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BOOK REVIEW

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Ron Barrie and Ken Macpherson, **Cadillac of Destroyers: HMCS St. Laurent and Her Successors** (St. Catharines, ON: Vanwell Publishing Limited, 1996) \$29.95, 104 pages, ISBN 1-55125-036-5.

Fraser M. McKee and Robert A. Darlington, **The Canadian Naval Chronicle, 1939-1945: The Successes and Losses of the Canadian Navy in World War II** (St. Catharines, ON: Vanwell Publishing Limited, 1996) \$39.95, 272 pages, ISBN 1-55125-032-2.

Vanwell Publishing has an excellent record of publishing books dealing with Canadian military history, and Canadian naval history in particular. Two of their most recent endeavors continue this fine tradition. *Cadillac of Destroyers: HMCS St. Laurent and Her Successors* by Ron Barrie and Ken Macpherson looks at the Canadian Navy's postwar destroyer fleet. The story is largely one of success, beginning with the St. Laurent class in the late 1940s and carrying through to the recently-completed

Canadian Patrol Frigate program. Canada surprised both the Americans and British in 1955 when she launched the first postwar destroyers. These ships incorporated many advances over Second World War-era destroyers and came to be known as "Cadillacs" for both their sophistication and modern conveniences which made shipboard life much more tolerable.

This book provides details of each major destroyer construction and modernization program undertaken in Canada since the Second World War. The majority of the book is devoted to brief bios of each destroyer in the Canadian Navy. *Cadillac of Destroyers* is a wealth of information and photographs and provides an excellent overview of the destroyers in the postwar Canadian Navy.

The Canadian Naval Chronicle, 1939-1945 began as a narrative of RCN losses in the Second World War. However, the authors, Bob Darlington and Fraser McKee, soon realized that the successes of the RCN needed

to be told as well. The result is a balanced account of the successes and failures of the RCN in the Second World War. Each of the first 64 chapters in the book examine a particular episode during the war. All the well-known engagements are covered, but so are those lesser-known, but equally deserving, events. Typical is the success of Escort Group 11 which destroyed two U-boats off the French coast in August 1944. EG-11 was an all-Canadian group composed of the River-class destroyers *Ottawa*, *Chaudière*, *Kootenay*, *Gatineau* and *Restigouche*. In a three day period, EG-11 showed the outcome of five years of experience. The combination of patience, skill and superior equipment resulted in the destruction of two veteran U-boats.

Darlington and McKee are quick to give praise to the RCN, but they do not shy from laying blame where it is warranted. A case in point is the loss of the Bangor-class minesweeper HMCS *Chedabucto* in 1943. The *Chedabucto* was tasked to escort the British cable ship SS *Lord*

Kelvin in the St. Lawrence River. On the night of 20/21 September, the watch officer was an unqualified sub-lieutenant who had little experience keeping watch. At some point during the night, the *Chedabucto* crossed over the bow of the *Lord Kelvin* resulting in a collision. Efforts were made to save the minesweeper, but she later sank while under tow. The incident resulted in the death of one man. The captain of the *Chedabucto* was later censured for allowing an inexperienced and unqualified officer to stand watch.

In addition to detailing the successes and failures of the RCN, *The Canadian Naval Chronicle, 1939-1945* provides details of all Canadian Merchant Ships lost to enemy action during the war. There are also a number of highly useful appendices which summarize the various victories and losses of the RCN, as well as the successes of the RCAF in destroying German U-boats.

Overall, both these books are highly entertaining reading and will be a most useful addition to the library of anyone interested in the Canadian Navy.

-MB

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Robert and Thomas Malcomson, **HMS *Detroit*: The Battle for Lake Erie** (St. Catharines, ON: Vanwell Publishing, 1990) 150 pages, ISBN 1-55750-053-3.

This work, by two amateur historians, deals with the squadron of British vessels that was defeated by the American fleet on Lake Erie in 1813. The British and American commanders, Robert Heriot Barclay and Oliver Hazard Perry, figure prominently throughout the work, but the authors have also chosen to examine logistics, wounds and their treatment, weaponry, rations, and life aboard early 19th century warships. In essence, the book argues that British officers were handicapped by frontier

conditions. Barclay was stuck in Amherstburg at the extreme western edge of European colonization, and access to suitable supplies and trained men was limited. Perry, on the other hand, was stationed at Erie with the thriving industrial centre of Pittsburgh, a town of 6,000 people, nearby. Relatively plentiful supplies of iron, rope, and skilled craftsmen meant the US was able to fashion a formidable squadron of brigs and schooners, while the British fleet on Lake Erie amounted to only six lightly-gunned and poorly-manned vessels. When the two sides met on 10 September 1813, the outcome was determined by the preparations each had made for the battle. The nine American ships opened fire at a distance of more than one mile, but several of the British vessels could not strike back because their weapons, and in some instances even the crews, were not up to the task. Although both sides suffered hundreds of casualties during the encounter, with the American flagship *Lawrence* actually being abandoned by Perry partway through the battle, the problems facing the British eventually proved insurmountable. In the end, the American victory at Put-in-Bay paved the way for the 27 September 1813 invasion of western Upper Canada which saw the British driven back to Burlington Heights.

The Malcomsons have published a handsome volume which has dozens of maps, paintings, and detailed depictions of battle developments. While generally well-written, (annoyingly the word "presently" is constantly used for "at present") the book has been oddly titled, since it is not mainly about the *HMS Detroit*. More disturbing is the lack of archival research. While the notes reveal that most published collections of primary documents have been examined, it is clear that first-hand accounts in London, Washington, and Ottawa were never examined. This likely

explains why the authors fail to come to any conclusions about the many controversies left swirling about this battle. For example, for nearly two centuries the American Jesse Elliot has been accused by some of cowardice during the encounter. But *HMS Detroit* merely narrates the events and subsequent court martials, and never provides proper analysis. Other aspects betray a lack of general familiarity with early 19th century British North America. On several occasions the authors note that local "Canadian" crews on the British ships could not understand English. Of course, at that time, "Canadian" meant French-Canadian, which would explain why they did not understand the language of the British officers, a fact that general readers might appreciate having explained to them.

Still, despite its deficiencies, *HMS Detroit* is an entertaining account that indicates how crucial the Great Lakes theatre was during the War of 1812.

-GS

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Gilles Proulx, **The Garrison of Quebec from 1748 to 1759** (Ottawa: Parks Canada, 1991) 56 pages.

This is the third appearance of a work which first surfaced as an unpublished report for Parks Service in 1977, and then in journal format in 1979. After a brief review of the types of soldiers in New France (militiamen, *troupes de terre*, and *campagnes franches*) the pamphlet goes on to examine the origins of the men and their work and leisure activities. Proulx's research focuses on the *campagnes franches*, or marines, who usually numbered about 500 in the period under examination. Most were in their early 20s, came from northern France, and they normally served under Canadian-born officers. The story is a familiar one: working days were long in the military, pay for enlisted

men was low, and (based on hospital stays) disease was prevalent. But Proulx thinks the last bit of evidence may not be solid, and he suspects lengthy visits to the infirmary represented a desire to avoid work and enjoy the care provided by hospital staff.

This pamphlet is really only suitable as an introduction to the topic, or as a source for a secondary school paper. The lack of endnotes, and the existence of a number of errors and unsubstantiated statements, limits its use for serious researchers. Sloppy translation likely explains why the work argues that soldiers went to bed about 8 a.m. in the winter, but perhaps 20th century nationalism accounts for the unsupported assertion that "members of Canada's militia brought more passion to the task of protecting their corner of the world, and it was to these men that the country ultimately looked for its defence."

-GS

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Robert S. Peacock, **KIM-CHI, ASAHI and RUM: A Platoon Commander Remembers Korea 1952-1953** (Halifax: Lugas) \$18.00, 161 pages.

John A. English, **Failure in High Command: The Canadian Army and The Normandy Campaign** (Ottawa: Golden Dog Press, 1995 (1991)) 347 pages, \$19.95, ISBN 0-919614-60-4.

Lewis MacKenzie, **Peacekeeper: The Road to Sarajevo** (Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre, 1993) 345 pages, \$28.95, ISBN 1-55054-098-X.

Seldom, if ever, have readers of Canadian military history been accorded the pleasure of delving into three disparate books in a short span of time written by three different authors from the same Regiment. In this enviable position stands the indomitable Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

Colonel Robert S. Peacock, a professional infantry officer who, *inter alia*, achieved notable success in all key appointments within an infantry battalion, has written an outstanding anecdotal book of his experiences as a subaltern in action in Korea. Further, he identifies those attributes that not only mark the effective young officer but also those that contribute most to successful leadership throughout the multitude of challenges encountered during a military career.

He has judiciously presented a balanced selection of incidents that demonstrate both good and bad lessons in leadership at the platoon level. In addition, Colonel Peacock has avoided the trap of drawing too explicit conclusions from personal events but does identify those basic lessons that can readily be adapted to new situations that are bound to confront future infantry leaders.

The publication is not error free but those which remain, including a brace of grammatical slips, do not significantly distract the reader. The degree of excellence achieved reflects the many hours spent editing and reviewing drafts. The author's acknowledged use of hyperbole provides cover for his premeditated stretching of the occasional point and a defence against total adherence to accuracy (even the Americans did not assign "a crew of almost two hundred men to the mammoth 240 mm gun/howitzer").

We are treated to an interesting and diverse selection of photographs and to sufficient maps to support adequately the text and the declared intent of the book.

The closing chapter, "On Leadership," is an outstanding treatise which merits being wholly absorbed by all who aspire to command soldiers. In summary, an all-too-short volume which should be a welcome addition to everyone's military history library. It should also be one that is used.

Lieutenant-Colonel English has produced a most readable appraisal of Canadian Army operations in Normandy in 1944. This well-written book is the result of meticulous research using virtually all reasonable sources available up to 1991. The bibliography and individual chapter notes themselves are worth the price of the book for any serious military history student.

