

BOOK REVIEWS



***No Better Place to Die: The Battle of Stones River.* By Peter Cozzens. University of Illinois Press, 1990. 281 Pages. \$24.95. Reviewed by Major Don Rightmyer, U.S. Air Force, Retired.**

During the days between Christmas and the new year, Civil War armies were usually found safely quartered in their winter camps, waiting for the spring to arrive before resuming active campaigning. In 1862, however, this was not the case for the Union army of General William Rosecrans and the Confederate army of General Braxton Bragg. Instead of huddling around campfires in an attempt to keep warm, these armies were to experience three hard days of combat in some of the harshest weather winter could provide.

The two armies had met briefly two months earlier in the rolling countryside of central Kentucky at the inconclusive battle of Perryville. Following that sharp fight, Bragg had retreated south out of Kentucky, giving up the hope that numerous Kentuckians would rally to the Confederacy's call to arms. While Bragg retained his army command, the Union commander who had opposed him was replaced by Rosecrans. Late December found Rosecrans finally ready to move against Bragg near the small Tennessee town of Murfreesboro and Stones River, the two key landmarks that gave the subsequent battle its name in North and South, respectively.

The battle of Stones River in late December and early January nearly ended in a catastrophic Northern defeat as Bragg's troops literally bent the Union army battle line back into the shape of a U. Strong Union resistance near the Round Forest, however, prevented what appeared to be inevitable. In the three days of hard fighting, more than 20,000 casualties fell on both sides.

Peter Cozzens, a foreign service officer with the State Department, has written what is certainly one of the best narrative histories of this battle. He has done an excellent job of researching the official records as well as personal accounts and unit histories. Among the book's outstanding features are the many excellent maps that trace unit locations

and movements from the larger scale down to smaller portions of the wintertime battlefield, something that seems to be missing from so many contemporary military histories.

This book is definitely worthwhile reading.

***Trial by Fire: The 1972 Easter Offensive, America's Last Vietnam Battle.* By Dale Andrade. Hippocrene Books, 1995. 600 Pages. \$24.95. Reviewed by Dr. Joe P. Dunn, Converse College.**

Although it was the biggest military action of the Vietnam War, the Spring Offensive of 1972, known as the Easter Offensive, has not been thoroughly treated by historians. Most accounts of the war give it brief coverage, often focusing on one aspect or another.

With the exception of a small cadre of advisors still working diligently with the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN), the United States by this time had essentially forsaken the Vietnam crusade and, long before the final negotiations, was trying to forget the experience. To most Americans, this offensive was an inconvenient last hurrah before complete extrication. The focus of scholarship echoes this attitude as it concentrates on the height of the war, not the denouement.

Thus, this excellent piece of military history—the first detailed comprehensive study of the entire offensive—is a significant contribution, and it is fascinating reading. Dale Andrade's previous book, *Ashes to Ashes: The Phoenix Program and the Vietnam War (1990)*, exhibited his thorough and judicious research and fine writing, and so does this one.

Andrade argues that the pacification effort had been successful by the beginning of 1972. Viet Cong strength and activity were significantly reduced, and most of the country was relatively secure. Less than four percent of South Vietnam's population lived under communist control, and the southernmost region, IV Corps, was almost totally pacified. Although the North Vietnamese suffered tremendous losses and did not achieve their objective in the offensive,

neither were they totally unsuccessful. By July 1972 almost ten percent of the population in the south was under communist control, and confidence in the South Vietnamese government was shaken. In the wake of the invasion, President Thieu retreated from the democratic process and took authoritarian measures.

Finally, the offensive pointed up the problems with Vietnamization. The South Vietnamese military forces were among the best-equipped in the world, but in many ways little progress had been made during the long years of U.S. involvement. Despite some heroic South Vietnamese efforts and the dedication and courage of the American advisors, the ARVN still had severe problems in leadership and morale. The salient fact was that the Easter Offensive was repelled not by the South Vietnamese military, but by American air power and ground-based firepower and by the strategic and tactical errors of the North Vietnamese.

This book is an outstanding contribution. Even-handed, detailed, and forthright, it captures the blend of the heroic, inept, banal, and brilliant that characterized the effort in the Easter Offensive as well as the entire war.

