the artery through which the lifeblood of the German nation flowed—Allied leaders knew the Germans would defend to the death.

*Bounce the Rhine* tells the story of the Allies' three attempts to cross the Rhine into Germany. Most of all, it is a story of bridges—the disastrous “bridge too far” attempt at Arnhem in September 1944; then the drive by General Jacques P. LeClerc's French 2d Armored division, which stalled virtually on Strassbourg's Rhine River bridge in November 1944; and finally, the Ludendorff Railway Bridge at Remagen, which fell into the hands of the U.S. 9th Armored Division on 7 March 1945 (allowing General George S. Patton to “spit in the eye” of his rival British General Bernard Law Montgomery).

Charles Whiting artfully uses the results of extensive interviews with veterans of each of these attempts to tell this story, mixed with impressive research in British, Canadian, French, American, and German memoirs and archives. The blend of strategic context and in-the-mud war stories will keep the reader's attention throughout. The reader should be prepared, however, for some unnecessary revisionist history and “investigative reporting” (looking for what went wrong more than for what went right). Fortunately, these distractions are kept to a minimum and do not significantly detract from the overall narrative.

This book is a good history as well as a fast-paced war story. Anyone who missed the 1985 hardcover edition should pick up this

book and thrill to the irony of Lieutenant Timmermann's story, wonder at the courage of Regimental Sergeant Major Lord, and marvel at the hair-raising adventure of “a broken-down ex-cavalryman,” Brigadier John Hackett. It will be well worth the time it takes.

**FORGED IN BATTLE: THE CIVIL WAR ALLIANCE OF BLACK SOLDIERS AND WHITE OFFICERS.** By Joseph T. Glatthaar. Free Press, 1990. 370 Pages. \$24.95. Reviewed by Major Don Rightmyer, United States Air Force Retired.

This new study on the role of black soldiers in the Union Army during the Civil War is a valuable addition to the military history of the war and the part blacks played in it. Joseph Glatthaar, an associate professor of history at the University of Houston, is a noted Civil War historian and author of an earlier book on General William T. Sherman's Savannah and Carolina campaigns.

The book begins with a thorough examination of the opposing views in both North and South concerning the issue of putting blacks under arms. Although there was considerable resistance on both sides, in the end both the Union and the Confederate armies used black troops.

When the Union finally decided to put black soldiers into its ranks, the United States Colored Troops (USCT) was created and a process was instituted that determined who would serve as its officers and noncommissioned officers. While the entrance screening varied from one location to another, it was one of the first times Union officers were forced to pass some sort of evaluation before being awarded commissions. The author also discusses the methods used to fill the ranks of the black units, again providing soldiers of varying quality in the long run.

There was considerable disagreement as to what roles these units should play once they were organized and placed under arms. Some thought they should be used only for fatigue details, while some thought they should be used on the front line along with other Union forces. Several black Federal units distinguished themselves at such places as Fort Wagner (54th Massachusetts), Port Hudson,

and Milliken's Bend.

The book covers numerous combat experiences of the black units in considerable detail. It closes with the activity of black Army units as occupation forces in Southern states after the war ended. It also includes reference footnotes, extensive appendixes on specific black units, and a detailed bibliography and index.

This book provides an excellent, in-depth study of the significant contributions of black soldiers during the war and many of the problems and trials experienced in the process of their moving from civilian status into the armed service.

**ROYAL UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE AND BRASSEY'S DEFENCE YEARBOOK 1992.** Edited by the Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies. Brassey's (UK), 1992. 293 Pages. \$69.00. Reviewed by Major Harold E. Raugh, Jr., United States Army.

In 1886, Lord Brassey instituted an annual periodical on military affairs, the aim of which was “the study of the events of the year, to draw lessons for the future, and to provide knowledge of defence matters by stimulating discussion.”

Lord Brassey's legacy has been continued with the publication of the *Defence Yearbook 1992*. Although somewhat slimmer than in previous years, this superb volume contains 19 well-written and topical essays by distinguished senior officers (serving and retired), diplomats, and academicians.

