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David M. Goldfrank, **The Origins of the Crimean War** (London: Longman (distributed in Canada by Addison-Wesley), 1994), $38.95 paper, 360 pages, ISBN 0-582-49055-3.

A recent addition to Longman's Origins of Modern Wars series, Goldfrank's book uses a wide range of archival collections in Britain, France, Belgium, Sweden, and the former Soviet Union to throw new light on what was a preventable conflict. He argues that the war, traditionally viewed as a manifestation of the "Eastern Question," was in fact much more linked to the domestic concerns of the participants. The book has much to say about the machinations of the great political leaders of the mid-nineteenth century, who displayed a disturbing willingness to heighten international tensions, as well as disturbing unwillingness to work towards a peaceful solution. It is a fascinating story, and one that reflects poorly on most of Europe's great statesmen.

The Origins of Modern Wars series now runs to a dozen volumes, covering everything from the Italian Wars of Independence to the First World War. It has evolved into a very useful series that provides single-volume studies of the most important conflicts of history.

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Herb Peppard, **The LightHearted Soldier: A Canadian's Exploits with the Black Devils in WWII** (Halifax: Nimbus Publishing, 1994), $14.95 paper, 196 pages, ISBN 1-55109-067-8.

The First Special Service Force: A Commemorative History, July 1942 - January 1945 (Privately published (available from the FSSF Association, 262 Pine Knob Circle, Moneta, Virginia, 24121-2609), 1995), $50.00 US, 168 pages.

Hollywood transformed the First Special Service Force, known to its members simply as The Force, into the Devils' Brigade, a ragtag collection of misfits who regularly conquer the Germans on the late show. In reality, the Force was made up volunteer Canadian and American soldiers specially trained in mountaineering, parachuting, night attacks, and hand-to-hand combat. These two books offer very different spotlights on that elite unit.

The Herb Peppard who emerges from the memoirs has something of a Devils' Brigade air about him. He was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in the field but went AWOL five times (episodes which receive more coverage than his battle experiences), the last time while recovering from a leg wound sustained in Italy. He spent a week sightseeing in Rome before being picked up by the MPs and tossed into the jug. Peppard was lucky enough to escape serious punishment because his decoration ceremony coincided with his return to the unit.

The LightHearted Soldier is not so much a memoir as a series of vignettes about Peppard's experiences with the Force. There

are few accounts of combat, and the reader is hard-pressed to discern the role of the Force in the Italian campaign. Indeed, there is little in the book to suggest that the FSSF was any different than any other unit. For the full story, one must turn to the unit's commemorative history.

This volume, not unlike a high school yearbook, includes a brief history of the unit's operations and short biographies of some surviving Forcemen. In this, it is invaluable in filling the gaps in Peppard's memoir. The unit (which seldom had more than 1800 men at any one time) made its reputation at Anzio, where it defended considerably more of the beachhead's perimeter than the American 3rd Division. By constantly raiding enemy positions, taking prisoners, and pushing the perimeter back, the Force transformed itself from an obscure unit into one that was feared by the German forces in the Italian theatre. When it was finally disbanded in December 1944, the FSSF had become famous as one of the best units in the US Army. Sadly, the Canadian component was broken up to reinforce other units in the field, while the Americans too were posted to fill holes in the Airborne divisions. Yet the spirit of the unit remained, and these two books bear out the adage, "Once a Forceman, always a Forceman."

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Chris Christiansen, **Seven Years Among Prisoners of War**, trans. Ida Egede Winther (Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 1994), $34.95 US, 221 pages, ISBN 0-8214-1069-5.

Chris Christiansen was in the unusual position of being able to evaluate captivity from both sides of the wire. He spent the war years as a YMCA delegate visiting prison camps in central Germany to ensure that Allied POWs were adequately supplied, and after the war performed the same duties among German prisoners in Britain and Egypt. Between the two assignments, the author experienced the other side of the coin as a prisoner in Russian jails, incarcerated for reasons which are still not entirely clear to him.

The book's main interest lies in its elucidation of the author's on-the-job education. He was evidently ill-prepared for his wartime work, and his recollections of Allied POWs show surprisingly little insight for someone in his position. However after the war, and after his sojourn in the Soviet Union, Christiansen was clearly more attuned to the problems of the POW. It is in this section, when writing of the plight of German soldiers stagnating in Egypt in 1947 and 1948, that the author's empathy and understanding come through.

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Chris Coulthard-Clark, **The RAAF in Vietnam: Australian Air Operations in the Vietnam War, 1962-75** (St. Leonards, NSW: Allen & Unwin (distributed in North America by Paul & Company), 1996), $59.95 US, 412 pages, ISBN 1-86373-305-1.

The Australians have always been adept at writing official histories. C.E.W. Bean's series on the Great War is a fascinating if idiosyncratic account, while the Second World War volumes, if somewhat less engaging, surpass Bean both in objectivity and scholarship. With the fourth volume of the official history of Australia's involvement in south-east Asian conflicts from 1948-75, Chris Coulthard-Clark fully lives up to these high standards.

He has written an impeccably researched account that describes air operations in great detail, yet at the same time sets them in the context of Australian defence policy and American objectives in south-east Asia. This profusely illustrated book covers all aspects of the RAAF's involvement, from the operations of helicopter gunships to transport missions (many flown in Canadian-built De Havilland Caribous) to the work of volunteer airmen in building accommodation for Vietnamese orphans. For an examination of the political controversy behind Australia's presence in Vietnam, one must look to another volume of the official history. *The RAAF in Vietnam*, however, can quite easily be read in isolation, as a case study of the conduct of air operations under less than ideal conditions.

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Peter Pigott, **Flying Canucks: Famous Canadian Aviators** (Toronto: Hounslow Press, 1994), $19.99 paper, 178 pages, ISBN 0-88882-175-1.

From helicopter pioneer Carl Agar to Avro Arrow test pilot Jan Zurakowski, Pigott has provided brief biographies of 37 of Canada's greatest aviation figures. The short sketches are well written and nicely illustrated, and cover most of the war heroes, test pilots, industry pioneers, and bush pilots that one would expect to see in such a volume. The book's major weakness is the lack of a bibliography. Canadian aviation histories and memoirs range from the superb to the indifferent, and Pigott would have done a service by suggesting further reading for people interested in learning more about any of the figures profiled. Still, *Flying Canucks* is a nice way to start any aviation library, and is particularly well suited to the young reader who is developing an interest in flight.

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Jeffery Williams, **First in the Field: Gault of the Patricias** (St. Catharines, ON: Vanwell, 1995), $29.95, 278 pages, ISBN 1-55068-055-2.

The Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry lives on in the Canadian Forces, but its founder is now all but forgotten. After reading Williams' biography, this fact strikes one as sad but fitting. Hamilton Gault was a man born

into fortune whose life nevertheless was filled with misfortune. The loss of his leg in battle, the occasional impression that he had become an outsider in the regiment that he founded, a long and messy divorce, the death of a lover in an auto accident (Gault himself was driving the car), the disappointment of being excluded from court - these are just a few of the travails that punctuated Gault's full life.

And yet the Gault of this fascinating biography remains a noble if tragic figure, unbowed by what befell him. Despite the disappointments, he retained a passionate interest in the Princess Pats and was constantly solicitous of its welfare. He was generous to a fault, deeply loyal to old friends from the regiment, and, it must be admitted, a man born out of his time. One of the true characters of Canadian military history, Gault's death in 1958 was in some ways the passing of an age.

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W.W. Frazer, **A Trepid Aviator: Bombay to Bangkok** (Burnstown, ON: General Store Publishing, 1995), $17.95 paper, 265 pages, ISBN 1-896182-01-1.

It would be all too easy to bypass Frazer's memoirs. After all, he didn't fly in one of the marquee squadrons of 6 Group and played no role in the strategic bombing campaign against Germany. Instead, he flew Liberators out of India, bombing targets in Burma and Thailand, a theatre that has produced few personal accounts. To bypass *A Trepid Aviator*, however, is to miss one of the most engrossing RCAF memoirs published in recent years.

The appeal of Frazer's book lies in its style. He writes very much as he must have thought at the time, and the reader is able to discern what occupied the mind of a young pilot as he droned over the Indian Ocean for interminable hours. We also get fascinating glimpses of squadron life in the Far East, and a long and fascinating account of Frazer's thinking as he tried to put together a crew of men to fly with him. For anyone who thought that crewing up was a simple process, this passage is a real eye-opener. Indeed, anyone who has confined their reading to the European theatre should shift gears and read *A Trepid Aviator*. Evocative and engagingly written, it sheds light on a war that is all too often forgotten. And where else can you read what it was like to go dive-bombing in a Liberator?

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David A. Gordon, **The Stretcher Bearers** (Stroud, ON: Pacesetter Press, 1995), $14.95 paper, 127 pages, ISBN 0-9697317-2-8.

David Gordon is right to say that the stretcher bearer is often missing from the historical record. There are many accounts of soldiers being wounded, treated, and returned to combat but very little written on how casualties were evacuated from the front lines. It is to fill this gap that Gordon, who enlisted in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps in 1942, wrote *The Stretcher Bearers*.

It is not so much a memoir as a diary of the author's experiences with the 24th Field Ambulance, which was attached to the 11th Canadian Infantry Brigade and served the Perth Regiment. Each day's observations is prefaced with a reproduction of the situation report from the unit's War Diary, and there are reproductions of other unit documents as well. The book is fairly limited in scope, concentrating on the period from December 1944 to January 1945 when the unit was stationed in the Lemone-Ravenna sector. Nevertheless, Gordon has many interesting recollections to share, whether it be relations with Italian civilians or the feelings of the men at the sharp end towards Prime Minister Mackenzie King. Indeed, the reader is left wishing the book was a little longer, for there is clearly quite a bit that Gordon has not yet told.

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Paul K. Davis, **Ends and Means: The British Mesopotamian Campaign and Commission** (Cranbury, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 1994), $35.00 US, 279 pages, ISBN 0-8386-3530-X.