***The Class of 1846.* By John C. Waugh. Time Warner Books, 1994. \$29.95. Reviewed by Colonel Wayne Crawford, U.S. Army, Retired, Columbus, Georgia.**

This is not a book about the United States Military Academy or about war, but rather a fine collection of shared experiences among 34 West Point classmates. John C. Waugh has taken the time to walk the reader instructively along with these young leaders and their families from the Mexican War through the Civil War and into the twilight of their lives. The shared experiences, the common bonds of friendship, family, and dedication to life—with all its successes and challenges—are carefully woven into this well-written "class biography."

This book offers military leaders many occasions to appreciate the values gained from lasting friendships and the personal strengths developed from combat. Another

insight to be gained from this stimulating work is that of the challenges facing the Army wife. I recommend that all professional military leaders take the time to share the chapter "Our Men at Sumter" with their wives. In that chapter, Waugh recounts, in detail, the invaluable service and dedication of Army wives to their men at the fall of Fort Sumter in 1861. The old Army adage "Two for the price of one" has never been made more pointedly than at Sumter. These short visits into the personal side of such leaders as Jackson, McClellan, Hill, and their classmates make the book informative and easy to read.

The Class of 1846 should not be read as a definitive work on the Mexican War or the Civil War. Readers who have some understanding of the various campaigns in these conflicts will get the most from it. Those who have a fair knowledge of U.S. military history during this period will have a better vision of the author's purpose and intent. But any reader, whatever his military background, will find value in this book. The author gives enough detail to understand the conditions facing these military leaders at various milestones in their lives without becoming pedantic.

I highly recommend this book.

***MacArthur's ULTRA: Codebreaking and the War Against Japan, 1942-1945.* By Edward J. Drea. University Press of Kansas, 1992. 296 Pages. \$29.95. Reviewed by Lieutenant Colonel Albert N. Garland, U.S. Army, Retired.**

To my knowledge, there isn't another military historian in the United States with better credentials to tackle the main subject of this book, which is "the relationship between special intelligence and the campaigns of General Douglas MacArthur" in the latter's Southwest Pacific Area Command (SWPA) during World War II.

Author Edward Drea earned a master's degree in history from Sophia University in Tokyo and his doctorate in history from the University of Kansas. He lived and studied in Japan for six years, during which time he became quite familiar with the World War II Japanese military archives located in the National Institute for Defense Studies in Tokyo. His service in the U.S. Air Force included tours of duty in Japan and Vietnam. He is a Japanese linguist, and his work in Japan enabled him to develop the Japanese view of and reaction to MacArthur's campaigns. He has been with the Army's Center of Military History

for a number of years and is chief of the Center's Research and Analysis Division.

In a way, this book can be considered an expansion of Part I of Drea's February 1984 Combat Studies Institute Paper Number 9, *Defending the Driniumor*. Early in the book, he discusses the Japanese Army's code systems and explains how MacArthur's intelligence establishment, represented by the Central Bureau, was eventually able to break those codes and deliver to MacArthur's staff huge amounts of material on the foe. He touches only lightly on our MAGIC (or PURPLE) effort, and the U.S. Navy's success against the Japanese naval codes, and then only when the information gathered from those sources played a part in SWPA's operations. Actually, for much of 1942 and 1943, SWPA depended heavily on information gathered by MAGIC and the naval establishment. It was not until March 1944 that the Central Bureau was able to break the main Japanese Army codes and earn its keep. The bureau worked closely with the Military Intelligence Service at Arlington Hall Station, Virginia, although there were times during the war when relations between the two agencies were strained.

Drea traces the bureau's increasing successes and growing importance to SWPA and particularly to Major General Charles A. Willoughby, MacArthur's G-2, who, Drea feels, did not always use the special intelligence, or ULTRA, properly. It is interesting to note that the Japanese never suspected that their various codes had been broken.

But the center of this study is MacArthur and his use of ULTRA. In brief, Drea believes MacArthur used ULTRA information only when it supported his operational preferences and relied just as often on intuition and luck.