Although one may not agree with all the author's conclusions and observations, many of these do indeed ensue from logical argumentation based on clearly enunciated facts and incidents that are carefully documented and cross referenced. He has attempted, by presenting his account in two distinct parts, to ensure the reader comprehends the environment in which the Canadian commanders concerned developed and the soldiers were trained before one is thrust into the cauldron of 1944 Normandy.

The photographs reprinted in the book are of notable interest. The maps are adequate. It is unfortunate that costs are what they are today as the maps would be of greater value to all readers if they were on fold-out pages and coloured.

In my opinion, Lieutenant-Colonel English has tried with marked success to write a critical analysis of an historical event without undue reliance on hindsight. Occasionally, however, he does trap himself in his own detailed knowledge of the matter under scrutiny. For example, there are some rather scathing comments on senior officers on pages 143 to 151 with insufficient supporting sources identified. These assertions may well be justified in reality but they are not adequately proven in the book.

The author has endeavoured to establish in the Foreword, Preface and About the Author sections of the book the professional credibility of the analysis. Unfortunately, there are several unnecessary and

unsubstantiated personal comments that detract significantly from exactly what he was trying to achieve. For example, on page xiv: "for had the First Canadian Army achieved its objectives along the road to Falaise, it would undoubtedly have attained a military renown equal to Lieutenant-General George Patton's more famous Third U.S. Army. It might even have spearheaded the subsequent advance of Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery's 21st Army Group instead of being left to plug along the difficult and essential, but plainly unglamorous, northern seaboard through Holland." [speculation at best]; on page 4: the comparison presented with the Red Army and the Canadians en route to Falaise [contributes little to the stated aim of the book]; on page 13: one finds it difficult to accept that the statement concerning "American bankers and businessmen bleeding Britain" adds to the analysis of the Canadian Army in Normandy; and on page 51: "Indeed, peacekeeping then as peacekeeping today in no way enhanced the capability of a professional army to wage war effectively against a first-class enemy." [many leadership skills, young soldier confidence and factors affecting unit cohesion are developed during peacekeeping missions that could only be honed to the same degree under far more exacting and far less forgiving wartime conditions].

The criticisms expressed above do not diminish the merit of having this volume in a place of prominence in your military history library. It is also one that should be well used.

Lewis MacKenzie, in collaboration with Scott McIntyre and Roy MacSkimming, has produced a relatively interesting and reasonably presented anecdotal autobiography of his years spent as a member of the Canadian Forces. This narrative should be read with Lewis Mackenzie's own caveat retained

clearly in mind, "please understand that I kept no records during my first eight peacekeeping tours, between 1963 and 1991."

The author has provided sufficient pictures and maps to augment the text, an Introduction which defines the book's parameters adequately and a comprehensive index. The text itself, perhaps a trifle more uncouth than necessary, is informally split with about one third being allotted to a selected overview of MacKenzie's military career prior to 1992 and the remainder to the central issue -- the recent Yugoslavian crisis. The final short chapter on "Whither UN Peacekeeping" offers a few worthwhile observations that the United Nations staff in New York and all member nations should weigh carefully. Many merit adoption.

This publication suffers from three major defects. The responsibility for which must be shared by the author and his two collaborators. Firstly, while perusing the text, one is struck by the extreme parallelism between this account and the concept and style established by General H. Norman Schwarzkopf and Peter Petre in the autobiography, *It Doesn't Take A Hero*. This could be construed by some readers as a cute form of plagiarism. Secondly, the plethora of spelling, grammatical and other editorial oversights, particularly in the initial 98 pages, indicate either an undue haste to the marketplace or a complete disregard for the attentiveness and sensitivities of the readers.

Thirdly, there is extensive use of quotation marks throughout the text. In spite of the author's no record caveat these do imply for many readers accurate, verbatim recounting. Unfortunately, particularly with the more contentious conversations, no identified attempt was undertaken by any of the three persons involved in the production of this book to try to verify the accuracy of the allegations. This reflects

rather sadly on their professionalism and integrity.

In sum, a somewhat egotistical self-portrait of one Canadian soldier which may add to some personal libraries but not to all.

-JAC

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Gavan Daws, **Prisoners of the Japanese: POWs of World War II in the Pacific** (New York: William Morrow and Co., 1994) 462 pages, \$25 US, ISBN 0-688-11812-7.

When Japan swept over the Pacific in the months after Pearl Harbor, Western armies collapsed in a panic of fear and military incompetence. The Japanese, hitherto jeered at as bandy-legged, bespectacled, and incapable of standing up to white troops, instantly were transformed into supermen as they took Hong Kong, Malaya, Singapore, the Philippines, and the Dutch East Indies. No Western army performed well, and the author is particularly critical (as he conveys his interviewees' scorn) of Douglas MacArthur's defence of the Philippines.

One by-product of Imperial Japan's triumphs was some 140,000 prisoners of war, mainly British, American, Australian, and Dutch, but also including the survivors of the understrength Canadian brigade that had helped in the brief defence of Hong Kong. More than one in four of these Western POWs would die in captivity, a death rate almost seven times that of Allied POWs who had the misfortune to fall into the tender hands of Nazi Germany. Had the war in the Pacific continued into 1946, however, only a handful of POWs would have survived.

Gavan Daws, a historian whose working life has been evenly divided between Australia and Hawaii, has produced the first attempt to tell the whole story of POWs in the Pacific. Predictably, the bulk of the book is focused on American POWs, with Australians

a close second. There is, although he has made some use of Canadian published sources and interviews, very little on the Royal Rifles and Winnipeg Grenadiers. Surprisingly, however, the Dutch, hated by all other POWs, emerge as the heroes. Alone among the Allies, the Netherlanders stationed in the Dutch East Indies understood the climate and the jungle, and their doctors knew how to treat jungle diseases and infections, even with plants which, when no medicines were available, saved lives. The non-Dutch physicians amputated limbs; the Dutch treated the huge ulcers that developed and saved lives.

To his credit, Daws has not tried to make his book politically correct. He deliberately writes the way his characters spoke in 1941, complete with racial slurs, slang, sex, and cursing. The effect is consciously racy which, while off-putting, is worth struggling through. And he is blunt about the extent and nature of Japanese atrocities, more so than any account I have seen. While there were occasionally kind Imperial soldiers and officers and even a few Japanese civilians, most behaved with a casual brutality that is frightening. Heads were lopped off on whim and beatings and torture applied almost randomly. Doctors autopsied live POWs or conducted medical experiments on them, and food and medicine was sold on the black market rather than issued. Among the worst offenders were Western-educated Japanese, making the Canadians' Kamloops Kid one of a larger grouping. The pay-back for racial slurs was evident. However, Daws does make clear that Allied troops committed their share of atrocities when they had the chance. The war's course would eventually give them plenty of opportunity.

Daws is also frank on inter-Allied relations. The Americans despised the British one and all. So too did the Australians who got on well with the Yanks. All hated the Dutch, except for their doctors. But the Dutch, Daws said, had the

lowest death rate in captivity at under 20 percent (he does not mention that Canadians had "only" 17 percent fatalities in captivity); the US rate was 34 percent, the Australian 32, and the British, who tried to maintain unit discipline when possible, 32 percent. Clearly discipline was not the key, however much it might keep morale up, while medical care mattered most. Indeed Daws is very harsh on British, and all other, officers. The commissioned ranks, with few exceptions, took advantage of every opportunity to care for themselves and, in effect, abandoned their men to the enemy's tender mercies. The "good" officers, usually junior in rank, stand out. Still, Daws says, all prisoners of the Japanese were caught "in a twentieth-century version of the Black Plague, a Yellow Death."

Where Daws does mention Canada favourably, surprisingly it is when he discusses compensation to POWs. "Canada did the best by its own POWs," he notes, "or the least poorly." Canadian survivors received 50 percent disability ratings for pensions by the mid-1960s and there was entitlement to argue for more, up to 100 percent. It had taken 20 years of campaigning by the Hong Kong vets to get this, but no other nation was close and some (the Dutch notoriously) were not even close. Why? Daws suggests it was because Canada had had relatively few POWs so it could afford to be generous. That rings true.

The Japanese, of course, offered neither compensation nor genuine apologies. Indeed, some of the worst offenders against POWs made important careers for themselves in Japan's postwar political and business life. Worse yet, so little has Tokyo taught its people about the war that most Japanese appear to believe that the atrocities inflicted on them by Allied troops and the punishments ordered by war crimes trials equal or surpass their own crimes. They don't.

There has been a reconciliation between the West and Germany for the Germans, for the most part, have acknowledged their crimes. There can never be complete reconciliation with Japan, and there should never be reconciliation, until Tokyo follows suit. Daws' book is eloquent testimony to that.

-JLG

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Eric Hammel, **The Root: The Marines in Beirut, August 1982 - February 1984** (Pacifica, CA: Pacifica Press, 1993 (1985)) 448 pages, \$17.95 US paper, ISBN 0-935553-05-3.

Based almost exclusively on extensive interviews with soldiers of various rank and responsibility who served there, this book attempts to recreate what life was like on the "sharp end" for the American Marines dispatched as part of the Multinational Force to Lebanon in the early 1980s. Hammel largely succeeds in graphically describing the day-to-day experiences of the Marines from their own perspective, while at the same time providing the reader with the broader context in which developments unfolded. The author's account of the car bombing of the battalion landing team headquarters building in October 1983 is particularly gripping, but readers will find his depiction of the deadly and less well-known war waged by the Marines in the weeks preceding and following the bombing equally fascinating. Their rules of engagement seem to have been hopelessly inadequate.

The book is too long by half, and one can easily get lost in the welter of acronyms employed; the uninitiated might find the military terminology confusing as well. Nonetheless, the no-nonsense way in which it underlines the dangers associated with being caught in the middle of a civil war makes this monograph a must read for those Canadians trying to understand

the potential perils which their country's peacekeepers face in the former Yugoslavia.