With *Ends and Means*, Paul Davis has provided the first full and impartial account of one of the little known disasters of the Great War, the abortive Mesopotamian campaign which culminated in the Empire's rout at Kut-al-Amara in 1916. Using impressive archival sources, he carefully dissects the campaign's roots, events, and aftermath, and demonstrates the degree to which mismanagement, personality conflicts, and logistical problems completely derailed what might have been a promising campaign. He concludes with a discussion of the commission struck to investigate the debacle and points out that the government decided against passing censure on those responsible, preferring instead to let public opinion and the press carry out the punishment.

The book's main weakness is that the writing does not live up to the quality of the research. There is tremendous story-telling potential in this tragic campaign, and the main characters provide much scope to the gifted writer. Unfortunately Davis' prose is often arid and pedestrian, and frequently fails to convey the tension of situations. That reservation aside, the depth of research makes *Ends and Means* a very welcome examination of an important campaign.

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Robert Fyne, **The Hollywood Propaganda of World War II** (Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1994), $32.50 US, 268 pages, ISBN 0-8108-2900-2.

"An effective combination of information, patriotism, hero-worship and propaganda."

That is how Robert Fyne characterizes the subjects of his study of Hollywood films of the Second World War, a book which demonstrates that even the most inane B-movie cannot be overlooked as an historical document. Fyne ranges over hundreds of films to show how they conveyed, sometimes subtly and sometimes with a sledgehammer, the messages that moviegoers needed to hear: Allied cooperation, individual gallantry, the power of Allied armies, the sacrifices of the home front and, pervading everything, the inevitability of Allied victory. Thankfully, the book contains no panegyrics (as similar studies do) about artists surrendering their freedom of expression to follow the dictates of an authoritarian government.

This fascinating book will be useful to the historian and film critic, but it will also be of considerable interest to anyone who has ever sat down to watch "Commandos Strike at Dawn" or "Guadalcanal Diary" on the late show. It will make us look at these old chestnuts in a new light.

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Richard C. Lukas, **Did The Children Cry?: Hitler's War Against Jewish and Polish Children, 1939-45** (New York: Hippocrene Books, 1994), $24.95 US, 263 pages, ISBN 0-7818-0242-3.

Rebecca Camhi Fromer, **The Holocaust Odyssey of Daniel Bennahmias, Sonderkommando** (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1993), $24.95 US, 151 pages, ISBN 0-8173-0598-X.

The fate of youth in the Holocaust is the theme of these harrowing and often painful books. Lukas documents the Nazis' campaign to cripple the reproductive capacity of Jews and Poles, detailing the mass executions, medical experiments, and removal of children deemed "racially valuable" to the Nazi state in prose that is stark and unadorned. Daniel Bennahmias, a Greek Sephardic Jew, was one of these young victims, hardly more than a boy when he was swept into Auschwitz. Camhi has given his odyssey a very literary quality, and some purists might take issue with her artistic license. It is a form of oral history, yet the author admits the interviews were done over a period of years and without the aid of a tape recorder. The book, then, is more a series of reflections than Lukas' strictly empirical account.

Neither book is easy to read. They require some fortitude, and one has to put them down occasionally to regroup before continuing. But they are books that should be read, just as they had to be written. Camhi's book is significant because Bennahmias was one of the few survivors of his Sonderkommando and a witness to the 1944 Auschwitz revolt. The importance of Lukas' book lies in the fact that, as he points out in an epilogue, the Nazis often murdered children without taking the trouble to register them, denying them even the dignity of identity. In telling the story of this group of often anonymous victims, Lukas has done a great service.

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George J. Joachim, **Iron Fleet: The Great Lakes in World War II** (Detroit: Wayne State University Press (distributed in Canada by Scholarly Book Services), 1994), $21.95 US, 138 pages, ISBN 0-8143-2479-7.

If merchant seamen can claim to have been consigned to the footnotes of history, then the seamen of the Great Lakes have been omitted from history altogether. Yet by shepherding millions of tons of iron ore up the lakes to eastern factories, they formed just as vital a link in the chain as the men who sailed the tanks and aircraft to the theatres of war. In *Iron Fleet*, George Joachim tells the tale of wartime activity on the Great Lakes, a story that is filled with fascinating and surprising details: a proposal to address manpower shortages on the lakes by using Italian POWs as crewmen; the fact that some 7000 American troops guarded the Soo Locks against enemy attack in 1942; and the conversion of two passenger steamers into freshwater aircraft carriers to serve as training platforms for naval aviators.

The book, which has as its theme the success of a close working relationship between government and industry, would have been stronger had the author added the Canadian side of the story. He mentions occasionally the need for cooperation to maximize shipping capacity on the lakes, and one feels that the subject would have benefited from cross-border analysis. However, this reservation is less to criticize Joachim than to encourage some Canadian historian to write a companion volume.

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Anthony Livesay, **The Historical Atlas of World War I** (New York: Henry Holt (distributed in Canada by Fitzhenry & Whiteside), 1994), $63.00, 192 pages, ISBN 0-8050-2651-7.

John Pimlott, **The Historical Atlas of World War II** (New York: Henry Holt (distributed in Canada by Fitzhenry & Whiteside), 1995), $63.00, 224 pages, ISBN 0-8050-3929-5.

These fine volumes will be a useful reference for anyone interested in military history. The full-colour maps are clear and easy to use, the commentary is concise and intelligent, and a wealth of photographs and paintings accompanies the text. The fact that both volumes are of a very manageable size makes them even more attractive when compared to something like *The Times Atlas of the Second World War*.

The books do have some weaknesses. The index in Pimlott's volume is bizarre and less than

useful, and some of the detail maps are difficult to situate in the larger maps. Some readers may also quibble about the compression of detail. The 1917 Arras offensive and the German invasion of Poland in 1939, for example, are each covered in a single map, so that one look elsewhere for more detailed maps. But such compression is necessary to allow the inclusion of some of the more obscure campaigns, like operations in German East Africa in the Great War and the Allied campaign through Iraq, Syria, and Iran in 1941. It is this breadth which makes the atlases so valuable. They offer the general reader and specialist alike a very accessible cartographic history of most aspects of the world wars.

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Ronald F. Hawkins, **We Will Remember Them** & **They Were So Young** (Privately published (available from The Owl Book Place, Box 2109, Woodstock, NB, EOJ 2BO), 1995), $20.00 paper each, 237 pages and 168 pages, ISBN 0-9699343-0-0 and 0-9699343-0-1.

The author, an active member of the New Brunswick veteran community, took it upon himself to canvas his comrades in the province to record their experiences at war. Many of his subjects served in the North Shore and Carleton and York Regiments, but he found a good number of airmen and a few sailors as well. These two volumes (a third is on the way) are the products of his labour.

There are certainly some interesting episodes in the books. We read of the Canloan officer with the South Wales Borderers who was frequently sent on night patrol because his CO believed that all Canadians had perfect night vision, and the CYR rifleman who loaned a stretcher to a German corpsman and had it returned with a bottle of vermouth tucked into it. There is also a fascinating diary from a Great War artilleryman who, after being given a sledgehammer and a few sheets of corrugated iron to flatten as punishment for being late on parade, dragged them to an engineer battalion and persuaded a sapper to drive a steamroller over them. The best accounts, though, are those about Hawkins himself, a sergeant with the Cape Breton Highlanders. One tale, of a trip into the lines with the day's rations near Conventello in January 1945, is particularly good.

Hawkins is not a professional writer, and his prose sometimes betrays this fact. The accounts often jump between the first and third person rather disconcertingly, and his decision to print the interviews essentially verbatim means that the chronology is occasionally confused. Despite such weaknesses, he is to be commended for making the effort to preserve these stories before they are lost to time.

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Barbara Ladouceur and Phyllis Spence, eds., **Blackouts to Bright Lights: Canadian War Bride Stories** (Vancouver: Ronsdale Press, 1995, distributed by General Distribution Service), $16.95 paper, 299 pages, ISBN 0-921870-33-7.

It is hard to imagine something more disorienting than the experience faced by the average war bride. Leaving home and family on short notice to travel in a packed ship to a distant land, she might find herself dropped in the middle of nowhere to live with in-laws she had never met and a husband she might not have seen for a year. Nevertheless, of the more than 40,000 war brides who came to Canada, only a small percentage eventually returned to England; the vast majority, even those whose marriages broke up, remained to call Canada home.

The editors have collected oral history accounts from more than 30 war brides, and their stories offer fascinating glimpses at the tribulations faced by these young women, from finding adequate housing to adjusting to a pioneer lifestyle in the Canadian wilderness. Nor do the women avoid the negative; one war bride freely admits that her husband was not the sort of man she should have married. The book's main weakness is that, with the oral history methodology, the accounts are sometimes punctuated by distracting non sequiturs. Still, these are entertaining and very human stories of a group of women whose experiences deserve further study.

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Rosa Maria Bracco, **Merchants of Hope: British Middlebrow Writers and the First World War, 1919-1939** (Providence, RI: Berg, 1993), $36.95 US, 210 pages, ISBN 0-85496-706-0.

For decades, classics like *Goodbye to All That* and *Death of a Hero* have dominated the literary landscape of the First World War. Yet, as Bracco demonstrates in this fascinating study, their vision of futility was outnumbered by countless forgotten works which were determined to give the war a central position in England's march towards perfection. In such books, the soldiers' suffering was not futile, but stood as a lesson for a people striving for a better life. The horrors of war were not overwhelming, but were downplayed by emphasizing historical continuity and links with the past. In short, these books demonstrated the desire of many authors, and a considerable part of the reading public, to interpret the war in very conservative terms and to eschew a modernist critique of its impact.

Bracco has read widely and has rescued many novels from obscurity to argue her points convincingly. Her discussion of the social backgrounds of authors is a little shallow, but the chapter on R.C. Sherriff's *Journey's End*, one of the most popular and most debated portrayals of the war, is a penetrating and insightful analysis

of the ambiguities inherent in this influential play. The traditionalist and the modernist were equally enthusiastic about it: it was, at once, a protest against war and an admission that individual nobility could thrive under the most dehumanizing situations. In this way, Bracco argues that Sherriff and countless other middlebrow writers could experience the upheaval of war and remain merchants of hope.

