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BOOK REVIEW SUPPLEMENT

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Robert L. Fraser, ed., **Black Yesterdays: The Argylls' War** (Privately published [available from Lieut.-Col. J.A. Ramesbottom, 184 Brookview Dr., Ancaster, Ont., L9G 1J6) $50.00, 632 pages, ISBN 0-9361380-0-4.

In 1927, a reviewer in the *Canadian Defence Quarterly* lamented that "Canadian regimental histories are threatened by a formula. They are beginning to display a regrettable conformity in style and presentation." The same might be said of the first wave of Second World War unit histories. They were solid and meticulous pieces of research, but they did tend to be a little dry and rather lacking in imagination and creativity. The second wave of histories, by Geoff Hayes, Terry Copp and others, revealed a marked shift in emphasis. The same solid research was there, but these authors went beyond the traditional formula to humanize the historical record, placing as much emphasis on the human face of war as the movement of companies and platoons. *Black Yesterdays*, a chronicle of the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders of Canada, goes farther still, and provides us with a new and powerful variety of unit history.

The story of the Argylls' war is told entirely in their own words, through letters, diaries, interviews, the war diary, and personal accounts. There are no dissections of battles by dispassionate historians, only the impressions and thoughts of the men who lived through those black yesterdays. It might be suspected that such an approach would leave the reader puzzled by a barrage of reflections with nothing to put them into context, but this is not the case. In fact, quite the opposite occurs: one gets to know the regiment much more intimately than with a conventional history, and the life story of the unit emerges in a way that is compelling and comprehensible.

Every aspect of the Argylls' war is covered, from its "sojourn in the sun" on garrison duty in Jamaica to its baptism of fire in July 1944 to the experiences of loved ones left behind the Canada. There are many photos and even a selection (including 8 colour plates) from the work of the unit's resident artist, Private F.T.V. Savard. Everything is brought together in a most impressive fashion, making *Black Yesterdays* a wonderful read for anyone interested in the experience of men at war.

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Adrian Weale, **Renegades: Hitler's Englishmen** (London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1994) £18.99, 230 pages, ISBN 0-297-81488-5.

It would be difficult to find a more unsavoury collection of undesirables - imbeciles, anti-Semites, opportunists, fascists, petty crooks, anti-communists, and madmen, these renegades went over to the Nazi side to spy on the Allies, infiltrate resistance movements, make pro-German radio broadcasts, and serve in combat. They range from the very well known, like Lord Haw-Haw and John Amery (both hanged for treason) to the obscure, like the motley collection of POWs (including a few Canadians) who

joined the British Free Corps to fight against the Soviets, and Tom Cooper, the only Englishman to receive a German combat decoration.

The story, which occasionally takes on overtones of high comedy, is well told by Weale. He carefully traces the misadventures of the renegades, whose only impact on the war was to consume effort that the Nazis could ill afford to waste, and is careful to avoid the demonizing which characterized postwar accounts of British traitors. The people who emerge are generally not evil personified, but rather misguided, pathetic souls whose psychological failings made them ill-equipped to resist Nazi blandishments.

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Arlen Hansen, **Gentlemen Volunteers: The Story of American Ambulance Drivers in the Great War, August 1914-September 1918** (New York: Arcade Publishing, 1996) $24.95 US paper, 288 pages, ISBN 1-55970-313-X.

Among the American ambulance drivers in the Great War were some of the most eminent names in American literature, including Ernest Hemingway, John Dos Passos and e.e. cummings. Because of their notoriety, the work of the various ambulance detachments has been distorted. *Gentlemen Volunteers* corrects these misconceptions admirably. Hansen, in a book published posthumously, has written an engaging and finely crafted account of the work of these wealthy and well educated Americans who volunteered their services out of a love of adventure or a desire to help France. He recounts the rivalries between various units, and the turmoil into which many volunteers were tossed when the US entry into the war seemed to demand their militarization. Hansen is at his finest, though, when describing the day-to-day work of the drivers as they struggled to convey shattered bodies to aid posts. These passages stand as a tribute as much to the drivers as to the author.

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Gerlof D. Homan, **American Mennonites and the Great War, 1914-1918** (Waterloo, ON: Herald Press, 1994) $28.50 paper, 240 pages, ISBN 0-8361-3114-2.

The Great War was a defining moment for American Mennonites. As a pacifist religious sect that had lived in the United States for more than a century, they were suddenly compelled to respond to the fervent patriotism of the larger society with a religious tradition that forbade military involvement. At first glance, the issues appear to be clear, especially given the commonly held assumption that Mennonites have always been impervious to societal trends. Yet that was not the case, as Homan demonstrates in this concisely written study. Homan believes that although Mennonite church leaders in 1914 were unanimous in their opposition to the war, members were far less unified on how to respond to conscription. An estimated 60 per cent of Mennonites drafted were thought to have refused military service of any kind and were sentenced to "conscientious objector" camps. Almost a third accepted some form of non-combatant service. This leaves 7-10 per cent that likely entered the armed forces. An exact reckoning on this issue is especially difficult to obtain as many who joined the war effort simply ceased to exist within the Mennonite church. Homan concludes that most Mennonites reaffirmed their peace stance as a result of the Great War, and became even more removed from mainstream society. This also resulted in more cohesiveness among the various Mennonite church conferences after 1918. However, he makes it clear that other families and church communities experienced painful disagreements and separations when those in their midst responded positively to the call to arms. In all cases, the Great War had a far greater impact on American Mennonites than has previously been assumed. Homan's study is well researched, clearly written, and includes a number of rare photographs.

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Ken Lamb, **Milton Remembers World War II, 1939-1945** (Milton, ON: Milton Historical Society, 1995) 140 pages, ISBN 0-9695629-2-6.

Milton was like a thousand other towns in 1939, so its memories of the war are probably fairly representative. Indeed, Lamb has been careful to recount as broad a range of experiences as possible. We read of fighter pilots, merchant seamen, infantrymen, nurses, prisoners of war, and even the RAF's only female meteorologist. There are also details of life in wartime Milton, and tidbits from local newspapers. A list of Miltoners who served and short biographies of the 32 local men who were killed on active service round out the volume. A joint project of the Milton Historical Society and the Private Joe Waters Branch of the Canadian Legion, *Milton Remembers World War II* is an admirable volume that can serve as an example to other Legion branches contemplating similar collections.

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John Ellis, **Social History of the Machine Gun** (London: Pimlico, 1993 [1976]) £8.00 paper, 186 pages, ISBN 0-7126-5669-3.

This is a most welcome reprint of one of the first books of the "new" military history. Ellis argues that the invention of the modern machine gun in the United States at the time of the Civil War, its widespread use in imperial conflicts, and Britain's failure to recognize its potential before the First World War can all be explained

by the unique nature of the societies involved. In the US, techniques of mass production and the experience of modern mass warfare were two of the preconditions to the invention of an efficient machine gun. In Britain, the reluctance of the military mind to accept the primacy of machine over man was balanced by a realization that only the machine gun could subdue waves of native warriors and retain Britain's hold over the Empire. The notion that warfare takes place within a specific social context is not surprising, but it is something that military historians sometimes lose sight of. Ellis reminds us that it is impossible to discuss any army or weapon without considering the society which created it.