-DL

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Joseph Levitt, **Pearson and Canada's Role in Nuclear Disarmament and Arms Control Negotiations, 1945-1957** (Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1993) 333 pages, \$39.95, ISBN 0-7735-0905-4.

Canada's quest for a role in postwar superpower relations has not lacked for commentators. From John Holmes and James Eayrs to more recent work by John English and J.L. Granatstein, Pearson's role in guiding Canada's place in the Western alliance has been examined frequently. This book's great advantage lies in Levitt's use of archival resources from the Department of External Affairs and the papers of leading figures to concentrate specifically on the question of disarmament and the negotiations between the Soviet Union and the Western allies, led by the United States.

Levitt's central argument is that Pearson and the Canadians saw themselves as "junior partners" of the United States in these talks, not as mediators between the two camps. Levitt acknowledges that Canada played the middle power role in many aspects of foreign policy, but he argues that on nuclear questions Pearson and the Canadians saw their role as supportive of American aims and positions. This position derived largely from Pearson's mistrust of the Soviets, contrasted with his belief in the more benevolent nature of the open societies of the west. As Levitt demonstrates, Pearson's views in this regard were shared not only by his cabinet colleagues, but by the opposition in Parliament as well.

Levitt traces the discussions surrounding the control of nuclear weapons from the immediate postwar period to the fall of the

Liberal government in 1957. The pattern which he establishes shows the repeated failure of plans that failed to meet American concerns over enforcement and monitoring, and Soviet concerns about their security. Pearson shared the American view that, while atomic weapons were horrible, they were necessary to deter Soviet aggression in Western Europe. In supporting the American position Pearson tried to try to keep the western alliance united, and the non-aligned countries from siding with the Soviet Union, whose conventional strength allowed them to consider total nuclear disarmament. Pearson worried about increasing East-West tension and the increasing technical ability to destroy the world but, as Levitt notes, there was little Pearson, or anyone else, could do about it. In the absence of real disarmament Pearson chose to play the junior partner's role to the full extent. Levitt's book explores the complex nature of this role very well.

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Carl Andrew Brannen, **Over There: A Marine in the Great War** (College Station: Texas A&M University Press [distributed in Canada by the University of British Columbia Press], 1996) 183 pages, ISBN 0-89096-690-7.

Carl Brannen joined the 6th Regiment of the US Marine Corps at the front in June 1918 and served in the lines until the Armistice. This comparatively short service in part explains the brevity of this memoir. When one removes the chapter introductions, the detailed explanatory endnotes, the poignant essay by Brannen's son and all of the other miscellaneous trappings, one is left with a memoir occupying fewer than fifty pages. Furthermore, significant battles fought by the American Expeditionary Force receive very little coverage; St. Mihiel is dealt with in only four pages, while the Meuse-Argonne

offensive gets only five pages. It's not that Brannen's experiences were not interesting; he just doesn't say enough about them. His son recalls him as a man of few words; when he recorded these recollections in the 1930s, he was clearly unable to overcome this reticence.

-JV

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Arthur L. Conger, **The Rise of U.S. Grant** (New York: Da Capo Press, 1996 (1931)) \$15.95 US paper, 432 pages, ISBN 0-306-80693-2.

Jay Luvaas, ed. **The Civil War in the Writings of Colonel G.F.R. Henderson** (New York: Da Capo Press, 1996 (1958)) \$14.95 US paper, 323 pages, ISBN 0-306-80718-1.

Francis W. Palfrey, **The Antietam and Fredericksburg** (New York: Da Capo Press, 1996 (1882)) 240 pages, \$18.50 paper, ISBN 0-306-80691-1.

Given the outpouring of books on Civil War generalship and individual battles in recent years, neither the Conger nor Palfrey reprints are essential reading any longer for modern students of that conflict. The language is staid and plodding, the recounting of military manoeuvres overly meticulous, and the character sketches shallow and, frequently, unbalanced. There are exceptions in both books - Halleck, presented unsympathetically by Conger through most of the narrative, is granted his due on rare occasions, while Palfrey's depiction of Burnside's confusion at Fredericksburg is simply exquisite - but most readers will not lie awake at night burroughing speedily through the pages of either work. Long, often confusing quotations from primary documents, extensive summaries of daily correspondence, and a formal, staff school-like writing style plague both authors. Palfrey is the more readable, and the more

erudite, but neither fires the imagination.

Despite these weaknesses, the portraits of Union commanders painted by both men, the evolving relationships between Northern military leaders, and (to a lesser extent) their assessments of the Confederacy's military leadership are nevertheless fascinating. Conger's construction of Grant's military greatness will appear forced to some readers, for example, especially in defending the general's mistakes prior to Shiloh, but his detailed assessment of Grant's responsibilities in that engagement, his constant travelling from point to point on the battlefield, and his handling of the divisions which arrived from Buell's army on the battle's second day are invaluable in understanding how the North wrested victory from the jaws of defeat. Conger on Shiloh and Palfrey on Antietam and Fredericksburg are also first-rate battle accounts. The former concentrating on personality and the operational art, the latter on topography and tactics.

The Luvaas book, by contrast, is an absolute gem. G.F.R. Henderson is well-known to Civil War scholars for his superb, two-volume biography of Stonewall Jackson, still considered by many to be the definitive account nearly one hundred years after its publication in 1898. The volume under review, which first appeared in 1958 as *The Civil War: A Soldier's View*, contains several of Henderson's lesser known writings, in addition to three interpretive chapters by Luvaas himself. The key piece by Henderson, a British army officer, is his 1886 account of the battle of Fredericksburg. Composed, like Palfrey's work, well before many of the essential documents had become available, Henderson's narrative remains a masterpiece. On its laurels, he rose quickly through the British army's educational establishment becoming, first, an instructor at

Sandhurst and, later, Professor of Military Art and History at the British Staff College.

Along with Sir Frederick Maurice, Sir Garnet Wolseley and a handful of others, Henderson helped revive Civil War studies in Britain, a conflict long ignored in Europe as a "war by amateurs." Henderson was keenly interested in its lessons for the British officer corps, especially those in the Volunteer Movement. He also wrote eloquently of the potential for history to inform the structure and doctrine of the contemporary army. "The intelligent study of the actual occurrences of warfare is, next to experience in the field," he wrote, "the surest means of attaining knowledge of the theory and principles of the military art. Half a dozen great battles, studied in detail and impressed upon the understanding, will give the mind a firmer grasp of tactical principles than the tabulated maxims and isolated instances of the textbooks." A trenchant observation, indeed, and not just for the generation of soldiers - Henderson's pupils - that would fight along the Somme.

-DFO

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Eugene E. Halmos, Jr., **The Wrong Side of the Fence: A United States Army Air Corps POW in World War II** (Shippensburg, PA: White Mane Publishing, 1996) \$24.95 US, 152 pages, ISBN 1-57249-034-9.

Readers who come to this book for intimate details of POW life will be disappointed. Halmos, a navigator whose B-24 was downed in June 1944, has little new to say about the day-to-day existence of POWs, and occasionally relates some entirely unfounded stories, like a preposterous account of the Great Escape. The real value of this book lies in its explication of the POW mind. If Halmos was not a particularly keen observer of what went on around him, he spent much time considering what was

going on inside his own head. In this regard, he gives us illuminating glimpses of the mental state of the prisoner, his thoughts on freedom, on what the postwar world would be like, on maintaining one's sanity in captivity, on coping with despair, and on the course of the war. Halmos recorded these ruminations on whatever odd scraps of paper he came across, and the entries have been reprinted unedited. They have an immediacy which is compelling, and which more than makes up for the lack of new details of the experiences of captured Allied airmen.

-JV

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Stephen O'Shea, **Back to the Front: An Accidental Historian Walks the Trenches of World War I** (Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre, 1996) \$28.95, 205 pages, ISBN 1-55054-472-1.

The subtitle explains the uneven quality of this book. The author is a professional writer who fully admits that his knowledge of the Great War was scant before he was drawn to walk the length of the Western Front. As a consequence, the book succeeds on one level but fails on another. As a piece of travel writing, it stands up well. O'Shea has a keen eye, and describes the curiosities of life in rural France and Belgium with verve and pungency.

As history, the book merits an entirely different assessment and it more than exceeds the jacket note's modest assessment that it will "infuriate devotees of Great War lore." Because of the author's imperfect and incomplete understanding of history, *Back to the Front* is full of errors of fact, hoary old myths (like the quaint and entirely false tale that one could walk from Switzerland to the sea without ever putting one's head above ground), and ahistorical modernist clichés. The tone is dismissive and often snide, and gives one the impression that

O'Shea believes himself to be infinitely superior to all that he beholds. That certainly goes for his fellow trench-walkers; according to O'Shea, everyone who walks the old front (except himself, of course) is some sort of deviant. In short, *Back to the Front* will fit the bill if you are looking for a bit of light travel writing, but you should go elsewhere for history.

-JV

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Larry Hannant, **The Infernal Machine: Investigating the Loyalty of Canada's Citizens** (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1995) \$17.95 paper, 339 pages, ISBN 0-8020-7236-4.

Conventional wisdom has it that security screening in Canada had its roots in the Gouzenko affair. In this enlightening and somewhat disturbing book, Hannant traces the roots of screening to a much earlier time, the post-Great War era, when the threat of the Communist International meant that ethnicity was no longer a simple litmus test to gauge the loyalty of any individual. In its place, official Canada seized upon fingerprinting as a means of identifying and tracking criminals, subversives, and other undesirables. Initially something of a novelty, fingerprinting quickly gained supporters and peaked during the Second World War, when some 2.3 million civilians and military personnel were printed. Particularly interesting is Hannant's discussion of fingerprinting in the RCAF, the first service in the Empire to institute the practice; by mid-war, nearly half of the air force's members had been checked by the RCMP. Readers will also be interested to learn how little opposition there was to fingerprinting, and of the government's willingness to employ a practice which was, in various circumstances, prohibited by its own laws.