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John A. Moses with Gregory Munro, **Australia and the 'Kaiser's War,' 1914-1918: On Understanding the Anzac Tradition** (Hall, Australia: Broughton Press, 1993), $5.00 AUS, 58 pages, ISBN 0-64612385-8.

According to the authors, there has been a growing tendency in Australia to question the validity of the Anzac tradition and to argue that the Great War cannot be a source of Australian national consciousness (as was assumed at the time) because it was forced on the Dominion by a manipulative British government. Critics hold that Gallipoli did not give birth to Australian national feeling; it merely cost the lives of thousands of the country's sons for no good reason.

In response, the authors argue that such an interpretation is a misreading of history. Far from being railroaded into war, Australia had no choice because German war aims meant that the conflict constituted a fight for the survival of every part of the Empire. In short, the war was exactly what the propagandists of 1914 declared it to be: a defence of liberty and freedom against German autocracy. For this reason, the authors contend that the Anzac tradition can be a uniting force for Australians of all races in the 1990s, because it can be celebrated as a defence of democratic principles. It is a provocative argument that has much merit, for Canada as well as Australia. Yet it faces an uphill battle if it is to supplant an interpretation which, though based on flawed history, has decades of emotional rhetoric behind it.

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John Y. Simon, ed., **General Grant by Matthew Arnold, with a Rejoinder by Mark Twain** (Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 1995), $7.00 US paper, 68 pages, ISBN 0-87338-524-1.

Stuart W. Smith, ed., **Douglas Southall Freeman on Leadership** (Shippensburg, PA: White Mane Publishing, 1993), $25.00 US, 262 pages, ISBN 0-942597-48-6.

We are used to military theorists and historians writing about what makes a great general but it is rare that unmilitary people turn their attentions to such matters. Douglas Southall Freeman and Matthew Arnold were very different men, but both produced estimations of U.S. Civil War leaders that are as judicious and perceptive as any.

In 1886 Arnold, the foremost literary critic of his age and a man who admitted his knowledge of the Civil War was scant, published a reflection on General Grant's memoirs which ascribed his greatness to sagacity, decisiveness, resolve, perseverance, and resourcefulness. These were, in Arnold's view, the very qualities which made the Duke of Wellington a great commander. Arnold's essay drew ire in America (and spawned Twain's humorous rejoinder) for casting aspersions on the character of a national hero, even though it was very complimentary of Grant, and very fair in describing his strengths and weaknesses.

Freeman, in contrast, was imbued with the Civil War legacy from an early age. Raised in Richmond, Virginia and the son of a Confederate veteran, the war was a constant force in his life, a force that eventually made him the foremost scholar of the Confederacy of his day. With this volume, Smith adds to Freeman's canon by reconstructing lectures he gave on Robert E. Lee and his leadership principles. There is some unavoidable repetition in the lectures, which span over 30 years, but they are nonetheless extremely valuable, and in some ways timeless, reflections on leadership by a man who spent his working life engrossed in the Army of Northern Virginia.

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Mark M. Boatner III, **Encyclopedia of the American Revolution** (Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 1994), $32.95 US, 1290 pages, ISBN 0-8117-0578.

Aficionados of the Revolutionary period will be glad to see the re-issue of this standard reference work, first published in 1966, after two decades out of print. It contains many useful features: entries on everything from John Paul Jones to money in the 18th century, genealogical tables of notable families, a full list of the members of the Continental Congress, handy battle maps, and even a daily calendar of the years 1775-83. The entries for campaigns are particularly good at providing succinct and readable accounts of complex and confusing operations.

The book's main weakness, of course, is that it has not been fully updated to account for new research. The bibliography, for example, is impressive in its coverage of early studies, but includes very little published in recent decades. This is especially unfortunate given the boom in regional studies of the Revolutionary period over the past ten years. Indeed, one only needs to read Jeremy Black's 1994 historiographical essay in *War in History* to understand how much the field has grown recently. Nevertheless, there is no denying Boatner's achievement. He has produced a very useable and even entertaining volume that will continue to be a standard resource for readers interested in the period.

James J. Cooke, **The Rainbow Division in the Great War, 1917-1919** (Westport, CT: Praeger, 1994), $55.00 US, 304 pages, ISBN 0-275-94768-8.

The 42nd (Rainbow) Division was so nicknamed because it was drawn from the best National Guard units of 26 states. The sheer variety of units involved makes a coherent divisional history difficult, but Cooke deftly weaves together many strands of experience to create a solid and readable account. Furthermore, it is an account full of notable characters, like Douglas MacArthur, George S. Patton, future OSS chief Wild Bill Donovan, and the poet Joyce Kilmer. Men like this helped the Rainbows become the premier National Guard division, and one of the top American divisions of the Great War.

Cooke does not shy away from the Rainbow's problems. Bad feelings between the Alabama and New York regiments, lamentable supply arrangements, suspicion between Regular Army and National Guard officers, a lack of tactical imagination (especially in the Aisne-Marne offensive of July 1918), and the fiasco of the attempt to capture Sedan in November 1918 are all explored fully and candidly. A more fundamental question is addressed only obliquely: why did American divisions have to make the same mistakes that the other Allies had already made earlier in the war? Given that many Allied formations, particularly the Canadians and Australians, had by 1918 overcome most of the problems faced by the Rainbows, one wonders why the Americans were unable to learn from the experience of other armies.

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Lawrence Freedman, ed., **War** (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1994), $28.50 paper, 385 pages, ISBN 0-19-289254-1.

Compiled as a reader for students of military history, *War* is just as well suited to a wider readership. Beginning with the Napoleonic Wars, it presents short selections on the experience of war, the causes of war, the military establishment, ethical aspects, strategy, total war and the great powers, and limited war and developing countries. Freedman has chosen many useful and unusual excerpts, including opposing perspectives of the attack on the Sir Galahad in the Falklands War, Paul Warnke's thoughts on Vietnam and the Nuremberg trials, Charles Gwynn on imperial policing, and Martin Van Creveld on the future of low-intensity war. Although the bibliography is not all that it could be, *War* succeeds by providing expert and general reader alike a window into a broad range of military subjects.

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Bill Jackson, **Three Stripes and Four Brownings** (Saskatoon: Turner Warwick Publications, 1990), $25.95, 303 pages, ISBN 0-919899-14-5.

William L. Cramer, Jr., **Air Combat with the Mighty 8th: A Teenage Warrior in World War II** (Austin, TX: Eakin Press, 1993), 158 pages, ISBN 0-89015-939-4.

These books illustrate both the strengths and the weaknesses of the memoir as a form of history. Bill Jackson, a tail gunner on a 218 Squadron Stirling, has written a rich and moving account of his operations, an account that is tinged with sadness because the reader knows from the outset that he was the only survivor of his crew. The book also betrays that brand of introspection which is characteristic of a man who spent his operational career isolated in the stern of a bomber, apparently perched on the edge of eternity. Because he alone can tell the story of his crew, Jackson has obviously thought long and hard about their time together, and this thoughtfulness makes for a very engaging memoir.

More troubling is Cramer's book, which frequently leaves the reader puzzled. Cramer writes that he was shot down on 21 December 1944 near Bastogne and spent two months in captivity before escaping; the French underground then sheltered him in occupied Lille until a French fisherman was able to convey him from Calais to England. However, in December 1944 both Lille and Calais had long since been liberated so the author would not have had to skulk around as he claims. Obviously, such major errors cause the reader to question the rest of the memoir. Indeed, one suspects that Cramer has told his story many times, embellishing it slightly each time so that gradually the reality has been lost.

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Richard W. Fanning, **Peace and Disarmament: Naval Rivalry and Arms Control, 1922-1933** (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1995), $35.00 US, 224 pages, ISBN 0-8131-1878-6.

Emily O. Goldman, **Sunken Treaties: Naval Arms Control Between the Wars** (University Park: Penn State University Press, 1994), $16.95 US paper, 352 pages, ISBN 0-271-01034-7.

Though they cover much of the same ground, these books take very different approaches to the problem of naval arms control in the interwar period. Fanning, an historian, is interested in the cultural background to the drive for arms control, and focuses on public opinion and the activities of pacifist groups. The work of these lobby groups, argues Fanning, convinced politicians in Britain, Japan, and the US at least to make the attempt at reaching a comprehensive agreement on arms control. In this regard, it was political expediency which impelled the drive towards disarmament.

Goldman is a political scientist and uses interwar arms control as a case study to question the principles upon which arms control

has been based over the past three decades. In her view, arms control in the Cold War has been entirely too narrow in focusing on disarmament alone. The interwar era demonstrates that arms control can, in fact, be useful in a much broader sense; when it is combined with efforts to diffuse political conflicts, it can become a much more useful means of altering international power relationships.

Read together, the two books provide valuable complimentary interpretations of an important period in the development of international arms control. They also serve a useful analytical purpose by demonstrating how similar source materials can be mined, with equal effect, to argue two very different theses.

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David Cesarini and Tony Kushner, eds., **The Internment of Aliens in Twentieth Century Britain** (London: Frank Cass, 1993, distributed in North America by International Specialized Book Services), $35.00 US, 252 pages, ISBN 0-7416-3466-2.

This valuable volume combines scholarly examinations of internment policy with the testimonies of individual internees to document the devastating effect of internment on ethnic groups. It begins with Cesarini's fascinating essay on the roots of anti-alienism in Britain and Panikos Panayi's study of the internment of Germans during the Great War, then turns its focus to the Second World War. The collection's theme comes out especially clearly in Terri Colpi's fine essay on the war's impact on Britain's Italian community. Canadian readers will also be interested in the controversy surrounding Britain's shipment of thousands of civilian internees to Canada early in the war.

It is a great irony that the conference which originally produced these essays was followed a few months later by the Gulf War, during which the British government ordered the internment of Iraqis, Palestinians, and anyone else suspected on being sympathetic to Saddam Hussein. Plus ça change.