Of particular importance in light of the recent dispute caused by the Smithsonian Institution's *Enola Gay* presentation and the dropping of the first atomic bomb on Japan is Drea's next-to-last chapter. In that chapter, he discusses the good work the various ULTRA organizations did in identifying the huge number of Japanese military personnel on the island of Kyushu, the first U.S. objective. This information undoubtedly played a major role in causing U.S. leaders to drop the bomb on Hiroshima.

Was ULTRA in SWPA important or not? Drea says that ULTRA's "impact on the air and sea dimensions of the war profoundly affected the conduct of operations," and that "Allied ability to read Japanese army radio messages definitely shortened the ground

war in the Pacific."

But Drea also says: *MacArthur's generalship, and to an even greater degree his personal leadership, suffered because of ULTRA's disclosures. He pressured his subordinates unmercifully to pull off victories when ULTRA made plain that the Japanese were present in greater numbers than MacArthur was willing to accept. . . . MacArthur's carefully constructed persona as a daring gambler was diminished because ULTRA showed that as often as not he was betting on a sure thing. . . . In most showdowns with the Japanese, he held the winning cards. MacArthur was perhaps not as daring as he may have wished others to believe, but he was willing to take risks. . . . to achieve the overriding strategic goal.*

Still, Drea concludes that "although certain of his personality traits may have been distasteful, Douglas MacArthur was an aggressive, brilliant leader and surely one of the top two or three military commanders of World War II."

I cannot recommend this book too highly to all infantrymen, past and present. It contains any number of lessons that are as valid today as they were in the 1940s. Drea deserves our deepest thanks for reminding us of them.

***The Making of Strategy: Rulers, States, and War.* Edited by Williamson Murray and others. Cambridge University Press, 1994. 645 Pages. \$34.95. Reviewed by Dr. Charles E. White, Infantry School Historian.**

The "process" of strategy is the central theme of this interesting study. By "process," the editors mean precisely how rulers and states have made strategy and gone to war. *The Making of Strategy* is thus an attempt to discover why politics can never be far from the battlefield. Hence, this book is for serious study, not casual reading.

This book originated as a series of lectures in the United States Naval War College's course on strategy and policy. It consists of 17 case studies ranging from the Peloponnesian Wars (431-404 B.C.) to the Cold War, plus introductory and concluding essays. In all, 19 different authors probe the strategic process using as their common interpretative framework five factors: governmental systems, geography, history, culture, and economics. The introduction emphasizes the constants of strategy in a rapidly shifting world, while the conclusion tries to understand the forces that have transformed strategy since 400 B.C. and that seem likely to continue transforming it in the future.

These studies address the greatest armies the world has known, their commanders, the politicians who crafted policy, and the soldiers who fought the wars. Although the essays are somewhat uneven in style and quality, this may be due to the "process" of analyzing different societies and cultures in similar terms. But this is always a problem with such a work.

Nevertheless, each of the essays is worth reading. Of particular note are the studies by Donald Kagan ("Athenian Strategy in the Peloponnesian War"); Peter Maslowski ("To the Edge of Greatness: The United States, 1783-1865"); John Gooch ("The Weary Titan: Strategy and Policy in Great Britain, 1890-1918"); and Robert Doughty ("The Illusion of Security: France, 1919-1940"). These essays are in a class by themselves.

The editors have put together a fine book devoted to a critical subject of our times. This anthology provides a solid framework on the way strategy is made (or ought to be made), whether one begins from the front or back or skips from one essay to another. For anyone interested in studying the history of how societies go to war, *The Making of Strategy* is a good place to begin.

Crete: The Battle and the Resistance. By Anthony Beevor. Westview Press, 1994. 383 Pages. \$17.95, Softbound. Reviewed by Lieutenant Colonel Harold E. Raugh, Jr., U.S. Army.

The May 1941 Battle of Crete witnessed the first large-scale use of paratroopers and glider-borne troops in military history. It was also one of the first battles in which the enemy's plans and intentions, as a result of ULTRA intercepts, were known before the firing began. Yet the outcome of the battle was far different from the one expected.

The leadership and conduct of the battle remain controversial today, with at least four books on the subjects having been written during the past five years. Author Anthony Beevor, a former British Army regular officer, contends that New Zealand Major General Bernard Freyberg, commander of "Crete Force," misinterpreted critical ULTRA messages. As a result, instead of positioning his forces to deny the Germans control of the airfields, especially at Maleme, Freyberg was fixated on defending against seaborne reinforcements, which never arrived.