Civil servants, munitions workers, merchant seamen and members of the armed forces were among those Canadians fingerprinted during the Second World War. Anyone who served in any of these roles and recalls being fingerprinted will be fascinated to read why their prints were taken and what was done with them once they entered government data banks.

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Lawrence D. Sheely, ed., **Sailor of the Air: The 1917-1919 Letters and Diary of USN CMM/A Irving Edward Sheely** (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1993) \$29.95 US, 240 pages.

John H. Morrow, Jr. and Earl Rogers, eds., **A Yankee Ace in the RAF: The World War I Letters of Captain Bogart Rogers** (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1996) \$24.95 US, 266 pages, ISBN 0-7006-0798-6.

It is unlikely that Sheely and Rogers ever crossed paths in the relatively small world of Great War aviators. Sheely, an industrial draughtsman in New York state, enlisted as a naval aviator in March 1917 and took part in some of the first anti-submarine patrols in history. In the summer of 1918, he was flying air raids with the Northern Bombing Group, often as a crewman to the famous Kenneth MacLeish. Rogers, on the other hand, left Stanford University and the social elites of Los Angeles to join the RFC. He trained in Toronto, flew fighter operations over the Western Front through the summer of 1918, and eventually tallied six kills.

Despite their differences, the letters share certain common features. Neither man had any experience with (or apparent interest in) flying before the war, and both were somewhat dubious of the chivalric, knight-of-the-air ethos which has become an accepted feature of Great War

aviation. Sheely was clearly delighted at the prospect of dropping bombs on the enemy and getting a little revenge for the raids he lived through. By the same token, Rogers wrote after the war that the life of the fighter pilot "was a cold, calculating, deadly occupation ... sans any ethics except that you got the other fellow or he got you. If you could shoot him in the back when he wasn't looking so much the better."

Both books can serve as valuable primary source documents, although *Yankee Ace* is more enjoyable for the general reader. Rogers was a gifted writer (he wrote Hollywood screenplays after the war), and his letters are candid, entertaining, detailed, and illuminating. Sheely was a more typical letter writer, and included many references to people and events not directly relevant to his service career. Unfortunately, the editor's explanatory notes sometimes become a little distracting in the effort to flesh out the occasionally spare letters and diary entries. Still, both books have a breezy appeal that convinces the reader that Sheely and Rogers must have been fascinating people to know.

-JV

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Michael J. Goodwin, **Shobun: A Forgotten War Crime in the Pacific** (Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 1995) \$19.95 US, 147 pages, ISBN 0-8117-1518-3.

Five months before the author was born, his father was shot down over the Celebes in a PBV flying boat. Goodwin and eight other naval aviators who survived the crash were eventually beheaded by their captors, in part because the Japanese did not want them mixing with older prisoners and telling them how badly the war was going for Japan. The murderers were eventually apprehended and tried, and part of their defence hinged on the

interpretation of the word "shobun" - did the admiral who issued the order intend "shobun" to mean that the Americans be executed, or merely that they be disposed of through transfer to another camp? Readers will be surprised by the leniency with which the convicted killers were treated, treatment that stands in marked contrast to sentences handed out to individuals convicted of similar crimes in the European theatre.

The author knew little of his father's fate until 1987, when he began to investigate the consequences of his death. This book, the product of Goodwin's research, stands as an admirable tribute to nine of the thousands of Allied servicemen who never returned from Japanese captivity.

-JV

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Edith Wharton, **A Son at the Front**, introduction by Shari Benstock (DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 1995) \$14.00 US paper, 280 pages, ISBN 0-87580-568-X.

When it was first published in 1923, *A Son at the Front* received less than sparkling reviews. One critic called it "a belated essay in propaganda," while others judged it to be outdated, obtuse, or myopic. Now, with this reissue, a new generation of readers might see the book in a different light.

Billed as an "antiwar masterpiece," it is in fact characterized by the same ambivalence towards the war as Sherriff's *Journey's End*. Set in the American community in Paris, it traces the relationship between painter John Campton and his French-born son George, whose place of birth makes him liable for service in the French army. In August 1914, the father begins to marshal every possible influence to keep his son out of the trenches, but slowly and painfully realizes that his conduct is a betrayal of

George's character. As the novel draws to its inevitable conclusion, the painter becomes reconciled to the fact that his son's place is at the front and that, by refusing to accept a safe job, George was only being true to himself.

This nobility of spirit is one of the book's many characteristics which sets it apart from conventional antiwar novels. The sincerity of prowar Americans, the simple faith of the French women whose men are destroyed in battle, the joy evoked by America's entry into the war - all point to a curious bifurcation in Wharton's view of the war, and suggest that the significance of the conflict was not as clear to her as we might expect it to have been. In 1923, Wharton was criticized for being too close to her material. Seventy years later, that proximity, and all of the confusion and ambivalence it entails, gives this book its impact.

-JV

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Allan Bartley, **Heroes in Waiting: The 160th Bruce Battalion in the Great War** (Port Elgin, ON: Brucedale Press, 1996) \$35.00, 224 pages, ISBN 0-9698716-8-6

During the First World War, the Canadian government authorized the recruitment of nearly 250 infantry battalions; fewer than a quarter of these reached the front as intact units. The others, despite promises made to eager recruits and local officials, were broken up to reinforce the four divisions of the Canadian Corps. The 160th Battalion was probably typical of these units. Authorized in December 1915, it drew enthusiastic recruits from the farms, towns, and reservations of Bruce County in central Ontario, only to see them languish in England for 16 months as part of the 5th Division. In February 1918, what was left of the 160th was officially disbanded, the men joining a variety of other units. By war's end, 99 members of the 160th had died on service.

Bartley tells the story of the battalion with skill and verve. He conveys the initial enthusiasm surrounding the unit's authorization, as well as the interplay of local interests, and then describes the slow death of the 160th as it was weakened by months of inactivity and the whittling away of its strength as reinforcements were needed. We know too little about these now forgotten battalions - *Heroes in Waiting* shows how much they can tell us about Canada in the Great War.

-JV

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Lawrence D. Kritzman, ed., **Auschwitz and After: Race, Culture, and "The Jewish Question" in France** (New York: Routledge, 1995) \$19.95 US paper, 335 pages, ISBN 0-415-90441-2.

Since 1945, France has lived under the shadow cast by the country's response to the Holocaust. French anti-semitism, the passive acceptance of Jewish deportations, the active assistance to those deportations which many in France gave - these are contentious matters in which the determination of one group to expose this history to the light of day is matched by the determination of another group to keep it hidden. *Auschwitz and After* is one attempt to understand these tensions.

It is an ambitious collection and may be somewhat daunting to the general reader, but perseverance is well rewarded. There is Susan Rubin Suleiman's fascinating essay on how autobiographers have ordered their recollections of the Holocaust, and the editor's chapter on the representation of Jewish identity in France is just as strong. One section examines cinematic reflections on the questions, including Nelly Furman's fine essay on the languages of pain in "Shoah", while another considers literary responses. Perhaps the

most interesting section deals with history, memory, and politics, the long process of coming to terms with a past that many people feel now need to come to terms with. This section, and the book as a whole, demonstrates how far France has come, and still has to come, on its postwar journey of self-discovery.

-WHW

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Mario Machi, **Under the Rising Sun: Memories of a Japanese Prisoner of War** (Miranda, CA: Wolfenden, 1994) 176 pages, ISBN 0-9642521-0-4.

According to Machi, his secret to survival in Japanese captivity was his determination to keep as busy as possible. Captured on Bataan in 1942, Machi filled his days with dozens of little jobs: crafting stoves out of scrap, doing physiotherapy for ailing prisoners, scrounging food for sick friends, dreaming up black-market schemes, and anything else he could think of to keep his mind from dwelling on his own illnesses and the horrors that surrounded him. Of course, Machi also had his fair share of good luck. A corpsman, his medical duties allowed him a certain amount of privilege in the camps. He also escaped much of the Bataan Death March by volunteering to drive a captured American truck. Most importantly, he was chosen to remain in the Philippines when many of his comrades were shipped to Japan. He survived to be liberated when Manila was recaptured in February 1945, while many of his pals were drowned when the transport taking them to Japan was sunk by an American submarine. Perhaps it was streets smarts or just plain good fortune, but Mario Machi might be forgiven for thinking that someone was looking after him.

-JV

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Helen Nicholson, **Templars, Hospitallers and Teutonic Knights: Images of the Military Orders, 1128-1291** (Leicester: Leicester University Press [distributed in Canada by Canadian Scholars' Press], 1995) \$29.95 paper, 207 pages, ISBN 0-7185-2277-X.

Nicholson's study covers the period between the first official recognition of a military order in 1128, and the fall of Acre, the last Christian citadel in the Holy Land, in 1291. Her primary focus is to understand how these orders were perceived by contemporaries: were they seen as valid religious orders?; what was the relationship between criticism of the orders and declining support for crusading?; and what was the long-term impact of criticism on the fortunes of the orders?

In some ways, her conclusions confirm the modern era's perceptions of the orders. Contemporaries saw them as proud, envious, greedy, rash, and suspicious of each other, and accused the orders of entering into covert alliances with the Muslims and of failing to use their considerable resources to support the Holy Land. Yet there were no calls for outright abolition. Many critics called for reforms to the orders in the same spirit that they urged reform to other aspects of Christendom, but few questioned that the concept of the military order remained a valid one.

-LF

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Elisabeth M. Raab, **And Peace Never Came** (Waterloo: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 1997) \$24.95 paper, 196 pages, ISBN 0-88920-292-3.