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C.W. Koburger, Jr., **Naval Warfare in the Baltic, 1939-1945: War in a Narrow Sea** (Westport, CT: Praeger, 1994), $49.95 US, 176 pages, ISBN 0-275-95027-1.

The war in the Baltic Sea is a little known aspect of Second World War naval history, perhaps because it is a tale of missed opportunities on all sides. On the Russian side, Koburger describes the inability of the Red Navy to adapt to the demands of the Baltic war, and its adoption by default of a disorganized, guerrilla style of warfare. For Germany, it is the absence of joint navy/army/air force action which is most striking. The Krigesmarine adjusted better to the needs of narrow seas warfare, but negligible assistance from the Luftwaffe prevented Germany from inflicting more serious blows on the Russians.

The book is also intended as an object lesson for naval policy makers. Koburger asserts that focus must move away from blue-water navies and towards forces which can operate effectively in the world's narrow seas, like the Persian Gulf. Tactics and equipment must change, and planners must cast off the influence of Mahan and his insistence on the primacy of open-ocean warfare. In this regard, Koburger offers the Baltic war as a case study of how (or how not) to fight in a narrow sea.

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Paul G. Halpern, **A Naval History of World War I** (Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press (distributed in Canada by Vanwell), 1994), $77.95, 591 pages, ISBN 0-87021-266-4.

The author begins by asking if we need another history of the First World War at sea, and readers will be grateful that Halpern answered his own question in the affirmative. *A Naval History of World War I* is a fine book, drawn from an impressive range of sources and written in a straightforward yet engaging style. It covers in a single volume all of the major actions, their strategic implications, and the place of sea power in the wider war. But it is not for the descriptions of Jutland, Coronel, and Dogger Bank, as good as they are, that the book is so valuable. It is for the accounts of the river war on the Danube, the American plans for an amphibious landing in the Adriatic, the role of the Swedish and Japanese navies, and countless other little known episodes of the naval war that make the book so useful. For knitting together the famous and the obscure into a coherent and very readable narrative, Halpern is to be highly commended.

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Jean Hascall Cole, **Women Pilots of World War II** (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press (distributed in Canada by University of British Columbia Press), 1995), $18.95 paper, 165 pages, ISBN 0-87480-493-0.

During the Second World War, some one thousand WASPs (Women's Air Force Service Pilots) took to the air to release male pilots for front-line duties. They ferried aircraft, flew transports, towed target drogues, and tested repaired airplanes, and thirty-eight died in the performance of their duties. Yet not until 1977 were these women classed as veterans, over thirty years after the WASP programme was disbanded, and not until now has their story been fully told.

Cole, herself a former WASP, has done oral history interviews and woven them into a very entertaining account of a group of highly experienced pilots performing mundane yet vital tasks in the war effort. What emerges is essentially a collective biography of

Class 44-W-2, a group of pilots which graduated in March 1944 and which went on to fly dozens of different aircraft variants, from Mustang fighters to Mitchell medium bombers to big B-29s. The book is breezy and light-hearted but, with the descriptions of forced landings and mid-air collisions, Cole reminds readers that the WASPs' job was not without its dangers.

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William H. Bartsch, **Doomed at the Start: American Pursuit Pilots in the Philippines, 1941-42** (College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press (distributed in Canada by University of British Columbia Press), 1992), $24.95 paper, 503 pages, ISBN 0-89096-679-6.

As the title suggests, the only American interceptor unit defending the Philippines was doomed from the start. Flying outmoded P-40s (which one pilot said had "the flying characteristics of a streamlined safe"), inadequately trained in interception tactics, and burdened by a poor communications system, the pilots were unable to record a single successful interception of a Japanese fighter or bomber throughout the Philippines campaign. With two-thirds of their aircraft destroyed in the first three days, the pilots spent the next five months using up the rest of their aircraft in operations that had little significant impact on the defence of the Philippines.

Despite their lack of success, Bartsch has given them a wonderful history. Meticulously researched over a dozen years, the book carefully cuts through the confusion of the campaign to provide an exhaustive and fascinating account of the pilots' efforts. The author avoids the strategic handling of the campaign, focusing instead on the handful of pursuit pilots and their gallant attempts to stem the invaders with a dwindling supply of aircraft. Fast-paced and eminently readable, *Doomed at the Start* is sure to become an essential work in understanding the campaign in the Philippines.

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Cuthbert Gunning, **North Bay's Fort Chippewa, 1939-1945** (Privately published (available from the author, 1688 Parkwood Dr., North Bay, ON, P1B 4R4), 1991), 138 pages, ISBN 0-9694721-1-0.

Donald F. Ripley, **The Home Front: Wartime Life in Camp Aldershot and Kentville, Nova Scotia** (Hantsport, NS: Lancelot Press, 1994 [1991]), $12.95 paper, 213 pages, ISBN 0-88999-502-8.

Little attention has been paid to the camps that trained Canadians before they went into action, veterans and historians alike apparently regarding them as scarcely worthy of sustained interest. This leaves a huge gap in our knowledge of the war experience, a gap that these two books begin to fill. Gunning's interesting book tells us that Fort Chippewa began life as a normal basic training centre, but in 1942 was converted into #22 Canadian Army Educational (Basic) Training Centre. As such, it provided rudimentary education to recruits whose level of schooling made it impossible for them to function in the military. As Gunning notes, the first class which came to Chippewa possessed, on average, a Grade 3 education. The book goes beyond the classroom, however, and covers a range of subjects, including recreation, medical arrangements, religion in camp, and the activities of the Military Police. It is the second in Gunning's series on North Bay during the war, the first (*North Bay: The War Years*) having appeared in 1990.

Ripley's book is more than a history of one camp, for it is also a charming memoir of a childhood spent in a small town that was deeply affected by the war. It sees the life of camp and of town as being inextricably intertwined, with both threads viewed through the eyes of a young boy. So, we get entertaining anecdotes on growing up in wartime (like Ripley's attempt to sell the school shot put as war scrap), as well as insights into the impact on Kentville of the growing casualty lists of 1943 and 1944. Readers who grew up during the war will recognize their own experiences, while historians will find it a fascinating, worm's eye glimpse of the home front.

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Charles F. Marshall, **Discovering the Rommel Murder: The Life and Death of the Desert Fox** (Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 1994), $18.95 US, 267 pages, ISBN 0-8117-1480-2.

In this disjointed but fascinating book, Marshall documents the circumstances that allowed him to reveal to the world the details of Rommel's murder. As an intelligence officer in charge of the captured documents unit at VI Corps HQ, the author was brought into contact with Rommel's widow, from whom he learned the truth behind the Desert Fox's death in October 1944. Marshall broke his bombshell in a May 1945 issue of Beachhead News, only to find that his story was relegated to the bottom of the front page; he had been scooped by news of Hitler's death.

But the book is more than just a biography of Rommel and a detective story of Marshall's quest to unravel the circumstances surrounding his death. It is also a memoir of the author's work in German POW camps after the end of the war, and his interviews with many prominent generals. Despite the often irrelevant snippets from Marshall's diary, this section provides some revealing glimpses at the process of demobilizing the defeated German armies. Discovering the Rommel Murder, then, is rather more than the title suggests. Sometimes the combination doesn't work, but it is always interesting.

Sid Berger, **Breaching Fortress Europe: The Story of US Engineers in Normandy on D-Day** (Falls Church, VA: NOVA Publications, 1994), $19.95 US paper, 267 pages, ISBN 0-8403-9516-7.

It is doubtful if we shall ever get a more comprehensive account of the engineering operations on Omaha and Utah beaches on D-Day. The author, a platoon leader with the 1st Engineer Special Brigade, has succeeded in examining the landings as an engineering problem without losing sight of the human element. He discusses various arcane but crucial aspects like tides and vegetation, provides excellent photographs and line drawings of defensive positions, and recounts the logistical difficulties of getting divisions ashore under heavy fire. At the same time, the individual engineer remains front and centre, and the reader never loses sight of the fact that the solutions to all of the problems encountered on D-Day were found in the ingenuity and persistence of engineers.

For the student of the Normandy landings, *Breaching Fortress Europe* is a treat. Written by someone who clearly knows of what he speaks, it is as entertaining as it is exhaustive; nearly seventy pages, for example, are devoted to covering the first 1000 yards up Omaha Beach. With its four full-colour reproductions of declassified beach maps, the book is essential to any good D-Day library.

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Robert C. Baldridge, **Victory Road, World War II - Five Campaigns** (Bennington, VT: Merriam Press), 1995, $24.95 US, 231 pages, ISBN 1-57638-043-2.

The author served with the 34th Field Artillery Battalion of the 9th Infantry Division, and landed at Utah Beach on 10 June 1944. He experienced most of the major campaigns fought by the Americans, including Normandy, the Huertgen Forest, the Bulge, and the Harz Mountains, and had the misfortune to witness the liberation of Nordhausen concentration camp. He was released from occupation duties in December 1945 and returned to the United States as a lieutenant.

Baldridge relates his experiences in a clear and straightforward manner, and has illustrated the book profusely with photos, news clippings, and copies of documents. *Victory Road* is a valuable account of a branch of the service that we hear too little about.

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Joseph Smith, **The Spanish-American War: Conflicts in the Caribbean and the Pacific, 1895-1902** (London: Longman (distributed in Canada by Addison-Wesley), 1994), $29.95 paper, 272 pages, ISBN 0-582-04340-9.

Anthony Clayton, **The Wars of French Decolonization** (London: Longman (distributed in Canada by Addison-Wesley), 1994), $29.95 paper, 256 pages, ISBN 0-582-09801-7.

Longman's Modern Wars in Perspective is another series which aims to provide easily accessible, single-volume studies of selected wars. These examinations of the Spanish-American War and the wars of French decolonization are the most recent titles; future volumes will cover the wars of Frederick the Great and China.