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Paul Litt, Ronald F. Williamson and Joseph W.A. Whitehorne, **Death at Snake Hill: Secrets from a War of 1812 Cemetery** (Toronto: Dundurn Press, 1993) $12.99 paper, 158 pages, ISBN 1-55002-186-9.

In 1987, work on a number of building lots near Fort Erie, Ontario uncovered evidence of an old cemetery. Subsequent archaeological work determined that the bodies were American soldiers killed during the Niagara campaign of 1814. A joint Canadian-American research team conducted a battery of tests on the skeletons before they were returned to the US to be buried with full military honours. The entire operation brought together scientists, archaeologists and historians to understand the lives and violent deaths of these nameless casualties.

It is a fascinating tale that reveals how many secrets can be coaxed out of centuries-old skeletons, and shows how effectively science and history can work together to elucidate the past. There are a few wrong notes, such as the occasional presentism (was it really necessary to refer to the medical procedure of bloodletting as "colossally stupid"?) and ill-considered criticism of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission that reveals a lack of insight into the principles involved in modern military burials. Nevertheless, for those who missed the original drama as it unfolded, this is a most interesting summary.

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Reginald H. Roy, **Sherwood Lett: His Life and Times** (Vancouver: UBC Alumni Association [distributed in Canada by the University of British Columbia Press], 1991) $29.95, 180 pages, ISBN 0-9695316-0-5.

Sherwood Lett (1895-1964) was typical of the citizen-soldiers who have fought Canada's wars of this century. A student and militia member in BC in 1914, he joined up and eventually found his way to the front in 1917 as a signals officer with the 46th Battalion, a Saskatchewan unit. He came through his year of war unscathed, and returned to civilian life to take up a legal career. Lett remained in the militia through the interwar years and in May 1940 was asked to serve as Brigade Major to the 6th Infantry Brigade. From there, his rise was steady: a staff appointment at 2nd Division HQ, command of the South Saskatchewan Regiment, command of 4th Infantry Brigade, a shrapnel wound at Dieppe, Deputy Chief of the General Staff, a return to commanding the 4th Brigade, and finally the shrapnel wound in Normandy that ended his second war.

Like all of Roy's work, this biography is engagingly written, and is enlivened by passages from Lett's voluminous correspondence and diaries. It is not particularly probing, and there may well be questions about Lett's handling of his units that other historians may wish to ask. Nevertheless, this is a nice tribute to one of Canada's distinguished citizen-soldiers.

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Steve Neary, **The Enemy on our Doorstep: The German Attacks at Bell Island, Newfoundland, 1942** (St. John's: Jesperson Press, 1994) $12.95 paper, 140 pages, ISBN 0-921692-58-7.

On one level, this book might be of purely local interest, for it is an immensely detailed account of the sinking of four merchant ships off Bell Island in the fall of 1942. Neary has reproduced a series of documents, including U-Boat logs, to chart the series of events that led up to the sinkings (two of which occurred in broad daylight), and he also discusses the subsequent enquiries intended to ensure (unsuccessfully, as it happened) that the same thing did not happen again.

On another level, the book nicely captures the shape of wartime paranoia and panic. We read how suspicion fell on the captain of one of the freighters, a Frenchman whose poor command of English made him an easy target for nervous islanders bent on finding a scapegoat, and how a lengthy police investigation was required to prove the falsity of rumours that he had tipped off the enemy about his own ship. Obviously, while naval and coastal defence officials were looking at ways to strengthen the defences, islanders were engaged in a search for the enemy within.

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Geoff B. Bailey, **Falkirk or Paradise! The Battle of Falkirk Muir, 17 January 1746** (Edinburgh: John Donald, 1996) £9.95 paper, 250 pages, ISBN 0-85976-431-1.

People who have confined their reading to 20th century military history might, upon finishing this book, imagine that battles were more often lost than won. This engagement during the rebellion of Bonnie Prince Charlie certainly bears this out. The rebellious Scots were beset by clan bickering, indiscipline and their leaders'

inability to agree on strategy. Regiments loyal to the government faced armament problems, poor morale, and commanders with notoriously cold feet. On both sides, desertion was a serious problem, and both armies collapsed during the course of the battle. At the end of the day, the Highlanders were left in control of the battlefield but failed to press their advantage, becoming weaker by the day as they argued about strategy. The government army, in contrast, grew progressively stronger after the battle and soon gained the upper hand. In the end, the Highlanders "victory" at Falkirk was a major factor in their eventual defeat at Culloden.

Bailey tells the story in comprehensive detail, reprinting many original documents to flesh out the narrative. It is sometimes difficult to tell the players without a programme, but he adroitly captures the essence of a battle that was even more confusing for the man fighting it than for the historian writing about it.

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Henry Kaufman, **Vertrauensmann: Man of Confidence. The Story of an American Ex-Prisoner of World War II** (New York: Rivercross Publishing, 1994) $17.50 US, 189 pages, ISBN 0-944957-47-1.

Gerald E. McDowell, **A Tail Gunner's Tale** (New York: Vantage Press, 1991) $17.95 US, 152 pages, ISBN 0-533-09100-4.

David Westheimer, **Sitting It Out: A World War II POW Memoir** (Houston: Rice University Press [distributed in Canada by the University of British Columbia Press], 1992) $35.95, 358 pages, ISBN 0-89263-315-8.

In some ways, it is unfair to compare these books. Westheimer, the best-selling author of *Von Ryan's Express*, has made his living with the pen, while Kaufman and McDowell are amateur memoirists. McDowell was a tail gunner in a B-17 nicknamed Hell's Belle (sister ship to the now famed Memphis Belle) until he was shot down and captured in December 1943. It is a somewhat confused memoir that would have benefited from more careful editing, but it does have a welcome candour. He admits for example, that he was quite happy to be a tail gunner because spending the war in a ball turret would have been too much for him. On a darker note, McDowell still betrays a deep bitterness towards Germany for his treatment in captivity.

Unlike Westheimer and McDowell, Kaufman was an infantryman, captured at Anzio in February 1944. While in captivity, he served as the man of confidence, the POW elected by his comrades to act as the liaison with the camp staff, and fought a running battle to prevent the Germans from learning he was a Jew, an eventuality which might have been fatal. *Vertrauensmann*, too, suffers from a lack of firm editorial guidance, for it tends to wander at times. Kaufman has much of interest to say, but it often does not come through particularly clearly.

In contrast, *Sitting It Out* is the finest captivity memoir to appear in recent years. Westheimer was one of the first American airmen captured in Italy, when his Liberator was downed in December 1942, and spent 869 days in Italian and German prison camps. There was nothing particularly unusual about his experiences. What is exceptional is the skill with which he relates them. His characterizations are finely drawn and eminently human, and he has a gift for rendering the most mundane incidents in fascinating detail. From the comic-opera encounters with his Italian captors to relations with his German guards in the closing days of the war, Westheimer's memoir is a delight. The POW specialist will find countless penetrating insights, and everyone else will find an immensely entertaining read.