The Jews of Hungary were the last major Jewish community in Europe to be swept up in the Holocaust, nearly 500,000 of them being shipped to Auschwitz in the summer of 1944. Most went

immediately to the gas chambers, including the author's parents and infant daughter. Raab, however, survived to become a forced labourer, working twelve-hour days in a German grenade factory. Released in 1945, she lived in a DP camp in Germany, returning briefly to Hungary to visit what remained of her family. Even the end of the war, though, brought her little spiritual peace and she fought feelings of rootlessness and desolation as she searched for a haven in which to build a life.

And Peace Never Came is an arresting memoir, written with a strong voice that suggests the very act of writing was part of Raab's quest to understand her own self and the Holocaust's impact on her. There are a few heroes in the story, but the author is clearly struck by the fact that adversity often brought out the worst in people rather than the best. The book ends with an account of Raab's visit to her childhood home in 1987. The journey enabled her to achieve some sort of closure by coming to terms with her past: not the past of the Holocaust, which was all too real, but the past which had been destroyed by the Holocaust, an existence which seemed to have no reality in light of what followed it.

-WHW

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Patrick Fridenson, ed., **The French Home Front, 1914-1918** (Providence, RI: Berg, 1992) \$19.95 US paper, 326 pages, ISBN 0-85496-770-2.

Another in Berg's fine series entitled "The Legacy of the Great War", this translation offers ten essays adeptly selected to cover the breadth of the French experience. As Fridenson writes in his introduction, it aims to provide a re-examination of France during the war and argues that "war is a contradictory phenomenon, whereby short-term and long-term damages may coexist with a pursuit of growth by unusual means."

The methodologies employed are as varied as the subject matter. Jean-Jacques Becker, for example, analyzes the observations of the teachers of Charente to divine the public response to the general mobilization of August 1914. James Laux describes the tremendous success of the Gnome et Rhone aircraft engine factory, while Gilbert Hatry's article on shop stewards at Renault might be fruitfully read by anyone interested in the way labour asserted its rights against the prevailing opinion that a patriotic worker was a compliant one. More conventional, but no less useful, is Alain Hennebicque's study of munitions czar Albert Thomas and the transformation he wrought on French industry. Taken as a whole, the essays provide an important window on a society which, more than most, was consumed by the Great War.

-JV

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James Michael Hill, **Celtic Warfare, 1595-1763** (Edinburgh: John Donald, 1995) £13.95 paper, 203 pages, ISBN 0-85976-151-7

Hill raises many provocative points in this study of the evolution of Celtic warfare. Or perhaps it is more accurate to say lack of evolution, for the author demonstrates that there were important continuities in the Celtic method of warfare from the 16th century to the 18th century. First amongst these was the tactical offensive, the attack mounted "against all reason, against all odds," as Hill puts it. This was the centrepiece of the Celtic practice, and Hill argues that the Celts relied on "unbounded fury, strength, and dexterity to overcome a lack of military sophistication." The author also draws the interesting parallel with the methods of war employed by other primitive peoples, like the Afghan hill tribes or the Sudanese Mahdi. Like the Celts, they too relied on the individual prowess of the warrior,

employed as part of a charge. The difference, of course, is that the Celtic civilization developed in the most civilized part of the world, where the military arts had already advanced beyond this primitive state.

The book ends with a chapter on the French and Indian Wars, in which Highland units suffered heavy casualties, in large part because of their determination to carry the attack to the enemy, regardless of the prudence of such a tactic. This chapter, and General Wolfe's concerns that it might be counter-productive to try and rein in the Highlanders, is an interesting perspective from which to view the 20th century Highland soldier, whose success in battle was based partly on the enemy's realization that these "ladies from hell" could not always be counted upon to do the rational thing.

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Howard Temperley, ed., **Gubbins' New Brunswick Journals, 1811 and 1813** (Fredericton, NB: New Brunswick Heritage Publications, 1980) \$9.95, 92 pages, ISBN 0-88838-007-0.

At the time these journals were recorded, Joseph Gubbins was one of the senior British officers in New Brunswick. In 1813 he served as military commander of the province for a brief period, but his primary duties involved training the local militia. One of his many tasks was to conduct an annual inspection of the units in the province, each of which required two or three months' travelling around the province by horse and canoe. These journals were kept during two of those tours. Of course, Gubbins reflected on training methods, unit finances, the proclivities of local worthies, fortifications, and manoeuvres, but he also recorded his observations of local curiosities, such as cider-making techniques and the method of rescuing a horse which had fallen through the ice.

So, this book is as much a record of life in early 19th century New Brunswick as it is a record of the working of the provincial militia.

Gubbins returned to England in 1816 and died in Southampton in 1832. But for these fascinating journals, he might well have slipped into obscurity.

-GS

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Theodor Meron, **Henry's Wars and Shakespeare's Laws: Perspectives on the Laws of War in the Later Middle Ages** (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1993) \$67.50, 237 pages, ISBN 0-19-825811-9.

Shakespeare's Henry V is more than just the source of the greatest speech in the English language on military comradeship ("We few, we happy few, we band of brothers ..."). As Meron demonstrates, it is a fascinating window into contemporary attitudes to warfare and the conduct of individuals and nations in war. The play sheds light on declarations of war and truce agreements, which are couched in dramatic terms but still hold to all of the contemporary norms. The scenes surrounding the Battle of Agincourt examine the thorny issues of prisoners of war, reprisals, and military necessity. In the largest single section of the book, Meron discusses Shakespeare's account of the siege of Harfleur and the lessons it holds regarding medieval attitudes towards the treatment of populations in occupied territory.

Particularly interesting is the author's frequent reference to 20th century laws of war. He points out that "echoes of the medieval doctrine of just war still resonate in some theories of modern international law" (213). Indeed, the reader will be struck by the fact that many abuses that punctuated Henry's wars had to wait centuries until they were addressed in any systematic fashion by international lawmakers.

-WHW

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Tony Keene, **The Ship That Voted No, and Other Stories of Ships and the Sea** (Hantsport, NS: Lancelot Press, 1995) \$7.95 paper, 86 pages, ISBN 0-88999-588-5.

Stephen Conrad Geneja, **The Cruiser Uganda: One War - Many Conflicts** (Corbyville, ON: Tyendinaga Publishers, 1994) 282 pages, ISBN 0-9698754-0-1.

It is a great irony that HMCS *Uganda's* most well known act did not involve a shot fired in anger: the vote by a majority of the ship's crew that they were not willing to volunteer for service in the Pacific theatre, and the subsequent departure of the ship from the theatre while the fighting was still very much in progress. Tony Keene certainly deals with much more than the *Uganda* incident in his collection of short stories. The sinking of the HMCS *Clayoquot* on Christmas Eve 1944, mutinies and acts of collective disobedience in the RCN, the actions of the schooner *Nancy* during the War of 1812 - these and other episodes are covered in brief thumbnail sketches. Nevertheless the *Uganda* episode is front and centre, which is unfortunate, for the focus on this one incident has obscured *Uganda's* achievements: supporting fire for the invasion of Sicily and the Salerno landings (as HMS *Uganda*); escort duty with the aircraft carriers of Task Force 57; the bombardment of Miyako, near Okinawa; and, as HMS *Quebec*, a series of large and important NATO manoeuvres.

It is to give the *Uganda* its due that Stephen Geneja set about to write the ship's biography. Geneja, who served on the *Uganda* as a teenager during the Second World War, recounts the ship's history and more in this fine book. It is full of photos, drawings, personal recollections, reproductions of documents, and anecdotes, while the text relates, not only *Uganda's* history, but the wider context in which that history occurred.

Unusually handsome for a privately published work, this work will be fascinating to naval veteran and historian alike.

-SB

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Robert Havard, **Wellington's Welsh General: A Life of Sir Thomas Picton** (London: Aurum Press [distributed in Canada by General Publishing], 1996) \$47.95, 279 pages, ISBN 1-85410-402-0.

The Duke of Wellington called him as "rough and foul-mouthed devil as ever lived." Lord Walsingham said he was "one of those men whose unprecedented cruelties had deluged our colonies with human blood." Others called him "the blood-stained tyrant." Yet Sir Thomas Picton was one of the most successful British generals of the age, despite a controversial term as governor of Trinidad and involvement in the failed expedition to Walcheren in 1809. Summoned to the Peninsular War by Wellington, he began a string of successes - Busaco, Fuentes de Onoro, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajoz, Vitoria - that ended with his death at Waterloo while leading a stunning counterattack which stopped the French in their tracks.

Picton's was a very full and controversial life, and Havard tells his story with verve and style. Using the general's letters and a wide range of contemporary accounts, he has written a sympathetic yet frank biography that captures the gallantry as well as the darker side of Picton. Regarding the Trinidad years, Havard concludes that "having been asked to do a difficult job, he had done it remarkably well, only to be told that he had done the wrong job" (254). How many times can that phrase be applied to relations between generals and politicians?

-SB

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Tom Roe, **Anzio Beachhead: Diary of a Signaller** (Falls Church, VA: NOVA Publications, 1994) \$19.95 US paper, 148 pages, ISBN 0-9513214-0-4.

Fred Sheehan, **Anzio: Epic of Bravery** (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1994 [1964]) \$14.95 US paper, 239 pages, ISBN 0-8061-2678-7.

At age 32, Tom Roe was a little older than the average soldier when he was called up in August 1941. He admitted to a knowledge of morse code, and expressed a preference for the navy. "So naturally," he writes, "I got calling up papers for the army" (13). Roe spent his war as a signaller with the 178th Medium Regiment of the Royal Artillery, a unit which, over the course of the Italian campaign, supported a wide variety of formations, including the 1st Canadian Division in the Campobasso area.

Anzio Beachhead is a bright, breezy memoir that has the spirit (if not the polish) of one of Spike Milligan's memoirs. Roe has a keen eye for irony; he recalls with some relish that the first film he saw in the makeshift cinema at Anzio was the inaptly titled "Mr. Lucky" - "selected by someone with a sardonic sense of humour," Roe notes (78), for few men who fought at Anzio consider themselves lucky to have been there. Still, one gets the impression from Roe that often comes from the best memoirists: that, despite the tragedy and trials, he wouldn't have missed it for the world.