Joseph Smith has written a good synthesis of the interpretations of the Spanish-American War, by both Cuban and American historians. He places the event, which marked the eclipse of the Spanish empire, in the context of the march towards world power status which characterized the late nineteenth-century United States. As such, the author provides an interesting commentary on American imperialism and the domestic response to the acquisition of an American empire.

Anthony Clayton, a lecturer at Sandhurst, examines the wars in Indochina and Algeria, but also the less famous flare-ups in Madagascar, Tunisia, and Morocco. He considers the changing French attitudes towards imperialism and the collapse of the Fourth Republic, and also offers fascinating insights into the French Army's counter-insurgency doctrines and their somewhat alarming political consequences. His comments on ethnic cleansing in post-colonial Algeria will interest anyone following events in the former Yugoslavia.

These books will be particularly useful to the general interest reader, for they each contain a chronology of the conflict, a series of excellent maps, and a bibliographic essay of books for further reading. Clayton's book also contains biographical notes on the major figures involved.

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S.P. MacKenzie, **The Home Guard: A Military and Political History** (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1995), $45.95, 262 pages, ISBN 0-19-820577-5.

One of the most enduring (and endearing) images of wartime Britain is the elderly Home Guardsman wheezing through the English countryside on a bicycle, ready to throw his considerable weight at anyone suspected of being a Fifth Columnist. As MacKenzie points out, this stereotype is both true and misleading. The Home Guard certainly did have its share of well meaning if misguided souls who became tinpot dictators in their own little fiefdoms, all in the name of ridding the neighbourhood of potential Hun spies. But to focus only on this stereotype is to miss the other side of the story, the fact that the HG came to exercise considerable political influence in Britain. With well over a million members and countless supporters in the political and social elites, the HG simply had to be taken seriously by the British government. Indeed, the whole story is one of the government's

difficulties in convincing the Guard to allow itself to be placed under some form of central control.

As the author readily admits, the social history of the Home Guard remains to be studied. This book is an excellent account of the political and military context in which that social history will eventually be written.

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Robert W. Love, Jr. and John Major, eds., **The Year of D-Day: The 1944 Diary of Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay** (Hull: University of Hull Press, 1994), £12.95 paper, 251 pages, ISBN 0-85958-622-7.

"On the whole we have very much to thank God for this day." So wrote Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay, the Allied Naval Commander Expeditionary Force, on 6 June 1944, after learning that his meticulous preparations for the naval portion of the Normandy landings had paid off. His determination to keep sufficient naval forces at his disposal to deal with every conceivable eventuality comes through in this very useful volume, as does his irritation with his subordinates Vian ("not quite normal at times") and Kirk ("a poor fish"), the British and American task force commanders. Of equal interest to Canadians are Ramsay's thoughts on the Scheldt campaign, and his low opinion of Eisenhower for allowing Montgomery to attack Arnhem instead of devoting all available resources to opening the port of Antwerp.

Because Ramsay died before he could write his memoirs, *The Year of D-Day* becomes a most valuable source on the naval problems surrounding the liberation of north-west Europe. It includes a good biographical essay and succinct explanatory notes, but unfortunately lacks an index. Still, the book provides an excellent glimpse at a man whose contribution to the Normandy landings has been overshadowed by others.

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Memories on Parade: Aircrew Recollections of World War II (Winnipeg: Bunker to Bunker Books, 1995), 320 pages, ISBN 0-9680091-0-7.

Compiled by the Wartime Pilots' and Observers' Association from the reminiscences of their members, this anthology brings in every conceivable aircraft type, theatre of operations, crew classification, and type of mission. Most of the subjects are RCAF, but there is a liberal sprinkling of air crew from other countries as well and, though some of the entries are too short to be of any interest, there are some real gems here. Lou Crowe reflects on his claim (can anyone contradict him?) to be the shortest pilot in the RCAF, at a shade under 5'2", while Bob Goatcher recalls the forced-landing that wrote off, not only his Halifax, but the herd of cattle which happened to be occupying the field where the aircraft came down. Maurice Shnider has contributed a fascinating account of a 23½ hour marathon flight over the Bay of Bengal in a Catalina to rescue the downed crew of a B-29. Accounts like this make the reader realize that their are still plenty of good war memoirs to be written.

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James S. Corum, **The Roots of Blitzkrieg: Hans von Seeckt and German Military Reform** (Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 1992), $14.95 US paper, 274 pages, ISBN 0-7006-0628-9.

As commander of the Reichswehr from 1920 to 1926, historians have tended to concern themselves with the contribution - if any - of Hans von Seeckt to the political unrest which characterized the formative years of the Weimar Republic. This study, while not a biography of von Seeckt, nonetheless constitutes a marked change of focus, concentrating as it does upon the General's ideas on warfare and their legacy. Noting that military historians have often downplayed the originality of von Seeckt's thinking, Corum endeavours to revise this view. He portrays von Seeckt as a first-rate "military thinker, whose clarity of vision, comprehensive view of future warfare and ability to impose these views on the German Army made him one of the most important military thinkers of the twentieth century."

The Roots of Blitzkrieg, while at times likely to strike those not fascinated with tactics as a bit dry, is nevertheless a well researched and interesting study. Taking as its starting point von Seeckt's reading of the lessons of the First World War, Corum proceeds to examine the training and armament programmes initiated early in the 1920s. In addition - and especially important in the wake of the second great war - Corum also endeavours with some success to root the so-called Blitzkrieg tactics of 1939-41 in German armour and air doctrine as it evolved under von Seeckt. The end result is a publication which ought to be of interest to both the specialist and the Second World War enthusiast.

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Roy J. Whitsted, ed., **Canadians: A Battalion at War - Canadians in the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, 1940-45** (Mississauga, ON: Burlington Books, 1996), $34.95, 414 pages, ISBN 0-9680377-0-4.

In 1994 Charlie Martin's *Battle Diary* gave us one of the best memoirs of the Queen's Own Rifles. Now, Roy Whitsted has assembled an eclectic mix of reminiscence, diary, letter, poem, and contemporary news story to tell the tale of the rest of the regiment. The first section covers the QOR's engagements chronologically, and presents personal insights into such battles as Bretteville, Carpiquet, and the Rhineland. The rest of the book is a random sampling of other accounts, including training, experiences in captivity, the work of the mortar and carrier platoons, and the medical services.

Whitsted has collected some wonderful accounts, but the diaries of Douglas Oatway, the QOR's medical officer, constitute the book's high points. He records the exhilaration of going ashore at Bernières-sur-Mer on D+1 and, on one occasion, describes being summoned to give his medical opinion as to the virginity of three young French women who were accused of consorting with the occupiers. Frank and illuminating, Oatway's diary entries alone make this book worth the purchase price.

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John McMahon, **Almost a Lifetime** (Lantzville, BC: Oolichan Books, 1995, distributed by General Distribution Services), $19.95 paper, 296 pages, ISBN 0-88982-143-7.

This fine memoir is really about journeys. It begins with the author's journey to war, which lasted only until McMahon's Lancaster was shot down in February 1943 on his first operational flight. The crew's only survivor, McMahon became a POW and spent two uncomfortable years in captivity before beginning a second and more horrific journey, the death march of 1945. When the author's prison camp was evacuated in the face of the advancing Russians, he and his fellow POWs began a harrowing trek westwards across Germany, marching hundreds of miles in unimaginable conditions. Many men succumbed to exhaustion and the elements; McMahon himself was felled by dysentery but was lucky enough to be rescued by a German farmer and taken to a Red Cross unit.

Some forty years after his eventual liberation by American troops, McMahon began a third journey, to contact the Dutch family that had sheltered him briefly before his capture and the German night fighter pilot who had shot down his Lancaster. With this journey, McMahon was able to close the book on his wartime experiences with a great deal of satisfaction. The reader, too, will find that McMahon's journeys provide an engaging and satisfying glimpse at one man's war.

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Louis Allen, **Singapore, 1941-1942** (London: Frank Cass (distributed in North America by International Specialized Book Services), 1993), $45.00 US, 351 pages, ISBN 0-7146-3473-5.

Since it was first published in 1977, Allen's book has become the standard account of the fall of Singapore. This edition offers a reprint of the full text, as well as a new introduction by the author which takes account of recent work in the field and puts right some of the weaknesses of the original. Notably, he dismisses the suggestion that General Percival surrendered unconditionally, citing Japanese sources which contend that the phrase did not appear in the surrender documents and was not used by the victorious generals. A small point, Allen admits, but one that is significant for the historical record and for Percival's reputation. The author is able to shed new light on other matters as well, including security leaks in the British Legation in Bangkok and the role of some leading civilians in the fall of Singapore. A new appendix gives a first-person account of the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders in the battle for Singapore Island.

All in all, this reissue is an even better account of the fall of Singapore, as well as a tribute to its author, who died in 1991.

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John McClenaghan and Derek Blatchford, **411 City of North York Squadron: 50 Years of History** (North York: 411 Tactical Aviation Squadron, 1992), $25.00, 190 pages, ISBN 0-9695370-0-X.

Another addition to the fine series of squadron histories, this book describes the evolution of the unit from its formation in Lincolnshire in June 1941 to its fiftieth anniversary. It spent the war years flying Spitfires, and amassed an impressive total of kills, both in the air and on the ground. Prominent in the book is the story of the unit's most famous alumnus, Dick Audet, who shot down five German aircraft in a matter of minutes in December 1944; Audet was himself killed while attacking a train in March 1945. Stood down in 1946, the squadron was reformed in 1950 to fly Vampires, Sabres, and eventually, Kiowa helicopters. The authors, both squadron pilots, have produced a very readable history that is packed with entertaining anecdotes and some quite remarkable photographs.

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Robert R. Reid, **The Front Page Story of World War II** (Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre, 1994), $35.00, 174 pages, ISBN 1-55054-169-2.

Wartime newspapers are not particularly accessible for the average person who is not near a major library, so Robert Reid has done a service by collecting and reproducing dozens of wartime front pages from Vancouver newspapers. He has covered the most significant events, from the German invasion of Poland to VJ-Day, and has provided short explanatory essays to set each front page in context. Especially interesting is the dissonance between events of the war and other news. On 26 May 1941, for example, the headline screams 'British Trap Bismarck - Huge Sea Battle Rages' while a large photo and caption inform us that Hollywood starlet Jeanette MacDonald is having trouble with hay fever. Such reminders that life went on in wartime Canada make this book both informative and entertaining.