These informative essays are divided into six main sections: Security Policies and Military Concepts; The British Defence Debate; European Security; The Gulf War and Regional Security; Technology and Arms Sales; and Sources. As expected in the wake of the Persian Gulf War, seven essays cover this topic, including the excellent “The Future of Gulf Security after the Kuwaiti War,” by J.E. Peterson; “The United States and the Persian Gulf in the Bush Administration After the Gulf War,” by Bernard Reich and Stephen H. Gotowicki; and “Israel's Relations with the Arabs: What Difference Did the Gulf War Make?” by Rosemary Hollis. Jona-

than Eyal's insightful "Managing the Balkans" is clear and truly prescient: Eyal predicts accurately that of all the problems facing Europe since the demise of the Soviet Union, "the Balkans will present the biggest challenge."

This collection of thought-provoking essays will be of great interest to students and theorists of military affairs and will be sure to stimulate discussion. Lord Brassey would approve.

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**A WAR TO WIN: COMPANY "B" 813TH TANK DESTROYERS.** By Harry D. Dunnagan. Royall Dutton Books, 1992. 214 Pages. \$17.95. Reviewed by Colonel Cole C. Kingseed, United States Army.

The 50th Anniversary of World War II has generated numerous books and monographs on this century's greatest conflict. In *A War to Win*, 16 veterans recount their experiences as members of Company B, 813th Tank Destroyer Battalion. These personal accounts, which focus strictly on the tactical level, provide interesting insights into the war from the perspective of the combat soldier.

The 813th Tank Destroyers were activated at Fort Bragg in December 1941. Following training in North Carolina and in the United Kingdom, the unit participated in every major campaign in the European theater from North Africa to Berchtesgaden. Equipped with the M-10 (three-inch) self-propelled gun and later the M-36 and M-36B1 (90mm) guns, the 813th was the first Allied armored unit across the Seine and the Rhine. The unit's motto was *Seek, Strike and Destroy*, and their special targets were Hitler's tanks.

The 16 veterans reminisce about the bloody hedgerows of Normandy, daily life in the front lines, battle fatigue after nine months of combat, and the more humorous aspects of life in the forward divisions—including eating "horse head" soup. Present-day infantrymen will find this book both interesting and entertaining, as the stories illustrate the aspects of combat common to soldiers of all generations.

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**VIETNAM ABOVE THE TREETOPS: A FORWARD AIR CONTROLLER REPORTS.** By John F. Flanagan. Praeger Publishers, 1992. 314 Pages. \$24.95. Reviewed by Lieutenant Colonel Jack Mudie, United States Air Force Retired.

This book would have been a marvelous training aid for any forward air controller (FAC) immediately after author John Flanagan's 1966 tour in Vietnam. Now, however,

these memoirs may be relegated to the category of a personal rehash of that war. But this does not diminish the drama of Flanagan's growth from an idealistic neophyte to a highly effective expert—still idealistic and a proud warrior but with a cynicism borne of personal experience.

Flanagan, a 1962 graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, served as a FAC with the Korean Tiger Division in his initial in-country assignment. Joining the division on the ground, he quickly learned first-hand the importance of his own job in the air in support of the infantry. He was soon assigned to Project Delta, the forerunner of the Army's elite Delta Force, and most of the book covers his personal experiences with the insertion and extraction of Delta teams.

Although Flanagan's excellent prose makes the events he relates easier to visualize, some large-scale sector maps would have helped. The photographs bring to life a few of the names in the books, and the glossary is excellent.

Since the author worked closely with Korean, Vietnamese, and various U.S. Army units, his candid observations are valuable in exploring cultural and other differences that either helped or hindered combat effectiveness.

In the final paragraph of the book, we learn that Flanagan was eventually promoted to brigadier general in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, only to be abruptly fired. We are then left hanging with no further explanation. Hopefully, Flanagan will follow through on his contemplations about entering politics and writing a second book.