Because the "big picture" of the Anzio operation is sometimes lacking in Roe's memoir, it would be well to read it in conjunction with a general history of Anzio. Sheehan's book is as good a place as any to start. First published in 1964, it does tend to show its age a little: his discussion of strategic matters, for example, would have benefitted from the findings of recent research and new document collections becoming available, and the turn-of-phrase is

sometimes a little dated. However, it does provide a broad and readable panorama of life on the Anzio beachhead, from the initial landings through the vicious attacks and counterattacks to the eventual breakout towards Rome. Even 30 years after its first publication, *Anzio: Epic of Bravery* can still provide good context within which to read a memoir like Roe's.

-JV

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Sheldon S. Cohen, **Yankee Sailors in British Gaols: Prisoners of War at Forton and Mill, 1777-83** (Newark: University of Delaware Press, 1995) \$38.50 US, 278 pages, ISBN 0-87413-564-8.

The prisons at Forton, near Portsmouth, and Mill, near Plymouth, were the temporary residences of some 3000 American POWs during the War of Independence. Most of these captives were seamen, taken prisoner under the provisions of North's Act (1777), which allowed for the incarceration in Britain of rebels found on armed vessels, and some of them spent over four years in captivity before the prisons were cleared of Americans in 1782.

Reading Cohen's well researched and most interesting narrative, one is struck by the similarities between his story and the experience of captivity in the 20th century. The same elements are all there: the impact of loneliness, boredom, and isolation; the urge to escape; the efforts of POW agents to ameliorate the conditions of captivity; and the protracted negotiations for exchange. Less convincing is Cohen's attempt to argue that "many distinctly American attitudes and traits can be discerned among these patriots" (219). The traits he discusses - unity, self-reliance, defiance of authority, ingenuity, perseverance - are not distinctly American but

rather are common to groups which performed well in captivity. They can be found, for example, among British airmen and Dutch officers in Second World War prison camps, Turkish prisoners in Korea, and captured Nazi submariners. To argue that these traits were peculiarly American or that they were constants in the American captivity experience and sprang from the American psyche and culture, is to leave unexplained the relatively poor performance in captivity of Americans captured during the Battle of the Bulge, in the Philippines, and in Korea.

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Albert Fowler, **Peacetime Padres: Canadian Protestant Military Chaplains, 1945-95** (St. Catharines, ON: Vanwell Publishing, 1996) 312 pages, ISBN 1-55125-026-8.

A fair amount of attention has been devoted to the work of military chaplains during wartime, but very few people have bothered to consider what those chaplains do once hostilities have ended. Albert Fowler joined the military as a chaplain in 1971, and so is especially well qualified to tell that story. After a brief overview of chaplains' activities during the Second World War and in Korea, he discusses the particular problems the chaplain service has faced when ministering to a peacetime military: agitating to have chapels built on bases, finding an administrative place for itself during unification, meeting the spiritual needs of Canada's far-flung peacekeepers, engaging in a wide variety of stewardship and outreach programmes, and, particularly interestingly, ministering to Canadian soldiers on patrol during the FLQ crisis. The peacetime padre might face different challenges than his wartime predecessor, but Fowler demonstrates that those challenges

are no less demanding of the chaplain's spirit of understanding and cooperation.

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Keith Robbins, **Politicians, Diplomacy and War in Modern British History** (Rio Grande, OH: Hambledon Press, 1994) \$55.00 US, 316 pg, ISBN 1-85285-111-2.

A number of essays in this collection will be of interest to the military specialist. Robbins' attempt to gauge the mood of Britain in the summer of 1914 is a valuable supplement to the work of Robert Rutherford and Jean-Jacques Becker, and reveals how much research remains to be done before we can understand the mood of the west as it slid towards war. The account of Lord Bryce's wartime career is a fascinating glimpse at the man who is best known for chairing a committee to examine reports of German atrocities in France and Belgium. There is also a useful examination of Britain's failure to bring Bulgaria into the war on the Allied side, which concludes that the justice which Bulgaria demanded as the price for its entry "could be granted by the Central Powers largely at the expense of their enemies, while for the Allies it could only be done at the expense of their friends" (238). Other chapters deal with British diplomacy surrounding the Sudeten question, Ramsay MacDonald and the League of Nations, and the imperialism of Sir Edward Grey.

The essays have all been published elsewhere, so none of them is new. The collection does, however, cast interesting light on the continuity of themes underlying 25 years of Robbins' work.

-JV

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Richard H. Kohn, ed., **The United States Military under the Constitution of the United States, 1789-1989** (New York: New York University Press, 1991) 463 pages, ISBN 0-8147-4638-1.

The first American number of the *Revue Internationale d'Histoire Militaire*, this collection was undertaken "to commemorate two centuries of constitutional government and American security." In this regard, it was intended to fill a gap in the historiography by examining one of the least studied features of the Constitution, its provisions for collective security. It brings together some of the most prominent historians in the field: Allan R. Millett, on the constitution and the citizen-soldier; Forrest Pogue on George C. Marshall and civil-military relationships; David F. Trask on the presidency and national security from McKinley to Wilson; and Arthur S. Link and John Whiteclay Chambers on Woodrow Wilson as Commander in Chief. Other articles (there are 13 in all) examine the experiences of black Americans who attempted to serve their country, the regular army and aid to the civil power, and the sacking of Douglas MacArthur during the Korean War. Each article could stand on its own; together, they provide a valuable window into the evolution of the relationship between the military and the constitution in its first 200 years.

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Armed Forces in the Canadian West, vol. 32 no. 4 of **The Journal of the West** (Manhattan, KS: Sunflower University Press, 1993) \$10.00 US, 120 pages, ISSN 0022-5169.

This special issue of the quarterly journal of western history and culture was edited by Ken Coates and William R. Morrison, and was intended to raise the profile of the military

history of Canada's west. The editors have contributed an essay on Americans in the Canadian northwest which is a nice summary of their monographs on the subject, and W.A.B. Douglas and William Glover have written two good articles on the defence of the British Columbia coast. Other articles examine the Northwest Rebellion and the fall of Batoche, Indian warfare in western Canada, and the west during the Second World War (by Reg Roy). A concluding photo essay documents the experience of celebrated military historian Robin Higham as an aircrew cadet in Calgary in 1944. An added bonus is that the articles are all profusely illustrated.

-JV

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Jack D. Welsh, **Medical Histories of Confederate Generals** (Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 1995) \$35.00 US, 315 pages, ISBN 0-87338-505-5.

Jack D. Welsh, **Medical Histories of Union Generals** (Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 1996) \$35.00 US, 442 pages, ISBN 0-87338-552-7.

At first glance, this might appear to be a strange topic for study. How much do we need to know about the medical history of any given general? Do we really need to know that Nathan Bedford Forrest died of chronic diarrhoea, or that William T. Sherman was an asthmatic?

In fact, we do need to know these sorts of details if we are to understand the course of the battles fought by those generals. No commander is in prime physical condition for every battle he fights, and we must take account of his physical state in the same way that we must take account of the morale of his troops or the quality of his artillery support. So, Sherman's chronic ill-health (which included rheumatism, malaria, and diarrhoea) may well have had a

bearing on his conduct of operations; Forrest's medical problems (at least twice in 1864 he requested sick leave but was refused both times) may have had an impact on his operations in the last months of the Confederacy.

Notably, Welsh avoids such deductive reasoning. He has focused entirely on the medical aspects, preferring to leave to other historians the analysis of how those medical conditions might have impacted upon the course of a battle. Some tantalizing possibilities are raised, however. Welsh makes a convincing case, for example, that Albert S. Johnson died of wounds at Shiloh in April 1862 because nerve damage from an 1837 duelling injury prevented him from realizing how seriously wounded he was.

The service provided by these books, then, is to give military historians of the Civil War another lens through which to understand the twists and turns of the conflict. By appreciating the ailments endured by a general, we might come closer to understanding why that general succeeded or failed on any given day.

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Peter Padfield, **War Beneath the Sea: Submarine Conflict, 1939-1945** (London: Pimlico, 1997) £14 paper, 560 pages, ISBN 0-7126-7381-4

Probably one of the most valuable books ever written on submarine operations and countermeasures for World War II history, Padfield's work stresses the German side of the story for the Battle of the Atlantic and the American side in the war against Japan. Based on extensive, in-depth analysis and a first-class reading of sources, Padfield has thoroughly narrated the trenchant details of the various campaigns. The thoroughness leads to tediousness, but diligence will be a blessing to readers seeking reports on fates of a certain convoy

or the disappearance of a commerce raider. Padfield deals well with operations and communications, but he does not always follow through. A convoy bringing Allied troops from Australia escapes the U-Boat net, but Padfield does not explain why. Surely if the German command system was so effective there is a reason why this large force was allowed to reach the British Isles.

Students will find his massive chronology of submarine campaigns to be of great value. They will also welcome the very full bibliography. Details of various submarines are to be found in an appendix, and of added interest is contemporary discussion and observation from British and German sources about the German Type XXI Elektro U-boat. The work is enhanced by photographs and maps, and by an index. Padfield makes incidental reference to the Royal Canadian Navy, which may trouble some readers who may cry out for more. What he covers is adequate to his task. Indeed, the best part of this book is the fact that he covers the Pacific as well as the Atlantic, with some passing attention to the Mediterranean. This book is in the "Bravo" category.

- BG

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Vice Admiral James F. Calvert, USN (Ret.), **Silent Running: My Years on a World War II Attack Submarine** (Toronto: John Wiley & Sons, 1995) 282 pages, \$39.50, ISBN 0-471-12778-7.