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Ron Henry, **My Story** (Privately published (available from the author, 3284 Hernando Ave., Powell River, BC, V8A 1B8), 1995), $29.99, 364 pages, ISBN 1-55056-371-8.

The navigator on a 431 Squadron Halifax, Ron Henry flew just a handful of operations before his aircraft was shot down in December 1943. This event, we read, created a huge gap in his memory, for Henry was horribly injured in the crash and has little recollection of his first six weeks in captivity. Thereafter, it was a succession of hospitals and occasionally harrowing treatments until Henry was well enough to join the general prison population. Like so many other POWs, his captivity ended with the Death Marches of 1945, which further punished a body already weakened by his crash and captivity.

My Story, unusually handsomely presented for a self-published effort, follows the author from childhood through his journey to war as a sheltered, rather prudish young man, and finally through the postwar years, when Henry struggled with the serious health problems that were the legacy of his time in prison camp. Though not all of the book will be of interest to the general reader, *My Story* is nevertheless a useful record of how war drastically altered the life of one very average Canadian.

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David Chandler and Ian Beckett, eds., **The Oxford Illustrated History of the British Army** (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1994), $64.50, 493 pages, ISBN 0-19-869178-5.

One can hardly do better than this for a one-volume study of the British Army. The editors have brought together some of the finest historians working in the field to write essays on the army from medieval times to the present day: Edward Spiers on the late Victorian era, Tim Travers on the Great War, Brian Bond on the interwar era, John Childs on the Restoration army, and over a dozen others. There are also excellent thematic essays, like Hew Strachan's provocative chapter entitled "The British Way in Warfare," which begins with the phrase, "There has never been a British way in warfare." Profusely illustrated with black and white photos as well as colour plates, this history represents excellent value for the money, either for the beginner looking for a place to start, or for the specialist looking for succinct and sound summaries of the British Army in any of its various incarnations.

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Nicholas Tracy, **Canada's Naval Strategy: Rooted in Experience** (Halifax: Dalhousie Centre for Foreign Policy Studies, 1995), $12.00 paper, 82 pages, ISBN 1-869440-00-2.

Tracy's intention for this short study was to present thematically the strategic motives for national investment in a navy and for the form in which it has developed over the course of the twentieth century. In it he discusses the trends in the workings of the navy since its inception. The underlying theme is that policy has remained relatively unchanged for over 85 years.

Tracy acknowledges that the size of the study limits its range, and this did tend to detract from the book. *Canada's Naval Strategy* contains just 60 pages of text broken up into nine very short sections, a structure that limits the continuity of the piece. Aside from this minor flaw, the study is well written and thoroughly researched. It is filled with valuable and insightful information, leavened with practicality and immense military awareness, and includes extensive notes which read like a who's who of the naval world. Tracy has combined a critical approach with a profound understanding of politics, economics and the military industry to produce a book which is significant for anyone who wishes to gain greater insight into the history of the strategic rationale of Canada's naval effort and development.

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Martin Gilbert, **First World War**, (Toronto: Stoddart, 1994), $45.00, 616 pages, ISBN 0-7737-284-81.

The task of chronicling an event of the magnitude of the First World War presents a formidable challenge to the most capable of scholars. Even keeping abreast of the vast and growing body of literature on the military, diplomatic, and socio-cultural aspects of the conflict requires considerable effort. Diplomatic historian Martin Gilbert's *First World War* demonstrates the difficulty of encompassing all of these dimensions in one volume, as the author attempts to impart "within the framework of commanders, strategies and vast numbers, the story of individuals." (xxi.) The resulting account captures much of the misery inflicted by the war on a personal level, but unfortunately overlooks many aspects of the conflict itself as well as important insights provided by recent scholarship.

Gilbert enhances his narrative by frequently illuminating its personal side. Interspersed throughout the book are anecdotes derived from the memoirs, diaries and wartime letters of a wide array of individuals, ranging from politicians and high-ranking officers to infantrymen in the trenches along the Western Front. While the reports of diplomats and officers are helpful in explaining the course of the war as a whole, the often tragic stories of common soldiers are particularly effective in illustrating the immense human suffering that accompanied the conflict. Tales of young lives erased in the blink of an eye add a graphic dimension to battle narratives often reduced to meaningless statistics.

On the downside, Gilbert overlooks many of the important strategic concepts underlying the initiatives of both sides. The Schlieffen Plan, the blueprint for the German offensive in the west at the outset of the war, warrants only a skeletal description (p.29). The 'doctrine of the offensive' pervasive in the French Army prior to the conflict, as well as its ultimate embodiment, the dubious Plan XVII, are ignored entirely. It may be argued that detailed discussions of strategy are beyond the scope of a general account such as this one. It would seem, however, that some explanation of the ideas behind the often ill-conceived operations of both sides would help to explain the tremendous carnage which the author so effectively describes.

Many of the shortcomings in Gilbert's account can be attributed to the rather limited array of sources upon which it is based. The result is an account which largely ignores recent work and thus perpetuates the 'mud and blood' image of the conflict that emerged in the 1930s. Nearly eighty years after the war itself, however, and with a wealth of insightful scholarship to draw upon, we should perhaps expect more, even from a book directed at a general audience. Ultimately, while Gilbert's *First World War* is eloquently written and often poignant in its descriptions of the realities of war, readers with a serious interest in the conflict will probably be left somewhat disappointed.

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J.L. Granatstein and Douglas Lavender, **Shadows of War, Faces of Peace: Canada's Peacekeepers** (Toronto: Key Porter Books, 1992), $29.95, 160 pages, ISBN 1-55013-436-1.

It is a curious fact that Canadians know little about the international activity - peacekeeping - with which (along with hockey) foreigners most readily identify them. If contemporary media reports are any indication, they certainly are largely unaware of the historical antecedents of Canada's peacekeeping experience. This coffee-table book is a laudable corrective to that general ignorance. Using background-setting introduction, a host of fascinating photographs, and the moving reminiscences of participants, it gives the reader a first-hand impression of the everyday tasks associated with keeping the peace that the Canadian armed forces have undertaken all over the world across almost five decades. This handsome book would be a fine addition to any personal library, and provides a fitting tribute to the often taken-for-granted contribution that thousands of Canadian men and women have made to the maintenance of global security. It is a useful reminder of how the Somalia affair is the exception and not the rule when it comes to Canada's record as peacekeeper.

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Douglas Bland, **Chiefs of Defence: Government and the Unified Command of the Canadian Armed Forces** (Toronto: The Canadian Institute of Strategic Studies, 1995), $28.00 paper, 314 pages, ISBN 0-929769-47-0.

This important book examines the evolution of the office of the Chief of the Defence Staff from its inception in 1964 to the present day. The story is a depressing and disturbing one. Bland argues that the main objective behind the creation of the CDS - to shape a "top-down" defence strategy based on national interests - was laudatory. Despite the best efforts of some of the officers who held the post, however, that goal has never been realized due to the neglect of Canadian political leaders, the predominance of alliance commitments, and inter-service rivalry. The resulting "conceptual confusion" regarding the role of the institution has meant that for the last thirty years "no Canadian has truly controlled national defence policy."

The non-chronological organization of the book is somewhat problematic, and the study is much more riveting when it discusses specific events and personalities than when it describes administrative structures. Nevertheless, it makes brilliant use of information gleaned from interviews with key participants and the lessons it holds for contemporary policy-makers are compelling: in the post-Cold War world the CDS might yet provide coherent defence planning if given the chance. The basic argument may not be earthshatteringly new, but Bland has performed a valuable service by actually providing evidence charting the "how" and "why" behind it.

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Peter G. Tsouras, **Warriors' Words: A Dictionary of Military Quotations** (London: Arms & Armour (distributed in Canada by Canadian Manda Group), 1994), $27.95 paper, 534 pages, ISBN 1-85409-263-4.

For people who have been frustrated when trying to find military quotations in Bartlett's, this volume is a must-have. Arranged thematically, with sections covering everything from the bayonet ("The bullet is a mad thing; only the bayonet knows what it is about" - Field Marshal Suvorov, 1796) to reinforcements ("One always has enough troops when he knows how to use them" - Napoleon, 1806), it is supremely easy to use when one is trying to discover the source of any given quote. An excellent index (complete with biographical notes) directs the reader to quotations by individuals. More than a reference book, however, *Warriors' Words* is a delight to read cover to cover, or simply to leaf through for inspiration. Regardless of one's area of interest, the reader will find many a maxim that can be put to good use at opportune moments.

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Bill Yenne, **"Black '41": The West Point Class of 1941 and the American Triumph in World War II** (Toronto: John Wiley & Sons, 1991), $34.95, 388pp, ISBN 0-471-54197-4.

Yenne's concept is an intriguing one: write a collective biography of the 424 young men who made up the Class of '41 at the US Military Academy, following them from their arrival at West Point in 1937 to their 50th class reunion in 1991. This allows him to write what amounts to a history of America's wars (in the air as well as on the ground) from Pearl Harbour to Vietnam, all viewed through the lives of a group of admittedly exceptional soldiers. The result is an absorbing account that effectively places the experiences of the individual against the backdrop of the wider war.

Particularly striking is the loss rate suffered by Black '41. Fewer than 40 were killed in action during the Second World War, a figure that begs comparison. How did the Class of 1916 or 1917 fare in the First World War? We know that Sandhurst suffered very heavy losses during that war; what were its losses during 1939-45? And how did our own Royal Military College fare? Such questions are intriguing, and might well encourage other historians to write similar collective biographies.

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Bryan Perrett, **At All Costs! Stories of Impossible Victories** (London: Arms & Armour (distributed in Canada by Canadian Manda Group), 1995), $14.95 US paper, 223 pages, ISBN 1-85409-276-6.