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**THE UNITED STATES AND VIETNAM, 1787-1941.** By Robert Hopkins Miller. National Defense University Press, 1990. USGPO S/N 008-020-01213-1. 324 Pages. \$10.00, Softbound. Reviewed by Dr. Joe P. Dunn, Converse College.

Although most Americans became aware of Vietnam's existence in the 1960s, the United States' interest in that country began in the late 18th century. Miller's chronicle of this diplomatic, economic, and strategic relationship from 1787 to the beginning of World War II is the most complete coverage of the subject in print.

A career foreign service officer with extensive experience in Southeast Asia, Miller, formerly Ambassador to Malaysia, now serves as Diplomat-in-Residence at George Washington University.

His research and documentation are impressive as he describes early naval visits to the

country, attempts to establish economic and diplomatic relations in the early and mid-19th century, U.S. efforts to mediate between the conquering French colonials and the Vietnamese, and U.S. concern with Japan's move into the area.

Unfortunately, Miller relies too much upon lengthy quotations, which undermines the book's scholarly nature and detracts from the flow of his narrative. Judicious paraphrasing would have improved it significantly. Still, it is an important addition to the literature on U.S.-Asian international relations and the background of the Vietnam conflict.

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**CRISES AND COMMITMENTS: THE POLITICS AND DIPLOMACY OF AUSTRALIA'S INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTHEAST ASIAN CONFLICTS, 1948-1965.** By Peter Edwards, with Gregory Pemberton. Allen and Unwin, 1992. 515 Pages. \$45.00. Distributed in the United States by Paul and Company (P.O. Box 442, Concord, MA 01742). Reviewed by Lieutenant Colonel Albert N. Garland, United States Army Retired.

This is the first volume in a planned seven-volume official history of Australia's involvement in Southeast Asian conflicts between 1948 and 1965—most notably the Malayan Emergency, the Indonesia-Malaysian confrontation, and the Vietnam War.

Peter Edwards, who has written extensively on Australia's foreign policy, points out that as an official historian he was given unrestricted access to all of the relevant Australian Government documents, published and unpublished, and was "assured of uncensored publication."

He concentrates on the conduct of foreign affairs as practiced by the Department of External Affairs (roughly corresponding to the U.S. Department of State), following the guidelines laid down by the two prime ministers who held office during the period covered by the book—Joseph Chifley (1945-1949) and Sir Robert Menzies (1949-1966). He pays scant attention to the other major government offices but does occasionally bring in the views of various officials in Australia's Department of Defence.

The Department of External Affairs was certainly kept busy throughout Southeast Asia during this period in events that Edwards tracks more-or-less chronologically. This approach does not make for easy reading, because he lets his documents speak instead of offering his own thoughts on the events as they transpired and on the decisions made. When he does get away from the documents to offer

his own interpretations, the narrative is smoother and more interesting.

Edwards' approach is understandable, however, because this first book must lay the foundation for the volumes that will follow, such as the Australian effort in South Vietnam, and these will give the details. In brief, Edwards tells us how Australia became involved in certain conflicts but leaves it to other authors to tell us what happened afterward.

Australia in 1945 was not unlike the other British Commonwealth countries—exhausted by almost six years of total war, its economic and social structures in disarray. The country, its leaders, and its people all looked forward to a long period of peace. By 1948, however, the specter of an aggressive Soviet Union in the west, the impending communist takeover in China, and the increasingly vicious guerrilla war in Indochina cast dark shadows on this relatively peaceful scene. And although Australia had supported the Indonesian independence movement in 1949; from early 1950 on (under President Sukarno's leadership) Indonesia was, in Edwards' words, "never far from the minds of those responsible for shaping Australian policy." (Much the same situation exists today, although with a different cast of characters.)

These events and others caused Australia's political leaders and its foreign policy establishment to begin a searching review of the country's future in the international forum and the path its policies should take. They knew that Australia could not stand alone but found themselves split as to the proper course to follow—whether to continue to support Great Britain's policies or to loosen its ties with the Commonwealth leader and adopt a more independent foreign policy, one that would lead to closer ties with the United States.