While the book focuses on the Battle of Crete, it also covers in admirable detail the battle for Greece that led up to it, and especially the subsequent Cretan resistance.

Beevor conducted numerous interviews with participants on all sides in the battle, and his documentary research also reveals the experiences of the soldiers at the tactical level of war. His vivid descriptions of German paratroopers and New Zealand infantrymen engaged in hand-to-hand combat in Crete's olive groves and stone villages are enough to make this narrative worth reading. Indeed, the fighting was so ferocious that the Germans lost more men on Crete than the total they had lost since the war began.

Seven well-drawn maps and 20 photographs enhance this book, and source notes and bibliography are generally adequate. Of special interest are the appendixes, which include an explanation of the secret organizations that led the Cretan resistance, the British and German orders of battle, and the texts of relevant ULTRA signals.

The 1941 Battle of Crete is an interesting case study of military leadership. What should have been a foreordained British victory was allowed to slip away, due primarily to a misreading of vital ULTRA messages and the complacency, inflexibility, and lack of imagination of senior force commanders. It is a tale worth reading by all who aspire to command, because it reveals in detail the human dimensions of leadership and soldiering.

Struggle for the Shenandoah: Essays on the 1864 Valley Campaign. Edited by Gary W. Gallagher. Kent State University Press, 1991. 135 Pages. Reviewed by Major Don Rightmyer, U.S. Air Force, Retired.

In the late summer of 1864, Generals Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee were deadlocked around the city of Petersburg, Virginia. Sherman was making his way toward Atlanta and on through Georgia. But in the famous Shenandoah Valley, the Confederacy was still obtaining a great deal of its food supplies, and still contending with some worrisome military forces. In fact, the Confederate forces under General Jubal A. Early had earlier gone to the very gates of Washington, D.C.

This small collection of essays is an excellent examination of this somewhat neglected period of the Civil War—the Union and Confederate campaigns in the Shenandoah Valley during late 1864. The two armies facing each other there were under the command of Generals Philip Sheridan and Jubal Early, respectively. Overall, this is a concise and well-written look at the last Valley campaign.

Editor Gary Gallagher, head of the history department at Pennsylvania State University and author of several excellent Civil War histories, provides a good survey of the situation that prompted the efforts in the Valley and of the battles that took place there. His introduction is followed by two chapters that examine the Confederate leadership in the Shenandoah under Early and the Union generalship during the campaign. (The Confederate analysis is written by Jeffrey D. Wert, a Civil War historian, and the Union analysis by A. Wilson Greene, director of a Civil War battlefield preservation organization.)

The last two chapters cover two different aspects of the role Southern cavalry played during the Valley struggle. Robert Krick, author of eight previous volumes on Confederate history, looks at the undisciplined Confederate cavalry, which Jubal Early called "the cause of all my disasters"; and Dennis Frye, historian at Harpers Ferry National Historic Site, writes about John S. Mosby and his part in the 1864 Valley efforts.

Gallagher concludes the book with an excellent bibliographic note on other books an interested reader might want to consult.

Struggle for the Shenandoah will provide an excellent evening of military history reading and an opportunity to consider the insights the essayists offer.

Winston S. Churchill: War Correspondent, 1895-1900. Edited by Frederick Woods. Brassey's (UK), 1992. 355 Pages. Reviewed by Lieutenant Colonel Harold E. Raugh, Jr., U.S. Army.

Winston Churchill is best remembered as the cigar-chomping, pugnacious, "V" for "Victory" gesturing Prime Minister who led the British during "their finest hour" in the titanic struggle of World War II. But he began laying the foundation of his political career half a century earlier, as a soldier and even more so as a journalist, and these formative experiences are the subject of this most interesting book.

Churchill was commissioned into the 4th Hussars in 1895, in the waning days of Queen Victoria's long reign and the "Pax Britannica." Motivated by an intense desire to experience war—and gain recognition—he traveled to Cuba that same year, where an insurrection against the Spanish was in progress. To help finance the trip, he arranged to send letters back to England for publication in a newspaper. From that time and for the following five years, he also served either as an officer or a cor-

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respondent, or both, on the North West Frontier of India (1897), the Sudan (1898), and South Africa (1899-1900).