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Brian Brivati and Harriet Jones, eds., **What Difference Did the War Make?** (London: Leicester University Press [distributed in Canada by Canadian Scholars' Press], 1993) $26.95 paper, 189 pages, ISBN 0-7185-2263-X.

The question posed by the title is more complicated than it seems. On one level, the answer seems self-evident - how could the war not have made a tremendous difference to Britain? In fact, many of the essays in this collection suggest there were strong continuities between prewar and postwar Britain. Its three sections examine politics and economics, society, and foreign policy, and bring together such distinguished names as Eric Hobsbawm, Keith Middlemas and Enoch Powell. And, while the authors admit the great changes set in motion by the events of 1939-45, they are careful not to overstate the case. E.G.H. Pedaliu, for example, stresses the continuities in British foreign policy towards Italy between 1939 and 1948, while Bill Osgerby argues that the British youth culture which developed in the 1950s had been foreshadowed by prewar and even Victorian trends. In addition to these specialized enquiries, there are also excellent general summaries of British foreign policy and economic performance in the wake of the war. All in all, this is a very handy collection of reflections on the impact of war on the modern nation-state.

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Jack Dunn, **The Alberta Field Force of 1885** (Privately published [available from the author at 6404 Norfolk Drive SW, Calgary, AB, T2K 5K2], 1994) $25.95 paper, 293 pages, ISBN 0-9698596-0-0.

Thomas Bland Strange, known variously as the Buckskin Brigadier or Gunner Jingo, is one of the more colourful characters of Canada's past. Sadly, he has now been relegated to the footnotes of

history. In 1888, a reference book devoted eight full pages to Strange's life; a recent dictionary of Canadian history does not even mention his name. It is partly to rescue Strange from obscurity that Dunn wrote this book, an account of the Alberta Field Force and its involvement in the North-West Rebellion of 1885. It is a breezy and highly readable narrative drawn from a wide variety of sources, and we see very clearly how a grand adventure for the men of the Force quickly degenerated into a hard slog through inhospitable wilderness. Nevertheless, their very perseverance did them credit and, if their skirmishes were confused and inconclusive, the troops at least put up a show of force which played no small part in pacifying the region.

The last veteran of the North-West Rebellion died in 1972 and, like its commander, the Alberta Field Force has become almost a footnote to Canadian history. With this book, Dunn has done a nice job of giving them their due.

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Frederic L. Borch III and William R. Westlake, **For Heroic or Meritorious Achievement: The American Bronze Star Medal Awarded to United Kingdom and Commonwealth Forces for the Korean War** (Privately published [available from the authors at 1444 West La Jolla Drive, Tempe, AZ, U.S.A. 85282-4457], 1995) 116 pages, ISBN 0-9641533-1-9.

With the recent resurgence of interest in the Korean War, this handy reference volume is sure to find an audience. During the conflict, 130 Commonwealth servicemen were awarded the Bronze Star, including eight members of the Canadian army, navy and air force. Among the Canadian winners were Major E.J. Williams of the PPCLI, for gallantry in attacking enemy emplacements in October 1951, Lieutenant-Commander J.H.G. Bovey, Commanding Officer of the HMCS Crusader, and Lieutenant-Colonel E.C.A. Amy of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps, for his staff work in the 1st Commonwealth Division.

The book reprints all of the available award citations, and is well illustrated with photographs and reproductions of documents. It is an excellent reference guide for individuals interested in this all-too-often neglected conflict.

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Claude Beauregard, **Censorship Reports on the Jewish Community during the Second World War** (Toronto: Canadian Institute of Strategic Studies, 1994) $12.00 paper, 88 pages, ISBN 0-919769-84-5.

This collection of documents consists of three reports on the conditions of Jews in Europe gleaned from postal and telegraph censorship, and a summary of an interview with Albert Kaufman, a Jewish employee of the Argentine Embassy in Prague who escaped to Buenos Aires in 1943. All are reprinted from the records of External Affairs at the National Archives. While they are obviously limited in their coverage, they do offer intriguing glimpses into such things as anti-semitism in America, the dominions, and neutral nations. The reports also cover the activities of Jewish political and philanthropic organizations, and the conditions of Jewish refugees.

The Kaufman interview is especially interesting for its very specific details about life in wartime Prague. Not only does he describe the conditions of Jews, but also the price of food and other commodities, the morale of the Czech population, and the organization of the Nazi regime in Prague. Like the censorship reports, it is no more than a snapshot, but it is a fascinating one at that.

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Andre Corvisier, ed., **A Dictionary of Military History and the Art of War** (Cambridge, MA: Blackwell, 1994) $49.95 US, 916 pages, ISBN 0-631-16848-6.

John Keegan and Andrew Wheatcroft, **Who's Who in Military History from 1453 to the Present Day** (New York: Routledge, 1996) $20.95 paper, 340 pages, ISBN 0-415-11884-0.

One of these two fine reference volumes should find its way into every military enthusiast's library, depending on one's budget and level of expertise. Corvisier's volume (translated from the 1988 French dictionary) is the more ambitious and ranges from the very broad (like training) to the very specific (like Scipio Africanus, the dominant general of the Second Punic War). The general entries have the merit of condensing centuries of detail into a number of paragraphs, without sacrificing utility. The entry on loss of life, for example, is an excellent comparative look at the human cost of war. Entries are followed by suggestions for further reading, and an excellent index makes it easy to find cross-references.

Keegan and Wheatcroft's book, though more limited in scope, is no less useful. It takes as its starting point the beginning of the Middle Ages (not to mention the first major success of gunpowder, the breaching of the walls of Constantinople), and provides thumbnail sketches of the major figures through 500 years of warfare. The entries are short and to-the-point, with a minimum of analysis and comment, and are excellent for looking up those elusive details without having to wade through lengthy biographies. A short glossary defines common military terms, and a map section situates the battles of the main conflicts described.

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David Brownstone and Irene Franck, **Timelines of War: A Chronology of Warfare from 100,000 BC to the Present** (New York: Little, Brown and Company [distributed in Canada by Fitzhenry & Whiteside], 1994) $38.95, 562 pages, ISBN 0-316-11403-0.

This is another solid reference book which will be well used in any military library. It begins with an English spear tip dating from 300,000 BC and continues to the death of Jimmy Doolittle in 1993, covering ever conceivable event and individual along the way. It is divided into four eras, the first running to 501 BC, the second to 999 AD, the third to 1699, and the fourth covering the modern era, and geographical divisions within each era make it easy to find and compare key events. Within these divisions, the authors are able to find room for the most obscure detail while still providing adequate coverage of the major events of the world wars and other significant and lengthy conflicts. Furthermore, they interpret "war" very generally, including peasant revolts, slavery, and the campaigns against Colombian drug lords in the 1980s and 1990s. There is also an index which allows one to trace, for example, the history of war in Morocco.

The most appealing thing about the book, though, is its cost. It would be difficult to find a comparable reference volume, and one that would be used as frequently, for the same price.

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Robert Capa: Photographs (New York/Don Mills: Aperture/General Publishing, 1996) $72.00, 192 pages, ISBN 0-89381-6752.