Edwards believes the future course was set by the 1959 and 1960–61 crises in Laos, which he calls "a major turning point." He believes, too, that this change of course was only the first step along a road that led to Australia's commitment of troops to the struggle in Vietnam, an action he deplors. (Although he does not say it, I believe the Korean War, following so closely on the heels of World War II, and the close relations established with the United States during those war years, had considerable bearing on Australia's final decision.)

With the so-called "Pacific Rim" countries in the forefront of today's news, U.S. military professionals would do well to reacquire themselves with Southeast Asia. I recommend they consider adding this book to their reading lists, because Australia is not only a staunch ally of our country but a Pacific

power in its own right and one that will have much to say about events in that part of the world for years to come.

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**THE CIVIL WAR: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY.** By Geoffrey C. Ward. Alfred A. Knopf, 1990. 425 Pages. \$50.00. Reviewed by Major Don Rightmyer, United States Air Force Retired.

This book is a companion volume to the widely acclaimed Public Broadcasting System series, "The Civil War." The historical narrative—by Geoffrey Ward, a historian and a former editor of *American Heritage* magazine—is accompanied by more than 500 photographs of the era, many of them rare.

The book is arranged chronologically and divided into five major sections that coincide with the five different years of the war. Although the text covers the political and military aspect of the war's causes and progression, its main focus is on the human element of those who fought in the conflict or were affected by it. That makes this study very worthwhile. The poignant photographs also take the reader back into those days.

This book is slightly higher priced than normal, but it is a very interesting, worthwhile coverage of that conflict.

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**GENERAL SMEDLEY DARLINGTON BUTLER: THE LETTERS OF A LEATHERNECK, 1898–1931.** Edited by Anne Cipriano Venzon. Praeger, 1992. 357 Pages. Reviewed by Colonel Cole C. Kingseed, United States Army.

Major General Smedley Darlington Butler was the quintessential Marine of his generation. He had used political patronage to secure an officer's commission on the eve of the Spanish-American War (although only 16 years of age) and served his country until his retirement in 1931. Always proud of his "roughneck" image, he participated in a number of expeditions, not the least of which involved action in the Philippines, China, Cuba, Haiti, and Nicaragua. He also served in France during World War I.

Editor Anne Venzon, with complete access to Butler's personal papers, has written a compelling biography of one of the Marine Corps' most distinguished officers. The Butler who emerges from these pages is a "leatherneck" of remarkable contradictions, a devout Quaker but also one of the toughest Marines of his era.

Butler frequently questioned the morality of using American fighting men as agents of the "dollar diplomacy" of Presidents Theo-

dore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft and as implementers of the "moral imperialism" of President Woodrow Wilson. But he set aside these personal sentiments in the name of duty. Although he was the son of a congressman, he was not very politically astute, often making public statements that contradicted Administration policy.

Venzon has done a laudable job of recreating Butler's life from his personal correspondence, but a bit more narrative would have improved the text and the reader's understanding of the contemporary debate over the roles and missions of the Marine Corps. For example, she mentions that Butler was an early proponent of Marine aviation and amphibious warfare doctrine but quickly shifts to his failure to receive the post of Marine Corps commandant in 1930. She, like Butler himself, views the assignment of any other officer to that post as a political conflict between two philosophies—that of the "roughnecks" who were proud of their intuitive approach to warfare, and the officers, many of them Naval Academy graduates, who applied more intellectual methods to military science.

For today's officers, this biography illustrates that interservice and intraservice rivalries are nothing new. In Butler's day, the armed forces struggled to define their roles in the military establishment. In the absence of war, the Marine Corps, like the U.S. Army today, found itself involved in nation-building, humanitarian relief, and peacetime engagement missions. Although such roles were not glamorous, these missions were, and continue to be, an important component of our military heritage.

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**THE DRAFT, 1940–1973.** By George Q. Flynn. University Press of Kansas, 1993. 336 Pages. \$45.00. Reviewed by Major Harold E. Raugh, Jr., United States Army.