In this splendid volume, Churchill's dispatches from these four campaigns have been edited and published together for the first time. These witty, lucid, often passionate, and sometimes critical articles were frequently written from the battlefield and therefore convey a sense of immediacy and realism. They not only made money for him but—more important—helped establish a name and reputation for him that greatly assisted his election to Parliament at the turn of the century and began his political career.

The illuminating foreword is written by Churchill's grandson and namesake (also a Member of Parliament and a sometime war correspondent). Editor Frederick Woods has done a remarkable job of researching and chronicling the background to Churchill's dispatches and the true motivation behind them. Eleven maps illustrate the scenes of his exploits.

Anyone reading this excellent book will gain a much greater appreciation of Queen Victoria's "little wars," the masterful use of the English language, and especially the development of the personality of the young Winston Churchill. Once this book is opened, it is difficult to put down, and one cannot expect more than that.

RECENT AND RECOMMENDED

With Grant and Meade from the Wilderness to Appomattox. Letters of Theodore Lyman. University of Nebraska Press, 1994. 371 Pages. \$13.95.

Effective Phrases for Performance Appraisals: A Guide to Successful Evaluations. Neal Publications, Inc. (P.O. Box 451, Perrysburg, OH 43552-0451), 1994. 176 Pages. \$8.95.

The Guns of August. By Barbara W. Tuchman. (Originally published in 1962.) Ballantine, 1994. 528 Pages. \$14.00, Softbound.

Spies and Spymasters of the Civil War. By Donald E. Markle. Hippocrene, 1994. 244 Pages. \$24.95.

How to Make War: A Comprehensive Guide to Modern Warfare for the Post-Cold War Era. By James F. Dunnigan. William Morrow, 1993. 622 Pages. \$15.00, Softbound.

Critical Mass: The Dangerous Race for Superweapons in a Fragmenting World. By William E. Burrows and Robert Windrem. Simon & Schuster, 1994. 573 Pages. \$25.00.

American Swords and Sword Makers. By Richard Bezdek. Paladin Press, 1994. 664 Pages. \$79.95.

Fatal Avenue: A Traveller's History of Northern France and Flanders, 1346-1945. By Richard Holmes. Pimlico, 1994 (distributed by Trafalgar Square, North Pomfret, VT 05053). 376 Pages. \$19.95, Softbound.

U.S. Army Field Manual 100-5: Fighting Future Wars. By Department of the Army. Brassey's (US), 1994. 172 Pages. \$20.00, Softbound.

Dictionary of Military Abbreviations. By Norman Polmar, Mark Warren, and Eric Wertheim. Naval Institute Press, 1994. 307 Pages. \$23.95.

Sarajevo: A Portrait of a Siege. Produced by Matthew Naythons and Epicenter Communications. Warner Books, 1994. 128 Pages, 87 Black and White Photographs. \$29.95.

Building the Death Railway: The Ordeal of American POWs in Burma, 1942-1945. Edited by Robert S. La Forte and Ronald E. Marcello. Scholarly Resources Inc. (104 Greenhill Avenue, Wilmington, DE 19805-1897), 1992. 300 Pages. \$24.95, Hardcover.

Future Wars: The World's Most Dangerous Flashpoints. By Trevor N. Dupuy. Warner Books, 1993. \$334. \$21.95.

DeGaulle: The Ruler 1945-1970. By Jean Lacouture. Norton, 1992. 700 Pages. \$29.95.

Nuclear Proliferation and the Future of Conflict. By Martin Van Creveld. The Free Press, 1993. 200 Pages. \$22.95.

Terrorist Explosive Sourcebook: Countering Terrorist Use of Improved Explosive Devices. By Stephen Turner. Paladin Press, 1994. 130 Pages.

Hayes of the 23rd. By T. Harry Williams. (Originally printed in 1965.) University of Nebraska Press, 1994. 330 Pages. \$13.95.

The Great British Soldier: A Living History. By Philip Warner. David and Charles, 1993 (distributed by Trafalgar Square, North Pomfret, VT 05053). 191 Pages. \$34.95.