When Robert Capa was killed by a land mine in 1954 while photographing the war in French Indochina, he left behind some of the most memorable war photographs ever taken. His first famous photo, snapped the instant a bullet struck and killed a Loyalist militiaman of the Spanish Civil War, was followed by dozens of others: shots of the Normandy landings (not blurred by Capa but spoiled by the technician who developed them); a French woman, her head shaved as punishment for consorting with the occupiers, being harangued by crowds in Chartres; Picasso in his studio after the liberation of Paris; and, in his last photo, soldiers advancing cautiously along a road in Vietnam. As well as these renowned photos, the book also includes some of Capa's lesser known works, from the war in China and the Allied campaign in Italy.

Capa has been called a poet of the camera, and there is a lifetime of artistry in these pages. His great skill was in capturing the human face of conflict, and Capa's wars are ultimately wars of victims. He was by no means just a combat photographer, but it was war that spawned what are arguably his most enduring images.

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John McKay and John Harland, **The Flower Class Corvette Agassiz** (St. Catharines: Vanwell, 1993) $44.95, 160 pages, ISBN 1-55068-084-6.

Another offering in the "Anatomy of a Ship" series, this book will appeal to the historian and veteran alike. It is divided into three sections, the first being a fairly concise account of the corvette's history, design and equipment. The second section consists of photos, both general views of corvettes and close-ups of equipment. The third and largest section contains accurate and very detailed technical drawings of every part of the Agassiz, from profile plans to drawings of the minesweeping gear. Ex-corvette men will be able to "walk through" the ship and relive tours of duty, while modelmakers will be able to build a first-class model of the Agassiz from the book.

There are now fourteen titles in this series, covering everything from the cruiser Belfast to the ships of Christopher Columbus. The Agassiz, built in Vancouver and commissioned in 1941, is in good company.

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Michael L. Hadley, **Count Not the Dead: The Popular Image of the German Submarine** (Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1995) $34.95, 253 pages, ISBN 0-7735-1282-9.

This is a fascinating discussion of the evolution of the U-Boat from a technical invention to a cultural icon. Surveying U-Boat literature from the earliest days to the present, Hadley describes how the image of the submarine was so often coopted for political ends. In the post-1918 period, for example, it came to symbolize the true spirit of the German Navy, in contrast to the mutinous surface fleet. Later, the submarine arm became a battleground for veterans debating the meaning and legacy of the Nazi years.

One of the most interesting sections in the book relates to the work of Lothar-Gunther Buchheim, a prolific U-Boat writer whose book *Das Boot* eventually became a widely acclaimed film. Buchheim's work was a lightning rod for debate between veterans who regarded the submariner as "nur soldat" who did his duty honourably and courageously, and those who argued that Karl Dönitz and the U-Boat arm callously sent tens of thousands of young Germans to meaningless deaths like so many lambs to the slaughter. Interestingly, readers will find in this section more than a few echoes of *The Valour and the Horror* controversy, which also pitted veterans against each other over the meaning and ownership of history. The Buchheim controversy was considerably more explosive, and Hadley handles it judiciously and sensitively.

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Nosheen Khan, **Women's Poetry of the First World War** (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1988) 226 pages, ISBN 0-8131-1677-5.

Trudi Tate, ed., **Women, Men and the Great War: An Anthology of Stories** (Manchester: Manchester University Press [distributed in Canada by the University of British Columbia Press], 1995) $22.95 paper, 298 pages, 0-7910-4598-3.

Since the publication of Paul Fussell's *The Great War and Modern Memory* in 1975, one of the most persistent criticisms of the book has been its gender bias: his thesis about the impact of the war on modern culture is built almost entirely around the writings of males. Much has been done over the past two decades to correct this misconception, and these books are just two products of that new work.

Khan began her study with a simple aim: to rescue women's war poetry from obscurity. Drawn from well known as well as unheralded poets, the book is arranged thematically, covering such subjects as war and religion, war and nature, and the war at home. Through it all, Khan draws the very reasonable conclusion that the progression of war poetry from enthusiasm to disillusionment to resignation that has been enshrined by decades of literary critics is misleading and entirely too simplistic. Ironically, this very interesting book leaves one with the feeling that male and female poets interpreted the war in strikingly similar terms; the voice may be male or female, but the sentiments are universal. This, of course, begs a question which scholars have so far shied away from: was there a gendered response to the war?

We get no clearer answer from Tate's book, a fine collection of short stories that is fascinating for its eclecticism. The selections vary in literary quality. Arthur Machen's "The Bowmen," about ghostly medieval archers coming to the aid of the BEF in 1914, is pure propaganda, and Sapper's "Spud Trevor of the Red Hussars" is a simple spy story, albeit a very well crafted one. On the other hand, Katherine Mansfield's "The Fly" is a remarkable and disturbing story of a businessman trying to come to terms with the death of his son, while Percy Wyndham Lewis' "The French Poodle," about a doomed officer's friendship with a dog, is equally arresting and just as good. Regardless of their literary quality, however, all of the stories offer excellent insights into the era, and Tate is to be commended for assembling a first-class anthology. Still, one is left wondering if it useful to discuss a male or female response to the war, or whether we should just speak of varieties of human response.

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Ulrich Steinhilper and Peter Osborne, **Ten Minutes to Buffalo: The Story of Germany's Great Escaper** and **Full Circle: The Long Way Home from Canada** (Keston, UK: Independent Books, 1991 and 1992) £14.95 each, 431 and 377 pages, ISBN 1-872836-01-1 and 1-872836-02-X.

There have been many accounts of everyday life in Canada during the Second World War, and a few of that life as seen through the barbed wire of a prison camp holding German POWs. But there have been very few accounts of what wartime Canada was like for the POW on the run. These two books fill that gap admirably.

Ulrich Steinhilper was shot down over southern England in October 1940 and came to Canada as a POW in January 1941. Incarcerated first at Angler in northern Ontario, he was later moved to the camp at Bowmanville. A persistent escaper, Steinhilper spent much of his captivity either planning or executing breakouts. He was also a very keen observer, and describes his escapes in detail and with great verve. On his first escape from Bowmanville, he hitched a lift with a truck driver and finally reached Union Station in Toronto, where he skulked around the freight yards looking for a train to stow aboard. He then walked from Mississauga to Hamilton, where he secreted himself on another train for the journey to Niagara Falls. Ironically, he actually made it to the American side but was unable to clamber down before the train shunted back to Canada, and back to captivity. On a subsequent escape, Steinhilper was equally unlucky, being apprehended in Watertown, New York and returned to Canada by the American police. He ended the war in an insane asylum; after five unsuccessful escape attempts, he decided to feign madness in the hopes of securing repatriation home to Germany. The end of the war in Europe put a stop to his "insanity," but it was another year before he left Canada.

These books will delight the reader who is interested in viewing wartime Canada through the eyes of a fugitive enemy airman, and will be especially interesting to readers who know the areas Steinhilper traversed. It is also fascinating to note the similarities between these books, and the more famous tales or Allied escapers in Germany; personalities, motives and techniques seem really very similar. Indeed, Steinhilper would not have been out of place in Colditz Castle or the Great Escape.

