

# Book Reviews



***General Walter Krueger: Unsung Hero of the Pacific War.* By Kevin C. Holzimmer. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 2007, 329 pages, \$39.95. Reviewed by BG (Retired) Curtis H. O'Sullivan.**

In World War I, there were three field armies in the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) with a total of four commanding generals. Few remember any except Pershing and only because he was concurrently theater commander. In World War II, we had 12 field armies scattered around the world with a total of 25 commanding generals, some obviously better known than others.

GEN Walter Krueger may be unsung in the sense of not having much written about him, but he was hardly unknown. He was overshadowed by MacArthur, but his Sixth Army headquarters was the only one in action in the Pacific for a considerable time. Those in action in Europe, such as the Seventh under Patton and Fifth under Clark, may have received more publicity at that time, but military scholars pay attention to the special character of Krueger's campaigns. He conducted 21 operations, 13 of which were in his first eight months. Eight operations were conducted simultaneously with other operations, and most involved overlapping future planning with oversight of ongoing battles.

Krueger was an extraordinary Soldier, a key figure in the war against Japan, and certainly warrants being sung about now. The author is on the faculty of the Air Command and Staff College, and this work is the result of his dissertation. Because of academic folderol, such works often do not translate into easy reading, but this is an exception. There are only a few places where readers might appreciate clarification or amplification. In light of the fact that there were only three divisions, and a corps headquarters was already on hand, the role of a field army needs to be understood. While the corps is strictly a tactical organization, the field army is a very large administrative and logistical entity. The table of organization and equipment for the

headquarters called for a strength of 779. More than half of the troops in the army provided support services such as mail, graves registrations, laundry, shoe repair, and 13 different sized hospitals with anywhere from 25 to 2,000 beds. There was a need for an infrastructure such as this to backup the units on the scattered frontlines and keep them fighting.

Because of the Europe First War Policy, the number of those units was small, and it appeared the overall organization was top-heavy. Normally an army would have at least two corps under its command, but the small scale nature of the campaigns didn't require a second such headquarters for some time. It wasn't until Leyte that Sixth Army had two corps ashore at the same time and place. For various reasons, each had only two divisions initially. On Leyte, and then Luzon, the organization and deployment of the army more approximated what had been going on in the Atlantic theaters, except there was never the need for an Army group over two or more armies.

The subterfuge of calling Sixth Army "Alamo Force" is touched on lightly. There is no detail about the organization and functioning of the Sixth Army and how it operated in forward and rear CPs. An impressive list of Chiefs of Staff is named — Eisenhower, Gruenther, Honnen, Patrick and Decker, who certainly contributed to the excellence of the Sixth Army.

One of the most interesting parts of the book is the background on Krueger's corps, division and task force commanders and his relations with them.

Another strong feature is tracing his development to the command level that he reached. Above all, he remained a Soldier's Soldier, not a media creation such as Bradley, but one who knew from his time in the ranks the importance of mail, dry socks, beer, toilet paper, and condoms (for rifle barrels). I recommend this book for not only those interested in the Sixth Army in the Pacific but for anyone who wants to know more about the intangibles of leadership.

***Patrolling Baghdad, A Military Police Company and the War in Iraq.* By Mark R. DePue. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 291 pages, Hardback \$34.95. Reviewed by LTC Keith Everett, USAR.**

The 233rd Military Police Company is like many other companies, but the hazards and situations faced by this unit's Soldiers in the volatile streets of Baghdad, Iraq, between April 2003 and April 2004 make an interesting story. Every MP should read this story as a primer for deploying and to get an idea of the vast scope of their required duties. Mark DePue, a retired lieutenant colonel, weaves the fresh memories of the 233rd Soldiers from more than 80 interviews into a mosaic of military police daily activity in one of the most active areas of the combat zone.

Currently the director of oral history at the Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois, DePue is fully aware of the weaknesses of oral histories. He partially overcomes the subjective nature of the interviews by matching the memories of the Soldiers with official documents, newspaper articles, and magazine articles written at the time. The resulting story gives a good introduction to military policing in Iraq, especially for the many units required to perform MP functions without the background of civilian police experience or years of progressive MP training many of the Soldiers in the 233rd MP Company had in the years before deploying.