LRRP Team Leader. By John Burgord. Ballantine, 1994. 214 Pages. \$4.99, Softbound.

Tennozan: The Battle of Okinawa and the Atomic Bomb. By George Feifer. (Published in hardcover in 1992.) Ticknor & Fields, 1994. 619 Pages. \$14.95, Softbound.

The Last Full Measure: The Life and Death of the First Minnesota Volunteers. By Richard Moe. Avon Books, 1994. 216 Pages. \$15.00, Softbound.

Our War Was Different: Marine Combined Action Platoons in Vietnam. By Al Hemingway. Naval Institute Press, 1994. 200 Pages. \$25.00.

Achilles in Vietnam: Combat Trauma and the Undoing of Character. By Jonathan Shay. Atheneum, 1994. 246 Pages. \$20.00.

Code Name: Copperhead: My True-Life Exploits as a Special Forces Soldier. By Sergeant Major Joe R. Garner, with Avrum M. Fine. Simon & Schuster, 1994. 431 Pages. \$23.00.

The Devil's Anvil: The Assault on Peleliu. By James H. Hallas. Praeger, 1994. 310 Pages. \$27.50.

Clash of Wings: World War II in the Air. By Walter Boyne. Simon & Schuster, 1994. 415 Pages. \$25.00.

The Proud: Inside the Marine Corps. By Bernard Halsband Cohen. (Published in Hardcover in 1992.) William Morrow, 1994. \$13.00, Softbound.

Vietnam at the Movies. By Michael Lee Lanning. Ballantine, 1994. 356 Pages. \$12.50, Softbound.

U.S. Navy SEAL Patrol Leader's Handbook. Paladin Press, 1994. 137 Pages.

Special Operations Forces: An Assessment. By John M. Collins. National Defense University Press, 1994. 189 Pages.

With Only the Will to Live: Accounts of Americans in Japanese Prison Camps, 1941-1945. Edited by Robert S. LaForte, Ronald E. Marcello, and Richard L. Himmel. Scholarly Resources, Inc. (104 Greenhill Avenue, Wilmington, DE 19805-1897), 1994. 286 Pages. \$24.95.

The Gulf Way and the New World Order: International Relations of the Middle East. Edited by Tareq Y. Ismael and Jacqueline S. Ismael. University of Florida Press, 1994. 581 Pages. \$24.95, Softbound.

War in Aquarius: Memoir of an American Infantryman in Action Along the Cambodian Border During the Vietnam War. By Dennis Kitchen. McFarland (Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640), 1994. 240 Pages. \$19.95, Softbound.

Lightning in the Storm: The 101st Air Assault Division in the Gulf War. By Thomas Taylor. Hippocrene, 1994. 468 Pages. \$29.50.

The Fifth Star: High Command in an Era of Global War. By George M. Hall. Praeger, 1994. 248 Pages. \$39.95.

War Slang: America's Fighting Words and Phrases from the Civil War to the Gulf War. By Paul Dickson. Pocket Books, 1994. 403 Pages. \$25.00, Hardcover.

Greenland's Icy Fury. By Wallace Hansen. Texas A&M University Press, 1994. 276 Pages. \$34.50.

Rank and Privilege: The Military and Society in Latin America. Edited by Linda A. Rodriguez. Scholarly Resources, 1994. 248 Pages. \$40.00 Hardcover; \$14.95, Softbound.

Stalingrad. By V.E. Tarrant. Hippocrene, 1993. 258 Pages. \$24.95.

Battle for Korea. By Robert Dvorchak. Combined Books, 151 East 10th Ave., Conshohocken, PA 19428), 1993. 317 Pages, 304 Photographs. \$34.95.

Paratrooper: The Life of Gen. James M. Gavin. By T. Michael Booth and Duncan Spencer. Simon & Schuster, 1994. \$27.50.

Cassino: The Hollow Victory: The Battle for Rome, January-June 1944. By John Ellis. (Published by McGraw-Hill in 1984.) Andre Deutsch, 1994 (distributed by Trafalgar Square, North Pomfret, VT 05053). 478 Pages. \$50.00.

Uneasy Coalition: The Entente Experience in World War I. By Jehuda L. Wallach. Greenwood Press, 1993. 208 Pages. \$55.00.