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Jerry Billing, **A Knave Among Knights in their Spitfires** (Winnipeg: Bunker to Bunker Books, 1995) 240 pages, ISBN 0-9699039-1-X.

Jerry Billing is better known to the aviation world as the pilot of actor Cliff Robertson's Spitfire, but his flying career was considerably more varied than this. Enlisting in the RCAF in November 1940, he flew ops over France for a short time before getting a posting to Malta. Returning to the UK in 1943, he was eventually posted to 401 Squadron and flew many operations in support of the Normandy landings. After being

shot down and evading capture in July 1944, Billing was demobilized, only to re-enlist in the RCAF in 1948. He served in various roles (including as member of the Avro Arrow test team - he has some unkind words about the Holy Grail of Canadian aviation) before leaving the RCAF in 1964 to work as a test pilot with De Havilland. Then he became the envy of many of his fellow pilots, being able to fly a Spitfire decades after most of them had left the beautiful aircraft behind.

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Captain Stratford St. Leger, **Mounted Infantry at War** (Falls Church, VA: NOVA Publications, 1996) $26.95 US, 274 pages, ISBN 0-9470-29022-5.

Little is known about Stratford St. Leger, beyond that he published this volume originally in 1903 and was eventually killed on the Somme in 1916. As a memoir, *Mounted Infantry at War* is much like dozens of other Boer War reminiscences published at the same time. He has some interesting comments about tactics and about the colonial mounted rifle units which served in his column ("The Canadians, perhaps, were the most showy troops. They were men of immense physique, splendidly mounted and perfectly drilled.") but nothing in the text sets out St. Leger as a particularly cogent observer.

The illustrations, however, elevate the book above the commonplace. St. Leger's sketch pad accompanied him wherever he went, and the book is filled with charming and evocative line drawings of life on campaign in South Africa. Most are in black and white, but there is also a section of wonderful colour plates which provide an even better glimpse into the life of a mounted infantryman at war. The illustrations alone make this book a worthwhile addition to any military library.

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Melanie Wiggins, **Torpedoes in the Gulf: Galveston and the U-Boats, 1942-43** (College Station: Texas A&M University Press [distributed in Canada by the University of British Columbia Press], 1995) $21.95 paper, 265 pages, ISBN 0-89096-648-6.

For Americans living along the south coast, the realization that U-Boats were active in the Gulf of Mexico must have been almost as alarming as it was for Canadians to realize that they were operating in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Well over 100 vessels were attacked in or near the Gulf of Mexico in 1942 and 1943, including dozens in the approaches to New Orleans; 56 merchant ships were sunk and 15 damaged.

Wiggins brings a journalistic style to the book, describing with equal facility the experiences of the U-Boat crews and the reaction of American civilians and defence officials. She also discusses the construction of coastal fortifications in the Galveston area and of massive oil pipelines from Texas to the east coast, partly in response to the submarines which menaced oil tankers in the Gulf. There are a few wrong notes in the book, including some unsubstantiated spy stories which don't quite ring true and a map that is confusing and less than useful, but all in all it's an entertaining read.

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Geoffrey Blain, **Huryo: The Emperor's Captives** (New York: Vantage Press, 1995) $10.95 US paper, 136 pages, ISBN 0-533-11239-7.

Blain was a young naval officer taken prisoner by the Japanese when HMS Exeter was sunk in March 1942 off Java. He spent the next three and a half years in captivity in Makassar, Nagasaki and Manchuria, and seems to have been treated passably well, at least compared to other POWs in the Far East. He recalls little in the way of studied brutality, and indeed seems to have fostered reasonably cordial relations with some of his captors. One might wonder if Blain has repressed the worst of his memories, but the historical record does suggest that, for a variety of reasons, naval personnel did adjust better to life in captivity than army personnel.

Included in the book are Blain's diary entries from August 1945, when he and his fellow prisoners learned of the war's end, to his arrival in Canada (on the way home to Britain) in October 1945, and excerpts from another diary, kept by one of Blain's crewmates from HMS Exeter, giving an eyewitness account of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki.

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Stephen Constantine, Maurice W. Kirby and Mary B. Rose, eds., **The First World War in British History** (London: Edward Arnold [distributed in Canada by Oxford University Press], 1995) $40.50 paper, 295 pages, ISBN 0-340-57053-9.

It is often difficult to locate solid and succinct summaries of key themes in war history. Someone looking for background reading can certainly wade into any of a huge number of massive tomes in search of a general overview. Alternately, one can turn to a volume such as this for excellent thematic surveys.

The 11 essays assembled cover everything from British domestic politics to the social impact of the war to Britain and the international economy. Particularly useful are Keith Vernon's essay on science and technology, which finds in the war the origins of a new scientific ordering of British society, and Malcolm Smith's survey of the war and British culture, which examines the curious ways in which the modern and the traditional jostled for primacy in postwar Britain.

The editors chose as a cover illustration a detail from Paul Nash's evocative and ironic painting

"We are making a New World," which shows the sun breaking over a shattered and desolate landscape. It was a wise choice, for these essays all consider the degree to which a new world was made for Britain out of the experience of the Great War.

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John Michael Priest, ed., **Stephen Elliott Welch of the Hampton Legion** (Shippensburg, PA: Burd Street Press, 1994) $12.00 US paper, ISBN 0-942597-66-4

Emil and Ruth Rosenblatt, eds., **Hard Marching Every Day: The Civil War Letters of Private Wilbur Fisk, 1861-65** (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1992) $15.95 US paper, 383 pages, ISBN 0-7006-0681-5.

These two volumes of Civil War memoirs could not be more different. In this sub-field of war literature where a work's value or interest to the broader scholarly community or to the reading public tends to matter less than its parochial appeal to the local military historical society, Priest's collection is thoroughly unremarkable. Including a mere handful of letters from three members of the Welch family, brothers Elliott, William and Samuel, its spotty coverage skips entire months at a time. Priest supplies brief narrative passages to fill these yawning gaps, but the thin nature of the collection almost begs the question: why bother? This is not to say that all passages are without interest. Battle historians might mine some usable nuggets from the accounts of Antietam and Richmond, for example, but the letters in general add little to our understanding of the war or its effects.

Wilbur Fisk's voluminous writings are another matter entirely. The well-crafted, witty, often irreverent letters were designed by Fisk as reports from the front to a Vermont newspaper, *The Green Mountain Freeman*. The paper then published them in their entirety as a means of informing readers of the war's progress and of the activities of the local units, an exclusive "front-line report," in contemporary CNN jargon. Because of their intended popular audience, Fisk included information about the daily life of a Union soldier, in battle and in camp, and one finds in the collection a meticulous recounting of everything from infantry assault procedures to picket duty to the construction of bivouacs. Such valuable detail, rendered in readable, even elegant prose, is exceedingly rare in accounts of this type; rarer still are the author's terse, revealing comments on Union generalship, politics, civil-military relations, morale, and other questions. Add to this a revealing portrait of the effects of the long struggle on the author himself, an odyssey laid bare in his running commentary on life, morality and divine providence, and we are left with one of the very best Civil War memoirs to appear in recent years.