Perrett has chosen eleven engagements (from Minden 1759 and Balaclava 1854 to Corregidor 1945 and Goose Green 1982) in order to discern what motivates soldiers to win when the odds are stacked heavily against them. In his view, the outcomes of these battles affirm that in war the relationship of the moral to the physical is in the ratio of 3 to 1. The author concludes that the most important moral factors are professionalism (including leadership and discipline), success, the desire for revenge, survival, and self-sacrifice in an essential role. Few readers will find these conclusions surprising, and can instead enjoy Perrett's solid and workmanlike battle narratives. They might well wonder, however, why Perret has included no Great War battles, especially as he admits an intellectual debt to Lord Moran, whose seminal work *The Anatomy of Courage* grew out of his experiences during the First World War. Any historian of that war can cite half a dozen battles which would fit Perrett's pattern; their absence leaves rather a hole in his book.

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William R. Morrison and Kenneth A. Coates, **Working the North: Labor and the Northwest Defense Projects 1942-1946** (Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press, 1994), $20 paper, ISBN 0-912006-73-0.

Working the North takes up where Morrison and Coates' *Alaska Highway in World War II* leaves off. The earlier work examines American defence projects in the Canadian north and this volume looks at the labour force that did the actual work. They argue that working people have been omitted from traditional histories of the north and they are trying to right this wrong.

Thousands of men and hundreds of women -- white, black, native, civilian, soldier, American and Canadian -- poured into the northwest during the war to work the new defence projects, in particular the Alaska Highway and CANOL pipeline. Morrison and Coates tell their stories in straightforward prose and without an interfering theoretical position, allowing the participants to speak with their own words. The types of work they did, what they did for fun, how they got along with each other and their bosses, all unfold with the black flies, long winters, unpleasant conditions, and the ubiquitous cold. What they found under all the layers of clothing was that working people in the north acted pretty much the same as working people elsewhere, with one exception: these people came, worked, made as much money as they could, and then left.

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Robert Bracken, **Spitfire: The Canadians** (Erin, ON: Boston Mills Press, 1995) $40, 156 pages, ISBN 1-55046-148-6.

The Supermarine Spitfire was undoubtably one of the most beautiful aircraft to come out of the Second World War. Sleek, fast and a dream to fly, it made an impression on every pilot who flew it. In *Spitfire: The Canadians*, Robert Bracken has collected the personal memories of dozens of pilots and ground crew who flew and serviced the Spitfire during its wartime service.

All aspects of the air war are covered, from encounters with enemy aircraft, ground attacks, assorted mishaps and escape and evasion tales to an interesting account of gliders being towed by Spitfires prior to D-Day. The majority of the stories are told by Canadian pilots who flew with the RCAF, but there are also tales from Canadians flying in the RAF.

One outstanding feature of this book is the full colour artwork created by artist Ron Lowry. In addition to a pair of beautiful paintings on the jacket, Lowry has filled 16 pages inside the book with over 40 full colour profiles and paintings of Canadian Spitfires in their assorted livery.

This book, with its tales of derring-do and its excellent photographs and illustrations is an essential addition to the library of anyone who fancies themself an aircraft enthusiast.

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Gil Drolet, **Loyola, The Wars: In Remembrance of "Men for Others"** (Waterloo, ON: Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies, 1996, Order from Loyola High School, 7272 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal, QC, H4B 1R2), $19.00 paper, 46 pages, ISBN 0-9697955-5-6.

Memorial volumes, once very much in vogue, have appeared infrequently in recent years. Immensely popular after the Great War but less so after 1945, it has become unfashionable to memorialize the war dead of a school, church or community. Drolet's tribute to the dead of Loyola College and High School in Montreal is a welcome break from that trend. It provides brief accounts of the 94 Loyola men who died on active service during the two world wars and in Korea, and the reader will find a number of soldiers with eminent connections, including Francis McGee (a member of the Hockey Hall of Fame), Louis Lemieux (son of the cabinet minister), and Ian McNaughton (the son of General Andy McNaughton). Two other alumni who survived the Great War, Georges Vanier and Chubby Power, might well deserve a book of their own.

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Ronald Haycock with/avec Serge Bernier, **Teaching Military History: Clio and Mars in Canada/Clio et Mars au Canada: L'enseignement de l'histoire Militaire** (Athabasca, AB: Athabasca University, 1995), $18.00, 152 pages, ISBN 0-919737-22-6.

Ronald Haycock's addition to the *Teaching History/Enseigner L'Histoire* series, *Teaching Military History*, sets out to debunk the myth that Canadians are an unmilitary people who view military history as a marginal enterprise.

In Part I, Haycock targets his discussion of Canadian military historiography to the student or teacher who may be contemplating further study in the field. While this approach offers little in the way of new insights, it provides a valuable tool for those looking for a general survey of the literature published over the last forty years. Haycock analyses the factors which have influenced the development of military history from the pioneering work done by Canada's foremost official historian, C.P. Stacey, to the most recent work done in the tradition of "new" military history.

He concludes that after four decades of growth, the field of military history remains healthy. By constantly changing and refining methodologies, incorporating economic, social, political and industrial studies into their work, practitioners of military history have kept the field vibrant for four decades. Part III reproduces this section in French.

Part II provides a list of the institutions which are teaching in the field. This section is particularly valuable as a tool to help students determine where to pursue studies in military history. Questionnaires on course offerings, course outlines, and faculty interests were sent to eight Canadian universities and the results are reproduced in this section.

Teaching Military History succeeds in its intended purpose of providing a useful tool for students and teachers looking for an overview of the history and future prospects for military history in Canada. Specialists will appreciate the extensive bibliographic notes at the end of Part I.

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Carlo D'Este, **Patton: A Genius For War** (New York: Harper Collins, 1995), $18.00, ISBN 0-060927-62-3.

In the forward to George Patton's 1947 memoir, *War As I Knew It*, famed Robert E. Lee biographer Douglas Southall Freeman announced, that Patton "will be an ideal subject for a great biography." Freeman also hoped that a "competent" person would undertake the writing of his life story in so excellent a manner that other biographers would leave him alone. It has taken half a century but with the publication of Carlo D'Este's outstanding work, Patton at long last has received a truly impressive biography. *Patton: A Genius For War* is the latest and best in a virtually endless string of biographies and other works on the great fighting general.

D'Este manages to improve on Martin Blumenson's excellent 1985 biography *Patton: The Man Behind the Legend, 1885-1945*. Unlike many biographies, however, D'Este has amassed over 100 pages of references thus making this biography a rich source of information as well as giving it a high degree of credibility. The final product is a first class, intimate portrait of a multi-faceted individual.

Though D'Este spends almost 400 pages on Patton's personal life and career development, his World War II exploits are covered in great detail. A unique twist is thrown on the slapping incidents in Sicily with D'Este suggesting that Patton himself may actually have been suffering from battle fatigue at the time of the near career-ending outbursts. The author further contends that had Patton not slapped these two soldiers, he was a virtual shoe in for command of the OVERLORD forces. Of equal interest to the historian is D'Este's re-creation of the relationship between Patton and Omar Bradley. "Whatever his claims to the contrary, Omar Bradley was no friend of Patton, and, in fact, was the primary culprit in popularizing the 'our blood, his guts' label hung on Patton."

Ultimately, Patton comes off well in D'Este's biography. "As a tactician," states the author, "Patton ranged from superb to average in situations beyond his control." There was more to Patton's abilities than tactics, however, and D'Este makes the case for Patton as a excellent trainer of troops and a man who thoroughly "grasped the

capabilities of the weapons and equipment at his disposal."

Reading this new biography will set to rest many of the myths about Patton but new questions will also be raised, for as D'Este ultimately concludes, "In short, there is no niche into which one can conveniently place Patton. "This is probably the main reason why the General makes for such good reading.

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Mauriel Phillips Joslyn, **Immortal Captives: The Story of 600 Confederate Officers and the US Prisoner of War Policy** (Shippensburg, PA: White Mane Publishing, 1996), $29.95 US, 344 pages, ISBN 0-942597-96-6.

William Marvel, **Andersonville: The Last Depot** (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press (distributed in Canada by Scholarly Book Services), 1994), $44.95, 337 pages, ISBN 0-8078-2152-7.

The common denominator in these two sad tales is the suspension of the exchange cartel which would have allowed thousands of POWs to leave captivity and return home. The suspension left the Confederacy with prisoners that it simply could not feed and house, many of whom eventually died in Andersonville. The atrocity stories emanating from there in turn fanned a fire of rage in the Union. The fire was stoked by an Indiana senator who demanded that Confederate officer prisoners be allowed to starve to death, and it eventually consumed Andersonville commander Henry Wirz, condemned to death in a trial which Marvel suggests was a singular miscarriage of justice. Another consequence of this rage was the Union decision to separate 600 Confederate officers and use them as human shields to protect northern units besieging Charleston. Their suffering did not stop there, and Joslyn uses an effective montage of contemporary accounts to detail the subsequent tribulations of the 600.

Both books are drawn from an impressive range of archival sources, and each author uses the sources carefully, Marvel being particularly candid about the unreliability of many horror stories of Andersonville. Marvel is also the more objective of the two, admitting quite rightly that the suffering of prisoners may well have shortened the war and therefore avoided incalculably broader suffering. His book infers, however, that such rational arguments are a tough sell. Marvel has written widely on the Civil War and has always received generous help from other scholars. Researching Andersonville, however, Marvel came up against historians determined to stonewall him whenever they could. Evidently, passions over Civil War POW issues remain strong over a century after the event.

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David W. Levy, **The Debate Over Vietnam** (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991), $12.95 US paper, 217 pages, ISBN 0-8018-4149-6.