A record of impressions and memories of submarine experiences during nine war patrols in the Pacific against the Japanese, this book is the story of a young, green officer of USS *Jack* who rose to be second in command of that submarine by the end of the war. The book also recounts aspects of Calvert's experience in Australia between war patrols. The author writes with descriptive verve. The pace is rapid. The story

is "sharp end." The visual imagery is sharp. Materialists will find much here on the development of the fleet submarine, resolution of torpedo difficulties, and function of the submarine tender. Good descriptions about loading and firing torpedoes are welcome. Good photographs and maps, plus a who's who of where the men of USS *Jack* are today enhance this lively book.

-BG

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Sean M. Maloney, **War Without Battles: Canada's NATO Brigade in Germany, 1951-1993** (Whitby, ON: McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 1997) \$29.99, 560 pages, ISBN 0-07-552892-5.

This seminal work fills a yawning gap in the literature on Canadian military history. It does so by employing a panoply of sources, most notably interviews with soldiers whose anecdotes put a human - and often humorous - face on the story. Although the book recounts the "life" of Canada's NATO brigade, it is only partly descriptive in nature; the author purposefully strives to demonstrate that, despite what conventional wisdom has suggested, the Canadian Army's contribution to deterring a Warsaw Pact invasion of Western Europe during the Cold War was always important and more often than not viable. Over four decades the Canadians exhibited a superb degree of professionalism and dedication which earned them an outstanding reputation among their allies.

Maloney has assembled a persuasive phalanx of evidence which goes a long way towards dispelling the notion that the Canadian military presence in Germany was merely symbolic. Nonetheless, this counter-argument is less compelling than it might have been due to the book's desire to address so many different aspects of the brigade's existence (such as its "social

development"). It is torn between fulfilling the functions of a unit history and substantiating a scholarly thesis. In the end, at 500 pages, the monograph's comprehensiveness almost gets the better of its revisionism. Even so, this book makes one appreciate the significant role which Canada's NATO soldiers - low in number but high in quality - played in what was arguably the most successful "peacekeeping" mission ever mounted.

-DL

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Colin K. Duquemin, **Stick to the Guns: A Short History of the 10th Field Battery, Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery** (St. Catharines, ON: Norman Enterprises, 1996, order from author, 56 Highland Ave., St. Catharines, ON, L2R 4J1) \$17.45, 133 pages, ISBN 0-9698994-2-4.

Tracing its lineage back to 1794, the 10th Battery has seen many incarnations over the years but has always been among the first units to respond to the call. Precursor batteries served in the War of 1812 and the Fenian Raids, while the 10th went overseas with the First Contingent in October 1914, and later was part of the 1st Division, journeying to Europe in December 1939. Each time, the battery has been where the fighting was the thickest.

Its story is told largely through letters printed in the *St. Catharines Standard* (for the First World War) and a range of published sources (for the Second World War). The 1914-1918 section is the strongest, with some wonderful accounts of life in an artillery battery. One of the best is a detailed description of a typical barrage in 1917, written by a young gunner from Grimsby, Ontario. The Second World War section, on the other hand, is enlivened by the recollections of war artist Alex Comfort, who was attached to the 10th Battery for a time. Specialists will doubtless wish there was more

detail from archival sources, but *Stick to the Guns* is an excellent thumbnail sketch of a distinguished unit.

-SC

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James Philip Noffsinger, **World War I Aviation: A Bibliography of Books in English, French, German and Italian** (Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 1997) \$98 US, 609 pages, ISBN 0-8108-3085-X.

First published in 1987, this excellent guide provides references to thousands of books on Great War aviation: 3092 in English, 344 in French, 624 in German, and 157 in Italian. The books range from the commonplace (Arch Whitehouse's 1963 *Decisive Air Battles of the First World War*) to the obscure (D.C.M. Hume's 1919 *Nursairy Rhymes*, a collection of humorous poems from the RAF based on nursery rhymes). Also included are memorial volumes which mention aviators, and technical volumes and training manuals. Each entry includes a bibliographic description of the book and, in many cases, a brief synopsis; a price list for some of the books is also included. The one weakness to this otherwise first-class guide is the index, which includes such massive and unhelpful entries as "Air weapon, Germany."

-SC

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Charles J. Masters, **Glidersmen of Neptune: The American D-Day Glider Attack** (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1995) \$19.95 US paper, 111 pages, ISBN 0-8093-2008-8.

The glider must surely be one of the shortest-lived weapons in the history of warfare. It lasted less than a half-dozen years, from its first use against Fort Eben Emael in Belgium in 1940, through Crete, Sicily, and Normandy, to

Arnhem in September 1944 and the crossing of the Rhine in March 1945. Shortly after the Second World War, it was superseded by the helicopter as a means of delivering troops by air to specific locations.

Masters' book provides a brief glimpse at one glider attack, the operation in support of the American landing at Utah Beach, which was more successful than anyone had imagined. Leigh-Mallory had forecast a 70% loss rate before the glidermen even got into action, a rate that Bradley was willing to accept if it safeguarded the Utah landing. Actual casualties were much lower, averaging about 11% for the entire glider operation. Masters goes on to argue that the operation might well have been one of the key differences between the success at Utah and the very costly landings at Omaha Beach, where no glidermen had been deployed to seize key junctions and prevent German reinforcements from moving up. This conclusion remains unproven, however, for Masters does not follow the glidermen into action; his narrative essentially ends with the gliders touching down in France, and one wonders how the soldiers fared in action once they left their "flying coffins." Masters, whose father was a gliderman, might choose this as the subject of another book.

-JV

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Mark Zuehlke, **The Gallant Cause: Canadians in the Spanish Civil War, 1936-39** (North Vancouver: Whitecap Books, 1996) \$26.95, 280 pages, ISBN 1-55110-488-1.

The Spanish Civil war has long been an unusually good source of pathos. The idealism of the International Brigaders (few soldiers can have enlisted for more selfless motives) who divined the need to fight fascism long before it was a fashionable cause, the refusal of the western democracies to allow military aid to enter Spain

to balance the immense military resources being funnelled into the country by Germany and Italy, the martyrdom of the Spanish people - all of these give the conflict especially tragic hues.

And yet this is a curiously unafflicting book, and it is difficult to say why. Zuehlke has used all the right sources and has covered all the essential elements of the war in a competent manner. Unfortunately he never rises above this to engage the reader fully, as in more successful books like Ronald Fraser's *Blood of Spain* or even Victor Hoar's *The Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion* (1969). The narrative is sometimes choppy and the form the book takes (what the author calls literary non-fiction) is really only standard historical narrative sans footnotes. There is a wonderful book to be written about Canadians in the Spanish Civil War. Unfortunately, this one falls somewhat short.

-JV

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Iain R. Smith, **The Origins of the South African War, 1899-1902** (London: Longman [distributed in Canada by Addison-Wesley], 1996) \$41.95 paper, 455 pages, ISBN 0-582-49520-2.

Thanks to the influential writings of J.A. Hobson and V.I. Lenin, the Boer War has been interpreted as the tawdriest of imperial wars, fomented by gold magnates so they could gain full control of the Transvaal's immense gold resources. As Smith demonstrates in this impressive study, the reality was rather less sinister. Certainly there were people in the British government who wanted to manoeuvre the country towards war, but he finds little substance in some of the old scapegoats. The gold magnates were hardly united in their actions and, in any case, war was not necessary for them to gain full control of the goldfields. Neither was the Uitlander grievance issue decisive, despite the rhetoric of

protecting the God-given rights of British subjects. Rather, it was merely a means to an end, and that end was ensuring British dominance in South Africa. And yet, as Smith argues, this end did not require the annexation of the Transvaal; a friendly government in Pretoria would have suited British goals entirely. The war's causes, then, were largely political: it only came about because the Kruger government resisted British plans for a South African federation. Despite the cogency of Smith's arguments, however, one suspects that the "gold bugs" will remain scapegoats for some years to come.

-JV

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John C. Fredriksen, **War of 1812 Eyewitness Accounts: An Annotated Bibliography** (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1997) \$79.50 US, 328 pages, ISBN 0-313-30291-X

This excellent reference book will be an indispensable source for people interested in any aspect of the War of 1812. It provides full references to nearly 900 primary sources on the war, written by regular soldiers, militiamen, seamen, and civilians. Each entry gives the chronology covered in the text, the author's affiliation and position, a description of the account's subject matter, and a brief excerpt from the account. So, for example, we find an account of outpost duty at Fort McKay in late 1814 written by Captain T.G. Anderson of the Canadian militia (and published in the Wisconsin Historical Collections of 1882), whose greatest concern seems to have been keeping his men sober. The book is also very easy to use, as a subject index allows the reader to locate, say, all accounts which mention the Battle of Stoney Creek or the Lower Canadian militia.

One reservation regarding this fine guide - accounts by aboriginals surely should not be listed under

the section headed "foreign nationals."

-GS

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John W. Young, **The Longman Companion to Cold War and Detente, 1941-91** (London: Longman [distributed in Canada by Addison-Wesley], 1993) 370 pages, ISBN 0-582-06172-5.

The third in Longman's Companions to History series, this excellent reference guide is divided into sections that provide the newswatcher with all the necessary background to understand current affairs. It begins with a chronology of the major events of the Cold War, and then provides more detail on those events in three sections dealing with crises and conflicts, conferences and summits, and treaties and organizations. There is a list of the principal office-holders of the major powers, the UN, and NATO, and short biographies of over a hundred of the most important political figures of the Cold War. Rounding out the volume is a glossary, statistical data on US-Soviet strategic nuclear weapons, an annotated bibliography, and a map section. Concise, well written, and easy to use, this companion will be an asset for anyone interested in the history and politics of the modern world.

-SL

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Lonnie J. White, **The 90th Division in World War I: The Texas-Oklahoma Draft Division in the Great War** (Manhattan, KS: Sunflower University Press, 1996) \$23.95 US paper, 277 pages, ISBN 0-89745-191-0.