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Douglas How, **One Village, One War, 1914-1945: A Thinking About the Literature of Stone** (Hantsport, NS: Lancelot Press, 1995) $16.95 paper, 374 pages, ISBN 0-88999-563-X.

Inspired by the 41 names on the war memorial in Dorchester, New Brunswick, this book traces the impact of war on a small village and the people who lived there. How grew up in Dorchester, served in the Cape Breton Highlanders, and knew a number of the men commemorated on the memorial. Many others, however, were just names to him, so he set about the task of rescuing them from the obscurity to which they had (perhaps consciously) been consigned.

The result is a detailed account of two world wars (or, to use an interpretation that How borrows from European historians, one long war with a 21-year pause) as seen through the eyes of a close-knit and interrelated group of villagers. We follow them from enlistment to postings around the world, and experience the war through their letters and diaries. We even get the enemy's perspective, from a German who left Dorchester before the war and eventually served in the Wehrmacht.

How's book exists partly to teach the people of Dorchester their own history. It is an example that other communities could well heed if Canada's military heritage is to survive.

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Adrian Gregory, **The Silence of Memory: Armistice Day, 1919-46** (Providence, RI: Berg, 1994) $19.95 US paper, 245 pages, ISBN 1-85973-001-9.

It is now nearly 80 years since Armistice (now Remembrance) Day was first observed and in that time, Gregory argues, the day has been the focus of contests over the way in which the war should exist in the public memory. Contests between veterans and the bereaved over whose sacrifice was really being commemorated on 11 November, between individuals with conflicting ideas on the solemnity which should characterize the day, between pacifists who believed Armistice Day should be less militaristic and others who denied it was militaristic at all - these and other disputes have shaped the nature of Armistice Day since its inception.

Gregory argues his case forcefully and well, drawing on the best of recent European historiography for interpretive tools. He raises some fascinating issues which will make everyone view their own local Remembrance Day ceremony in a different light. The reader's only regret is that Gregory did not carry the book forward to the present. Remembrance Day has become even more controversial since 1945, especially in Britain. The IRA bombing at Enniskillen during a

Remembrance Day service and the minor storm aroused by the casual dress of a Labour politician at the service in Whitehall reveal that a day which commemorates the end of battle remains something of a battleground.

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Michael Freeman, **Atlas of Nazi Germany: A Political, Economic & Social Anatomy of The Third Reich** (London: Longman [distributed in Canada by Addison-Wesley], 1995 [1987]) $38.95 paper, 217 pages, ISBN 0-582-23924-9.

First published in 1987, this second and revised edition strives, like the first, to supplement short textual analyses of recent research into every facet of the Third Reich with scores of graphs, flow charts and other visual aids. Freeman, Lecturer in Geography at Worcester College, Oxford, notes at the outset that he finds "disconcerting" the lack of "graphic representation" in the considerable literature on the Nazi era.

The first edition having been helped along by the late Tim Mason, the qualitative analysis is surprisingly good for a book of this kind, especially when it is borne in mind that the target audience consists of undergraduates and "serious general readers." What is more, Freeman has done a fine job on the graphics, combining visual representations from contemporary as well as secondary sources, with still others *sui generis*, based undoubtedly on the author's thorough grasp of the most relevant literature. Not surprisingly, this approach is most effective where the text examines, say, voter behaviour or organisational structures. On occasion, though, it becomes apparent that certain phenomena do not lend themselves to graphic representation - witness, for example, an utterly confusing flow-chart, ostensibly illustrating the *Führerprinzip*, which might as well have been drawn *in toto* from the technical manual of a gas furnace. Alas, on the whole the book is indeed a success and will undoubtedly be of value to the interested non-specialist and, of course, historical geographers everywhere.

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Herman Bodson, **Agent for the Resistance: A Belgian Saboteur in World War II**, ed. Richard Schmidt (College Station: Texas A&M University Press [distributed in Canada by the University of British Columbia Press], 1994) $35.95, 243 pages, ISBN 0-89096-607-9.

Bodson, erstwhile resistance fighter and professor of chemistry, has written an enjoyable and often fascinating wartime memoir. Educated before the war, the author was an NCO in the Belgian medical corps in 1940 and the reader is early on treated to an interesting day-by-day account of the confusion which gripped the Belgian army upon the arrival of the German invaders. Soon enough, though, the discussion turns to Bodson's career as a member of the Belgian resistance. Typically, the early undertakings of Bodson, his father and a growing collection of comrades were haphazard: the illegal exchange of Dutch money to assist a Jewish family living underground; the placing of loyal Belgians in the employ of the Germans; and even the preparation of an abrasive powder which eventually found its way into the crankcase of an aircraft being readied to carry a group of German staff officers.

By 1942, Bodson had gone underground and soon flourished as the commander of his own well-trained and increasingly properly-equipped formation in south-eastern Belgium. The overview of operations conducted during the period 1942-44 is at once exciting and, for the author, clearly cathartic. To wit, the tales of daring attacks on enemy troops and installations are not without latter-day reflections upon the tragedy of fallen comrades as well as the transformation of a young research scientist into a man who was, by Bodson's own admission, a cold-blooded killer. Had the author not wilfully papered over the considerable sympathy and even support which the Germans found in the Flemish community, and the impact which this collaboration had upon resistance strategy, this memoir would have been that much better. What is more, Bodson's tendency to go on at length about the course of the war on the grand scale is as infuriating as it is pointless - in particular, when gaffes as ludicrous as the assertion that Dublin was bombed are allowed to slip through. For all this, though, *Agent for the Resistance* constitutes a good read for serious students of the resistance to the German occupation as well as armchair-bound adventure enthusiasts.

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Thomas Goodrich, **Black Flag: Guerrilla Warfare on the Western Border, 1861-1865** (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1995) $24.95 US, 172 pages, ISBN 0-253-32599-4.

Students of the evolution of the law of war have long regarded the U.S. Civil War as an example of how wide-ranging conflicts involving enormous losses on both sides might nonetheless be conducted in accordance with those humanitarian principles which later came to underpin more formalised concepts of *jus in bello*. The appalling conditions which Union prisoners of war endured in Andersonville aside, it remains generally assumed that notwithstanding the inflamed passions of the respective constituencies, combatants on both sides were held in check by what has been described as a fundamental humanitarian impulse. The most recent contribution of Thomas Goodrich to the vast literature on the Civil War strongly implies that the

aforementioned view ought to be reconsidered.

Focusing on the fighting waged along the Kansas-Missouri frontier, in large part by Confederate irregulars and Federal troops, Goodrich paints a picture of an exceedingly ruthless struggle, the fury of which was rooted in pre-war conflicts over the slavery issue. In the event, upon the eruption of a full-scale conflagration in 1861, raids by both sides spared neither non-combatants nor their property; moreover, each incursion was bloodier than the last and Federal troops displayed a disquieting tendency toward the summary execution of captured irregulars. Ultimately, the low-point of this dreary spiral of reprisal and counter-reprisal was reached on 21 August 1863 when Lawrence, Kansas was besieged by William Quantrill's raiders. In a sacking of almost medieval proportions, the then-tiny centre was razed and over 150 men, most of them non-combatants, were ruthlessly cut down. Predictably enough, while Federal troops were hunting down Quantrill, Kansan guerrillas responded by crossing into Missouri whereupon they engaged in similarly criminal behaviour, albeit on a more modest scale.