At the heart of this book is a discussion of the very public and acrimonious controversy over participation in the war in south-east Asia. Levy argues that opposition to the war began coalescing early in 1964, and that by the end of the following summer the anti-war movement had come to embrace large and influential elements of American society. The deep divisions within interest groups that the war provoked form an underlying theme of the book; particularly interesting in this regard is Levy's discussion of the way the entertainment industry split over Vietnam as the Hollywood hawks (including such unlikely allies as John Wayne, Pat Boone and Zsa Zsa Gabor) were pitted against the doves (including Bill Cosby, Gene Hackman and Raquel Welch). As he points out in a thought-provoking conclusion, the opposing sides were not so much arguing about facts as they were about differing ideas of what constitutes good and evil. This was the disagreement that made it impossible for American society to reach a consensus over Vietnam.

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Arthur E. Barbeau and Florette Henri, **The Unknown Soldiers: African-American Troops in World War I** (New York: Da Capo Press, 1996 [1974]), $19.95 paper, 279 pages, ISBN 0-306-80694-0.

It is a story that could apply to minorities the world over. As patriotic and eager to serve as their white fellow countrymen, they discovered that racism was inescapable, even when they were supposedly fighting in a common cause. In this case, American authorities did everything possible to undermine the efforts of black soldiers, allowing only a fraction of them to serve in combat and placing most of them under white officers whose attitudes would not have been out of place in the heyday of slavery.

Though the authors occasionally betray a misunderstanding of military context (it was not just blacks who were sent to the front poorly trained or assigned to exhume and rebury battle casualties), they relate some chilling accounts, like the lynching of black veterans in 1919. Also fascinating is correspondence from American authorities informing the more tolerant French (with whom one of the black divisions served) how black soldiers should be treated, or rather mistreated. And particularly sad is the scapegoating of an entire division because of the failure of one battalion of one regiment in the Argonne in September 1918. This book is a welcome reprint (with a new introduction) but an unsettling read.

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Tom Patterson, **They Never Rationed Courage: Letters Home from the War, 1940-1945** (Stratford, ON: Mercury Press, 1995), $17.50 paper, 237 pages, ISBN 1-55128-026-4.

Had Tom Patterson not been famous as the founder of the Stratford Shakespearean Festival, it seems unlikely that this book would have appeared in print. After all, the letters of a sergeant in the Dental Corps would not generally elicit much of a response from publishers. Yet there is much of interest in the letters, written in the five years that Patterson served overseas. He has some pointed comments about Mackenzie King, and relates many intriguing details about life in wartime Britain, from prices to rationing to social relations. The author might draw some flak from ex-infantrymen for his complaints about the rigours of military manoeuvres ("tougher than in actual operations as far as comforts go") but one cannot deny that he has brought to life a little known side of the war.

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Wilbur H. Morrison, **Twentieth Century American Wars** (New York: Hippocrene Books, 1993), 456 pages.

This dreadful little survey purports to focus on the "Causes and effects" of recent American wars but explains neither to any great extent. Morrison endeavours to place US actions against the backdrop of both global and domestic developments yet returns continually to a straightforward narrative of political and military events, the significance of which to the main argument often remains obscure. The section on the origins of the Vietnam war well illustrates this confusion. It begins with a poorly articulated account of McCarthyism and moves, in a single page, to the statement that "now it [the conflict in French Indochina] was America's war." "Now" meant April 28, 1956, the date the last French forces departed the country, The strange, disjointed chapter that follows this account encompasses a hodgepodge of technological developments, political events, and international crises, and ends, characteristically, with two totally unconnected paragraphs, one on Soviet nuclear testing, the other on the US Peace Corps. We then have a full chapter on the Cuban Missile Crisis (does this count as a "war"?) before returning to Vietnam. There is no discussion whatsoever of the effects of the Vietnam war on any of the major participants. By way of comparison, the origins of the Gulf War in 1990-91 receive only two paragraphs, its consequences a handful more.

The writing style here is choppy, pedestrian, and dull, while the author's blatant pro-American bias is difficult to take, even when, as in the case of World War II, he has a "good war" to work with. While Morrison is vaguely aware of the obvious, that wars are caused by a multiplicity of subtly interconnected factors, he seems woefully incapable of rendering a coherent interpretation to the reading public. Scholars and casual readers alike should give this one a wide berth.

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Bruce Tascona, **From the Forks to Flanders Field: The Story of the 27th City of Winnipeg Battalion, 1914-1919** (Privately published (available from the author, 22 Iroquois Bay, Winnipeg, MB, R2J 2E2), 1995), $31.45 paper, 128 pages, ISBN 0-969939-10-8.

In the crush of unit histories which appeared in the two decades after the 1918 Armistice, only a few battalions were left out. The 27th Battalion was one of them. Mobilized in October 1914, the battalion left Winnipeg in May 1915 and entered the trenches in the Kemmel sector in September. Over the next three years, it was always in the thick of battle, from the St. Eloi Craters andCourcelette through Vimy Ridge and Passchendaele to Amiens and the Hundred Days. Of the roughly 5000 men who passed through the 27th, over 800 died.

Tascona's narrative is capable, though a little briefer than some readers might like, and he succeeds in giving the 27th a fitting tribute. The book is well illustrated and includes useful appendices listing casualties and decorations. Tascona has also reproduced the original embarkation nominal roll, a document that provides a fascinating glimpse at the backgrounds of the men who made up the original 27th. Of the over 900 originals, only 147 returned to Canada after the war.

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Joan Donaldson-Yarmey, ed., **50 Personal World War II Stories** (Privately published (available from the author at Box 85, Ryley, AB, TOB 4AO), 1995), $12.95 paper, 133 pages, ISBN 0-9698900-0-1.

Anthologies of wartime recollections are usually spotty, simply because what one person chooses to recall might not be terribly noteworthy. Yet they are rarely without something of interest, and often there are enough worthwhile memories to justify the read. This is just such an anthology. There are a few recollections which hardly bear recording, but others are real gems. Norman Gibson's account of his return to Canada on the Queen Elizabeth in 1946 is a fascinating look at the running of a massive troopship, and Geoffrey Marston's tale of claiming to be a friend of Babe Ruth to curry favour with his Japanese POW camp guards is a delight. All in all, it is a worthwhile collection, made more so by the fact that a portion of the proceeds is donated to service charities.

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Francis MacDonnell, **Insidious Foes: The Axis Fifth Column and the American Home Front** (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1995), $51.95, 244 pages, ISBN 0-19-509268-6.

Between 1938 and 1942, MacDonnell argues, the US was gripped by a "spirit of thrilling anxiety and dread" over the possibility (some people would have said the probability) of Axis fifth column activity in America. Such fears were almost entirely groundless but, fanned by responsible voices in government and a notoriously saboteur-fixated popular culture, they came to exert considerable political influence nonetheless.

The author does a wonderful job of weaving together a wide variety of sources to recreate the feeling of collective paranoia. His discussion of Hollywood's crusade against the fifth column is especially enlightening, and he cites "Confessions of a Nazi Spy" (1939) as the first film that specifically attacked Hitler's regime. After that, Hollywood declared open season on spies and saboteurs, using the fifth column to engage Americans on a personal level in the struggle against fascism. From the Nazi scare of the 1930s and 1940s it was a small step to the Red Scare of the postwar era and, as MacDonnell points out, it is difficult to understand the McCarthyite witch hunts without understanding the hysteria whipped up by rumours of an Axis fifth column in America.

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Stanley R. Redman, **Open Gangway: The (Real) Story of the Halifax Navy Riot** (Hantsport, NS, Lancelot Press, 1994. (1st ed, 1981)), $8.95, ISBN 0-88999-1502.

This reprinted account of the 1945 Halifax riot does as much, perhaps more, to rescue the reputation of Haligonians besmirched by the event as it does to account for what actually occurred. Preachy and unrestrained in its criticism of the Royal Canadian Navy's senior officers, it lays most of the blame at the feet of Rear-Admiral Leonard W. Murray, Commander-in-Chief Canadian Northwest Atlantic. Though Ottawa too held Murray ultimately responsible for the actions of those under his command and forced him into early retirement, Redman fails to examine that verdict with a critical eye or to place the tragedy in broader perspective.

Rapid population growth during the war years, for example, had created social and economic pressures that neither the city nor the armed services were well prepared to alleviate. Private organizations helped fill the breech, as did the military'sauxiliary services, but, in the end, Halifax did not provide service personnel with much in the way of creature comforts. The RCN was perhaps the worst offender in this regard, as Tony German's recent history points out *(The Sea Is at Our Gates*, 1990), but the municipality, the province, the federal government, and local residents were all culpable to some degree. The explicit defence of contemporary Halifax against the venomous barbs of Upper Canadians adds spice to this mix, but not insight. Redman's account is a useful, spirited narrative of those tragic days, but not a tremendously helpful analysis.

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T. Robert Fowler, **Valour on Juno Beach**, (Burnstown, ON: General Store Publishing House, 1994), $14.95, 104 pages, ISBN 1-896182-02-X.

T. Robert Fowler, **Valour in the Victory Campaign** (Burnstown, ON: General Store Publishing House, 1995), $19.95, 236 pages, ISBN 1-896182-15-1.

In military history there is not always room to recount the individual acts of courage by soldiers. In Robert Fowler's *Valour on Juno Beach* and *Valour in the Victory Campaign* it is these stories of soldiers at their best that take centre stage. Using the official citations for the various awards for valour, Fowler's books highlight the accomplishments of each soldier that were recognized with an award.

Valour on Juno Beach focuses on the actions of the men of 3rd Canadian Infantry Division, 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade and 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion who landed in Normandy on 6 June 1944. *Valour in the Victory Campaign* is broader in scope covering 3rd Division and 2nd Armoured Brigade for the final months of the war, from 1 January 1945 to 4 May 1945. The structure of both books is the same. As much as possible, the soldiers stories are told by award citations which are reproduced with a minimum of editing. Fowler contributes enough narrative to provide the context for each citation which are reproduced in chronological order.

In these two books Fowler has assembled a fitting testament to the soldiers who fought. Each citation vividly demonstrates the courage Canadian soldiers were capable of when called upon. By making these citations easily available, Fowler provides the reader with a dramatic reminder of the sacrifice Canadians made in the Second World War and helps to ensure that the sacrifices of Canadians will not be forgotten.

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