CPT Jeff Royer was both a K-9 officer with the Springfield Police Department and the 233rd's company commander. CPT Royer and his top NCOs viewed the pre-deployment training received at Fort McCoy as mostly inadequate with no ties to the realities of the Iraqi battlefield. One of Royer's platoons used the culturally inappropriate nickname of Crusaders, and this was one of the few mistakes not corrected by the chain of command before it caused misunderstandings with the local populace.

One of the biggest obstacles to mission accomplishment identified was the lack of a

clear outline of the overall mission and a lack of Arabic language capability. No interpreters were provided initially for the unit, making it doubly difficult to deal with the public. CPT Royer kept the basic Soldier skills emphasized, requiring every MP to keep their Kevlar helmet and body armor on at all times while on patrol. The highest priority was not comfort, but staying alive. The 233rd MP Company was able to swap 22 of its unarmored HMMWVs for armored HMMWVs partially through its tour of duty. Armored vehicles were welcome in the increasingly violent environment. Patrols took the armored vehicles daily, and the company mechanics scrambled to keep them operational. SGT Rich Carroll is a believer in the virtues of armored HMMWVs, as the bulletproof glass barely stopped a jagged piece of shrapnel from ending his life. The MPs also swapped out their MK-19s for the M-249 squad automatic weapon because of the range required to arm the MK-19 and the versatility of the M-249.

DePue contends the decision by Ambassador Paul Bremer to disband the Iraqi Army was a mistake as it left no organic Iraqi institution in place to restore and keep order after the major combat operations were complete. He points to prewar studies supporting retaining a smaller, carefully screened Iraqi Army rather than the decision to disband all of the soldiers into an economy in shambles. The MPs took up the security vacuum created by this decision. The 233rd MP Company's daily routine consisted of patrols, setting up traffic control points at road intersections to stop all traffic to search for weapons,

excessive cash or anything else out of the ordinary. The dreaded improvised explosive devices (IEDs) were encountered frequently after the early morning prayers, rarely in the neighborhoods, and often on highway entrance ramps and other high traffic areas. 1LT Stephen Rice was seriously wounded by such an IED as he was leading a patrol to assist another injured Soldier. The 233rd MP Company was fortunate not to experience many more such incidents in light of the amount of time spent mixing with the local populace.

The company leadership kept in touch with the local media with updated reports and ended up with an embedded local reporter as a result. The articles on the unit appeared as a series in the hometown papers garnering large support for the unit's efforts and portraying a much more positive picture than just IED stories with a body count. These efforts were highly popular with the families back home.

The stories of patrolling and leadership are a good primer for MP companies preparing to deploy and should be required reading for field artillery or any other units required to pick up military policing during their tours of duty.

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***Military Justice in Vietnam: The Rule of Law in an American War.* By William Thomas Allison. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 2007, 230 pages, \$34.95.** Reviewed by LTC (Retired) Albert N. Garland.

The author, William Thomas Allison, is

an associate professor of History at Weber State University. With a number of other books to his credit, in this book his aim is to demonstrate to his readers that "military justice in Vietnam was much more than My Lai and war crimes," and while "the U.S. military suffered a nearly complete breakdown in Vietnam for a variety of reasons" it was "military justice ... (that) helped keep the machine running through these difficult periods."

Accordingly, the author organizes his book in a topical fashion, which is laid out quite clearly in his chapter titles. One of the most interesting subjects is command responsibility doctrine and how it was carried out in Vietnam. He ends his comments on this subject by writing "command responsibility continues to be a very sticky problem." (How right he is!)

This book is well-done in all areas. It is well-researched, well-written and well-arranged, as the author makes a strong presentation of the "operational law" concept that involved military lawyers in the planning for and execution of military operations.

He also presents problems for today and for the future. "Civilization" is a growing problem for the U.S. democratic nation-building concept that is often presented by our forces.

Finally, the author calls for our legal system to be in the forefront of all our future military operations because he believes "the use of force and subsequent nation-building cannot succeed without these components prominently and effectively implemented ... by military lawyers and the system they serve and represent."

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SGT Richard Rzepka

*A Soldier with the 101st Airborne Division pulls security near a UH-60 Black Hawk during an air assault mission near Baiji, Iraq, October 14.*