The subject matter selected by Goodrich is exciting indeed, although this book constitutes a laborious read. Even the most general reader is left unsatiated by a text virtually bereft of analysis. More specifically, *Black Flag* is built around sometimes huge quotations (subjected by Goodrich to "regulariz[ed] spellings and punctuation"), often joined together by only snippets of the author's own words. The package is a bit uneven, although the reader's patience is, on the whole, rewarded.

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A. Korthals Alter and N.K.C.A. in't Veld, **The Forgotten Battle: Overloon and the Maas Salient, 1944-45**, trans. G.G. van Dam (New York: Sarpedon, 1995) $24.95 US, 226 pg, ISBN 1-885119-03-8.

First published as *Slag in de Schaduw* in 1984, this volume undertakes an ambitious task indeed: providing the reader with a detailed overview of the fighting along the Maas River between Nijmegen and Echt between September 1944 and March 1945. This popular history, based upon a reasonable collection of secondary works, memoirs, interviews and archival material, seeks to fill a perceived gap in the interested public's understanding of this facet of the Second World War. Bearing in mind that the fighting in question did not constitute a campaign in the true sense, it can be said that the authors have succeeded in this regard. For instance, the Allied effort to take Overloon in October 1944, as well as the German counterattack, constitute the focus of a fair chunk of the book and, on the whole, these passages make for good reading - in no small measure, it must be noted, because it is here that the accounts of Allied and German strategy are brought together most effectively with the recollections of a number of men on both sides who, in 1944, found themselves at the front.

What is more, the authors are not without their views on the strategy employed by the belligerent forces. To wit, the volume on the whole tends to revolve around a number of sub-regional hotspots - such as Overloon - that emerged during that long winter. The result, then, is often biting criticisms of Anglo-American strategy that are on occasion quite detailed in their focus on subordinate commanders at the divisional level and below.

A word of warning, though: one must persevere to get through the early chapters of *The Forgotten Battle*. The initial passages are often choppy and this problem is compounded by a sometimes wooden translation as well as the fact that the reader must wade through yet another overview of "Market Garden." What is more, the source material used in the text is not attributed nor do the authors display the dexterity of, say, Alistair Horne in their use of oral-historical source material. The tendency, for example, toward quoting at length conversations recalled long after the fact - or even, on several occasions, unspoken thoughts - is exasperating. These shortcomings aside, though, anyone desirous of learning more about this facet of the war could do worse than start with *The Forgotten Battle*.

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Diana M. Henderson, **Highland Soldier, 1820-1920** (Edinburgh: John Donald, 1989) £22.00, 336 pages, ISBN 0-85976-217-3.

Members of Highland regiments have always considered themselves to be a breed apart, a uniqueness fostered by a variety of factors, not the least of which has been the German Army's famous characterization of them as "the ladies from hell." In this important study, Henderson seeks out the internal factors which have created that uniqueness, and finds that much of the strength of their distinctiveness lies in such things as recruiting practices, the pipe band, the kilt, and the cohesiveness of the regimental family.

Henderson goes as deeply into the lives of the Highland regiments as it is possible to go, examining officers' finances, living conditions in barracks, peacetime drill and display, and the role of music in the life of the regiment. A touch of idealization occasionally creeps into the narrative, but in general Henderson has used her impressive array of sources judiciously and objectively. Historians of Canadian units might well adopt her approach, for she makes it clear how much can be learned when a regiment is considered first and foremost as a social institution.

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Graeme Mount, **Canada's Enemies: Spies and Spying in the Peaceable Kingdom** (Toronto: Dundurn Press, 1993) $24.99, 158 pages, ISBN 1-55002-190-7.

Historians of espionage and intelligence in Canada have largely been interested in the post-1945 period, the beginning of the Cold War providing an obvious starting point. As this book shows, there is a long tradition of spying in and around Canada that has so far received scant attention. Mount begins his story with the Spanish-American War, when Spanish spy rings operated across Canada but primarily in Montreal, and the Boer War, when Irish-American agents and saboteurs operated in Canada. What follows is not a comprehensive survey, but a series of case studies highlighting specific incidents. Readers will search in vain for substantive references to Igor Gouzenko, but will find interesting stories of American surveillance of Canadian communists, the activities of German consular posts before 1939, and the machinations of Vichy French diplomats. Because of this structure, the book has a curiously incomplete feel about it; it reads as though Mount has strung together a series of journal articles with little effort to assemble them into a coherent narrative. There are some fascinating anecdotes here, but the history of espionage in Canada remains to be written.

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Edward G. Miller, **A Dark and Bloody Ground: The Hürtgen Forest and the Roer River Dams, 1944-45** (College Station: Texas A&M University Press [distributed in Canada by the University of British Columbia Press], 1995) $42.95, 250 pages, 0-89096-626-5.

The campaign described by Miller can perhaps lay claim to the dubious distinction of being the Americans' longest battle in northwest Europe. In September 1944 the 3rd Armored Division entered the Forest, and not until February 1945 did American units gain control of the dams which should have been their objective all along. The reason for this sustained failure, according to Miller, is simple: the Americans gave away their tactical advantages of firepower and mobility by targeting the wrong objectives, insisting on fighting for villages and hills rather than heading for the dams which held the key to the region. It is a tale of missed opportunities, an absence of imagination and vision, uncertainty of command, and an inability to analyze adequately the mission at hand. As usual, the price for these deficiencies was paid by the men on the sharp end, who died in countless minor operations that have a definite Great War-like pointlessness about them. And, despite the focus on command failures, these small-unit actions lie at the heart of this book. Miller, an active-duty officer, describes them sympathetically in an excellent account of a sad campaign.

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Rita Steinhardt Botwinick, **A History of the Holocaust: From Ideology to Annihilation** (Toronto: Prentice-Hall, 1996) $31.95 paper, 234 pages, ISBN 0-13-099292-5.

Intended primarily as a text, this book will also be useful to the general reader looking for an overview of the Holocaust. Botwinick begins with a discussion of the roots of anti-Semitism in European history and then examines the nature of the Jewish community in Europe generally and in Germany specifically. She traces the Nazis' rise to power and focuses on the role of personality, particularly the banality of evil that is so evident in the Nazi leadership. A discussion of the war years and the escalation of genocide (including resistance to it) occupies the last chapters of the book.

Through it all, Botwinick raises fascinating issues, one of the most compelling being the remarkable case of Denmark. In 1943, when German authorities decided to arrest all Danish Jews, an immense network swung into operation with the sole intent of saving the Jews. In this they were almost entirely successful, rescuing 99% of the country's Jews from annihilation. Ironically, the stunning success of the Danish resistance to the Holocaust only emphasizes the relative impotence of resistance elsewhere.

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James S. Leamon, **Revolution Downeast: The War for American Independence in Maine** (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1993) $16.95 US paper, 302 pages, ISBN 0-87023-959-7.