When reinstated in 1940, conscription—"the draft"—helped unify the people of the United States as they prepared for the nation's imminent entry into World War II. Less than three decades later, however, in the turbulent era of civil rights concerns, selective service was a major divisive element in American society as the country became stuck in the quagmire of Vietnam.

During the intervening decades, as chronicled in rich detail by George Q. Flynn—Professor of History at Texas Technological University and author of two related books—the concepts of individual liberty and conscription were frequently in precarious balance in American society. This "perpetual tension," according to Flynn, was

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"manageable." The theme of this book is that numerous compromises and adjustments were used in different societal and historical contexts from 1940 to 1973 to maintain this often delicate balance. The result is an enthralling chronicle and an insightful analysis of the draft through America's mid-20th century wars.

This superb study is the result of impeccable research, solid scholarship, and excellent use of language. The depth of the research is revealed in 66 pages of endnotes and an outstanding 12-page bibliographical essay. Close to two dozen photographs and political cartoons also enhance the narrative.

This thought-provoking book makes a significant contribution to military history and deserves a wide readership.

### RECENT AND RECOMMENDED

**JOB SEARCH: MARKETING YOUR MILITARY EXPERIENCE IN THE 1990s.** By David G. Henderson. Stackpole, 1991. 175 Pages. \$14.95, Softbound.

**LIEUTENANT RAMSEY'S WAR.** By Edwin P. Ramsey and Stephen J. Rivele. Knightsbridge Publishing Co. (10513 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90064), 1991. 352 Pages. \$19.95.

**QUEEN VICTORIA'S ENEMIES (4): ASIA, AUSTRALASIA AND THE AMERICAS.** Text by Ian Knight. Color Plates by Richard Scollins. Men-at-Arms Series No. 224. Osprey, 1990. 48 Pages.

**THE ROYAL AIR FORCE, 1939-1945.** Text by Andrew Cormack. Color Plates by Ron Volstad. Men-at-Arms Series No. 225. Osprey, 1990. 48 Pages.

**GENERAL OF THE ARMY: GEORGE C. MARSHALL, SOLDIER AND STATESMAN.** By Ed Cray. First published in hard cover in 1990. Touchstone Books. 1991. 847 Pages. \$14.95, Softbound.

**ENGAGE THE ENEMY MORE CLOSELY: THE ROYAL NAVY IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR.** By Corelli Barnett. Norton, 1991. 1,052 Pages. \$35.00.

**IN THE MIDST OF WARS: AN AMERICAN'S MISSION TO SOUTHEAST ASIA.** By

Edward G. Lansdale. First published in 1972. Fordham University Press, 1991. 386 Pages. \$19.95, Softbound.

**IRAQI POWER AND UNITED STATES SECURITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST.** By Stephen C. Pelletiere, and others. USGPO, S/N 008-020-01231-9. 95 Pages. \$3.25, Softbound.

**VIETNAM AT WAR.** By Phillip B. Davidson. First published in hard cover in 1988. Oxford University Press, 1991. 838 Pages. \$15.95, Softbound.

**DUNKIRK: THE COMPLETE STORY OF THE FIRST STEP IN THE DEFEAT OF HITLER.** By Normal Gelb. First published in hard cover in 1989. Morrow, 1991. 352 Pages. \$12.00, Softbound.

**THESE GOOD MEN.** By Michael Norman. First published in hard cover in 1989. Pocket Books, 1991. 300 Pages. \$4.95, Softbound.

**CAVALIER IN BUCKSKIN: GEORGE ARMSTRONG CUSTER AND THE WESTERN MILITARY FRONTIER.** By Robert M. Utley. Originally Published in 1988. University of Oklahoma Press, 1991. 247 Pages. \$10.95, Softbound.

**HERO: THE LIFE AND DEATH OF AUDIE MURPHY.** By Charles Whiting. Jove Books, 1993. Reprint of the 1990 edition. 288 Pages. \$4.95, Softbound.

**FRANKLY SPEAKING ABOUT WW-II IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC.** By Stanley A. Frankel. Woods Books (185 E. Hartsdale Avenue, Hartsdale, NY 10530), 1993. \$13.00.