The 90th Division was authorized in August 1917, trained near San Antonio, Texas, and arrived in France roughly a year after its creation. In his second divisional history, White

tells the story of the unit from its creation through its first actions at St. Mihiel and in the Meuse-Argonne offensive in September 1918, to the Armistice, which the division celebrated around the town of Stenay. The 90th was just the second National Army division to see action, yet it was under fire for only 75 days. Readers familiar with the CEF will be immediately struck by the contrast with the divisions of the Canadian Corps, the last of which was in action before the 90th was even contemplated.

This would have been a better book had the author made more of the comparison between the 90th and the 36th Division, the Texas-Oklahoma National Guard division and the subject of an earlier monograph by White. He makes tantalizing comments at various points in the text, especially when comparing the two units' success in battle, but one wishes he had said more to compare the experience of the draftee soldier with the national guardsman. Still, this is a very solid history of a division that, according to some, was one of the two best National Army divisions of the AEF.

-JV

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Harry Stone, **Writing in the Shadow: Resistance Publications in Occupied Europe** (London: Frank Cass [distributed in North America by International Specialized Book Services], 1996) \$47.50 US, 215 pages, ISBN 0-7146-3424-7.

It may well be that truth is the first casualty of war, but countless amateur journalists risked their lives to ensure that the truth was disseminated through occupied Europe. Their efforts are the subject of this fascinating and profusely illustrated book. Stone has been collecting clandestine publications since the end of the Second World War, and the book is filled with reproductions of the

news sheets he has amassed over the years. They range from fairly primitive hand- or type-written sheets to quite sophisticated typeset newspapers, complete with photographs and graphic art. There are also some fascinating photos: the Gestapo arriving in a furniture van to raid a clandestine publisher's office; citizens of Amsterdam flocking to collect news sheets tossed from an upper window; and communist journalists mugging for a photo that would have cost them their lives had it been discovered.

The figures Stone provides reveal the importance of these publications in subverting the occupation forces. Belgium had some 500 clandestine journals, while France had 300, some of which boasted a circulation of over 250,000 copies. One French paper, *Humanity*, published 15 million copies over the course of the war. The estimate that the total illicit readership in France was more than half the population proves how much these publications must have meant to Europeans living under Nazi occupation.

-WHW

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Peter Dennis and Jeffrey Grey, **Emergency and Confrontation: Australian Military Operations in Malaya and Borneo, 1950-66** (St. Leonards: Allen & Unwin [distributed in North America by Paul & Company], 1996) \$59.95 US, 396 pages, ISBN 1-86373-302-7.

This is official history at its finest, an exhaustive, impeccably researched, and engagingly written account of a series of conflicts that was confused and occasionally inconclusive. Australian involvement in Malaya and Borneo occurred in the context of the "forward defence" doctrine, which suggested that Australia's defence should occur as far away from Australia as possible. As a consequence, Australian troops

were committed to action against soldiers of the Malayan communist party, and later in Borneo in a struggle between Indonesia and the fledgling democracy of Malaysia. It cannot have been an easy history to write. Most of the fighting consisted of small-unit operations in low-intensity warfare, and the outcome of jungle patrols must have been difficult to assess, even given full access to government documents. Dennis and Grey, however, do an admirable job, recounting the operations of individual patrols but never losing sight of the wider political context in which those patrols were mounted. They conclude that Australian involvement was generally successful, both in securing foreign policy objectives and in proving the mettle of the soldier. Of the Confrontation in Borneo, Grey writes "it was an important victory gained in a short time at a low price." This, of course, distinguishes the operation from Australia's other military venture of the period, Vietnam.

-JV

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Francis Parkman, **The Conspiracy of Pontiac and the Indian War after the Conquest of Canada**, with an introduction by Michael N. McConnell, 2 vols. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1994 [1851]) \$12.50 US paper each, 397 and 393 pages, ISBN 0-8032-8733-X, 0-8032-8737-2.

First published in 1851, Parkman's epic saga is the sort of book that could be a staple of undergraduate courses in historical practice. Its subject is the struggle waged in the early 1760s between Indian and British forces over who would control the Great Lakes region and the Ohio Valley, but Parkman's version of events has recently been called into question by other historians. If it is now of little value as a work of history, however, it is still highly revealing of Parkman and his time. His depiction of Pontiac and his

people as dangerous and treacherous (Parkman had little time for the "noble savage" image) was entirely consistent with the views of the majority of white Americans, and *The Conspiracy of Pontiac* thus becomes an extended explication of Manifest Destiny: the aboriginal nations were doomed because the dominion of Anglo-Saxon peoples over America was inevitable. At the same time, the book owes much to the German historicists and the Romantic historians who were reshaping the craft of history in the early 19th century.

Even if *The Conspiracy of Pontiac* says more about the 19th century than the 1760s, it is impossible to deny Parkman's achievement as a writer. His narrative is lucid, gripping, and finely wrought, and he had a great knack for the powerful image and the resonant phrase. It is easy to criticize Parkman as a scholar, but few historians before or since have been able to match his masterful prose.

-LF

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George C. Bidlake, ed., **The Last Year of the War as seen by Gunner Temple Sutherland** (Fredericton: private [available from Royal Canadian Legion Branch #4, P.O. Box 132, Fredericton, NB, E3B 4Y2], 1996) 56 pages, ISBN 0-9681347-0-X

"Temp" Sutherland was 26 years old when he enlisted in the 9th Siege Battery, CEF in April 1917. He sailed from Saint John with his unit in December, reaching the front in June 1918 with the 12th Siege Battery. The unit was involved in most of the major battles of the Hundred Days, but Sutherland missed the last month of the war after being gassed in October 1918. He returned to Canada in January 1919, took up the family painting business, and died in 1967.

Bidlake has used Sutherland's pocket diary as the basis for this

book. The diary is scanty, entries occasionally being only a dozen or so words, so he has supplemented it with contemporary newspaper accounts, the recollections of Sutherland's comrades, and other material from local archives. More details from the battery's unpublished history would have been welcome, for the context of Sutherland's entries is often lacking; it is not entirely clear at times what role the 12th played in the final battles of the war. Still, the book gives a nice glimpse at Sutherland's life with the guns, and shows how a simple diary can be fleshed out to tell a fuller story.

-JV

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René Chartrand, **Canadian Military Heritage, Vol. 2, 1755-1871** (Montreal: Art Global, 1995) 238 pages, ISBN 2-920718-45-2.

The second volume in Chartrand's series, this book covers the period of the Conquest to the withdrawal of British troops from the Quebec Citadel. In all respects, it fully lives up to the standard of the first volume. The book operates on a number of levels. In the first place, it provides fine accounts of early campaigns, from the battles that preceded the Conquest through the War of 1812 and the Rebellions of 1837-38 to the Fenian Raids of 1866-67. The accounts are well written and based on the best sources, and provide an excellent summary of the transformation of Canada's military institutions. On another level, the book is almost a social history of Canada's soldiers. There are sections devoted to the daily life of officers and other ranks, the raising and running of militia units, and the impact of war on civilian populations. Again, the sources are impressive and the writing crisp and clear. Perhaps most importantly, this is a superb visual history of Canada's military heritage. It is lavishly illustrated (almost entirely in colour) with

photographs, contemporary drawings and etchings, and artists' representations of uniforms and regalia. The author has gathered works of art from collections in North America and Europe, and has woven them together into a fascinating visual record of the place of the military in the fabric of Canadian society.

Chartrand points out that by 1870, only one Canadian in 100 was volunteering to serve in the militia, a tremendous change from the situation a century earlier, when all men had done militia service. This volume, then, covers an important period in the nation's history: the period during which Canadians apparently became an unmilitary people.

-JV

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Sir Arthur T. Harris, **Despatch on War Operations, 23rd February, 1942 to 8th May, 1945** (London: Frank Cass [distributed in North America by International Specialized Book Services], 1995) liv + 211 pages, \$45.00 US, ISBN 0-7146-4692-X.

As the preface to the *Despatch* begins, "There are few more controversial figures in modern British history than Sir Arthur Harris, architect of the RAF's bomber offensive against Germany." Even 50 years after the war, the mere mention of Harris, the bomber offensive or the attacks on Hamburg and Dresden are enough to cause heated debate. This was clearly evident in Canada regarding the "Death by Moonlight" episode of *The Valour and the Horror* which triggered a lawsuit by veterans.

The publication of Harris' own account of his time at Bomber Command is a most welcome addition to the literature of the Combined Bomber Offensive. The *Despatch* was originally to be published immediately after the war, but due to the detailed technical and statistical

information contained in the appendices, it was deemed to be too sensitive. Harris was never under any illusion that it would be published. He commented to Lord Tedder that, "I never expected the Air Ministry to publish it and it was not written with that in mind, neither could it have been written, with truth or value, to that end." Therein lies the value of Harris' *Despatch* today, his untarnished view of the bomber offensive.

It is evident from the start that Harris pulls no punches in his account. He maintained throughout the war that strategic bombing was "a potentially decisive weapon" and that it was a central part of Allied strategy due to the fact that it was the only way to hit back at the Germans, at least early in the war. These beliefs are reiterated at the start of the *Despatch*. The first part of the *Despatch* is a chronological examination of the bomber offensive. However, far greater space is given to a statistical examination of the campaign and the appendices which detail the various technical aspects associated with bombing.

On its own, Harris' *Despatch* belongs in the library of anyone interested in the strategic bombing campaign. However, this version has been enriched with the addition of a detailed introduction by Sebastian Cox, editor of the Frank Cass series in Air Power Studies (of which this is the third release), which puts Harris' interpretations into context with later studies, an essay from noted German historian Horst Boog on the German view of Harris, and by the inclusion of the confidential Air Staff Memorandum on the *Despatch* which contains the comments of those criticized in the *Despatch*. Overall, a very worthwhile volume.

-MB

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