**THE MILITARY EXPERIENCE IN THE AGE OF REASON.** By Christopher Duffy. Atheneum Publishers, 1988. 346 Pages. \$24.95.

**REFORGING THE IRON CROSS: THE SEARCH FOR TRADITION IN THE WEST GERMAN ARMED FORCES.** By Donald Abenheim. Princeton University Press, 1989. 266 Pages. \$29.95.

**NORDIC SECURITY AT THE TURN OF THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY.** Edited by Ciro Elliott Zoppo. Contributions in Military Studies, Number 117, ISSN 0883-6884. Greenwood Press, 1992. 272 Pages. \$55.00.

**EUROPE IN TRANSITION: THE MANAGEMENT OF SECURITY AFTER THE COLD WAR.** Edited by Robert J. Jackson. Praeger, 1992. 224 Pages. \$47.95.

**FORCE AND DIPLOMACY IN THE FUTURE.** By Stephen J. Cimbala. Praeger, 1992. 256 Pages. \$47.95.

**WAR IN EUROPE, VOL. 4: BATTLES IN THE BALKANS.** By Edwin P. Hoyt. Avon Books, 1992. 160 Pages. \$4.99, Softbound.

**WAR IN EUROPE, VOL. 5: NORTH AFRICAN STRUGGLE.** By Edwin P. Hoyt. Avon Books, 1993. 147 Pages. \$4.99, Softbound.

**SOLDIERS ON SKIS: A PICTORIAL MEMOIR OF THE 10th MOUNTAIN DIVISION.** By Flint Whitlock and Bob Bishop. Paladin Press (P.O. Box 1307, Boulder, CO 80306), 1992. 224 Pages, 270 Photos. \$50.00.

**WHAT SHOULD WE TELL OUR CHILDREN ABOUT VIETNAM?** By Bill McCloud. Berkley Books, 1992. 155 Pages. \$4.50, Softbound.

**MISTER: THE TRAINING OF AN AVIATION CADET IN WORLD WAR II.** By Eugene Fletcher. University of Washington Press, 1992. 224 Pages. \$19.95.

**THE ANATOMY OF ERROR.** By Barry S. Strauss and Josiah Ober. Reprint of 1990 hard cover edition. St. Martin's Press, 1992. \$11.95, Softbound.

**GERONIMO!** By William B. Breuer. St. Martin's Press, 1992. Reprint of 1989 hard cover edition. \$15.95, Softbound.

**GUERRILLA IN STRIPED PANTS: A U.S. DIPLOMAT JOINS THE ITALIAN RESISTANCE.** By Walter W. Orebaugh with Carol Jose. Praeger, 1992. 264 Pages. \$45.00.

**A CERTAIN IDEA OF FRANCE: FRENCH SECURITY POLICY AND THE GAULLIST LEGACY.** By Phillip H. Gordon. Princeton University Press, 1992. 255 Pages. \$35.00.

**NCO GUIDE.** 4th Edition. Revised by Frank Cox. Stackpole, 1992. 320 Pages. \$17.95, Softbound.

**WINNERS & LOSERS: BATTLES, RETREATS, GAINS, LOSSES, AND RUINS FROM THE VIETNAM WAR.** By Gloria Emerson. Norton and Company, 1992. 423 Pages. \$12.95, Softbound.

**FORGOTTEN WARRIORS: COMBAT ART FROM VIETNAM.** By Dennis L. Noble. Praeger, 1992. 240 Pages. \$29.95.

**DUTY, HONOR, COMPANY: WEST POINT FUNDAMENTALS FOR BUSINESS SUCCESS.** By Gill Dorland and John Dorland. Henry Holt, 1992. 238 Pages. \$19.95.

**FROM FARMCARTS TO FORDS: A HISTORY OF THE MILITARY AMBULANCE, 1790-1925.** By John S. Haller, Jr. Southern Illinois University Press, 1992. 285 Pages. \$32.50.