Since it was first settled, Maine had been a colony of Massachusetts, relying upon its metropolis for its very existence. As Leamon points out, this dependence has been carried into historiography as well, with few historians paying much attention to Maine's fortunes during the War of Independence. *Revolution Downeast* was written as a corrective to this trend.

If only for reasons of geography, Leamon's book has strong Canadian dimensions. It was the threat from British forces based in Nova Scotia which spurred Maine to support the revolution, attacks by British privateers convincing people in the colony that their attempt at fostering a "protective insignificance" had failed. On three occasions, Maine served as a base for American campaigns into British territory: in 1775, Benedict Arnold embarked on an ultimately disastrous attack on Quebec; in 1776 some 70 men left Maine on an unsuccessful attempt to light the fire of revolution in Nova Scotia; and in 1777 there was another failed attempt to carry the revolution to Canada, this time to Saint John.

Leamon has brought together the best of the secondary sources and impressive archival material (all listed in an excellent bibliography) into a solid and readable account that fills a significant gap in our understanding of the Revolutionary period.

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Basil Liddell Hart, **Great Captains Unveiled** (New York: Da Capo Press, 1996 [1927]) $18.50 paper, 290 pages, ISBN 0-306-80686-X.

Liddell Hart was 32 when he first published *Great Captains Unveiled* in 1927. His reputation as a military theorist was growing, but he had not yet evolved into the bitter critic of British generalship, as exemplified by Douglas Haig, that he would become in the 1930s. And, in contrast to his study of Great War generalship, *Reputations Ten Years After* (1928), *Great Captains Unveiled* dealt with subjects not likely to incite emotional debate. The book, therefore, makes it easier to discern Liddell Hart's style as a military writer.

The book examines six men: Ghengis Khan and Sabutai, who carried the Mongol cavalry across Europe in the 13th century; Marechal de Saxe, a "military prophet" whose writings would have been salutary to Great War generals; Gustavus Adolphus, Sweden's king during the Thirty Years' War and, according to Liddell Hart, the founder of modern war; Wallenstein, rated a master of psychological warfare; and General Wolfe, the conqueror of Quebec in 1759. The sketches are lively and, as Russell Weigley points out in his introduction, ultimately about Liddell Hart himself. We sense that he chose his great captains not so much objectively, but because they exemplified military concepts dear to his own heart. This is not to lessen the value of this reprint; it is merely to remind readers that Liddell Hart's own philosophies are never far beneath the surface.

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Peter T. Haydon and Katherine D. Orr, eds., **Canada's Maritime Tradition: Past, Present and Future** (Halifax: Navy League of Canada [distributed by the Dalhousie Centre for Foreign Policy Studies], 1996) $12.00 paper, 81 pages, ISBN 1-896440-02-9.

The product of a 1995 conference marking the centennial of the Navy League of Canada, this slim volume contains essays on Canada's navy in the contemporary era, the RCN in the Second World War (a typically good account by Marc Milner) the Canadian shipbuilding industry, shipping and ports in Canada (with some very handy statistics), and Canada's maritime resources. All of the essays are useful summaries (even if the last named is so obviously written by a member of the current federal government) that provide excellent background information for anyone seeking to understand the current state of Canada's maritime tradition.

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Eric Grove, **Big Fleet Actions: Tsushima, Jutland, Philippine Sea** (London: Arms and Armour Press [distributed in North America by Sterling], 1995 [1991]) $20.95 paper, 192 pages, ISBN 1-85409-281-2.

Though only 40 years separate these three actions, they witnessed tremendous advances in the naval arts and sciences. Tsushima, where the Japanese fleet humbled the Russians in 1904, was fought with weapons controlled by crude and unsophisticated means and at ranges limited to some 5000 yards. Twelve years later, at Jutland, fire control methods and devices had been improved dramatically and ships could shell each other from five miles away and more. By the time of the Battle of the Philippine Sea in 1944, naval aircraft and submarines allowed the big fleets to engage each other at ranges which the men of Tsushima could not have imagined.

It might be wondered if we need another account of Jutland, but Grove does marshal readable prose and excellent maps to produce succinct and useful summaries. And, in focusing on developments in fire control, he gives a prosaic and often overlooked subject its due. One wishes, though, that Grove had rewritten his epilogue before the book was republished; his discussion of Soviet-US naval competition in the Cold War gives the book a dated conclusion when it might have ended with much more intriguing speculation.

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James Barros and Richard Gregor. **Double Deception: Stalin, Hitler and the Invasion of Russia** (Dekalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 1995) 307 pages, ISBN 0-87580-191-9.

This book is an important read for anyone interested in the diplomatic and intelligence maneuvers leading up to Operation "Barbarossa" or the nature of the Stalinist regime in the pre-war Soviet Union. Its thesis is straightforward: Stalin bore sole responsibility for the refusal to believe that Nazi Germany would attack in 1941, and this dramatically enhanced the impressive successes scored by the Wehrmacht in the summer of that year. The authors explore the astounding Soviet intelligence network that was able to ascertain even the exact date of the invasion, information confirmed by the intelligence-gathering apparatus of other nations, Britain foremost among them. Information like this, of course, is only as good as the analysis that shapes it into intelligence and Stalin retained that as his prerogative as head of state. He, the book leaves no doubt, would have none of it, convinced as he was of his own infallibility and, to be fair, assuming that no rational German statesman would embark on a two-front war.

Incredibly, these conclusions became so important to his own image that he refused even to place his forces on alert; days after the Germans had attacked, Stalin's actions were still determined by his earlier policy of non-provocation.

This book is not an easy read. A blend of narrative and thematic text, there is some repetition and the overlap is irritating at times. Similarly, to characterize it as dense does not do it justice. There is a tendency to run with an explanation, exhaustively detailing asides and contextual material. However, buried amidst this dense prose, the authors provide insights into a number of issues of importance to historians of both the Second World War and the Soviet Union. They attack or at least qualify, for example, the prevailing notion that Stalin was completely incapacitated from 22 June. This book should also provide a corrective to the interpretation that Stalin provoked a German invasion; indeed, the evidence herein suggests reasons why Hitler was convinced to the end that the coalition between the Allies and the USSR would fall apart. This book should also raise questions about Stalin's role in the Cold War for in it he does not appear to have been a particularly shrewd analyst of international affairs. All in all, an important book if one can get through it.

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Richard Collier. **The Years of Victory, 1944-45** (London/Don Mills: Allison and Busby/General Publishing, 1995 [1983]) $21.95 paper, 342 pages, ISBN 0-74900-2514.

Yet another reprint edition produced to catch the 50th anniversary wave. When it was first published it was entitled *The War that Stalin Won*, the third in a trilogy that included books on 1940 and 1941, there obviously not being enough anecdotes generated by the Anglo-American war effort in the other years to warrant volumes. The title change seems to have been a marketing gimmick for the original one captures the author's interpretive point, such as it is, much better than the new one. Indeed, Collier has fashioned not a narrative, not an analysis but a succession of personal experiences, anecdotes, interchanges and snapshots designed to illustrate the major events of the last two years of the war. It is fairly comprehensive, covering politics, diplomacy, strategy, intelligence, operations and the soldier's perspective while ranging over the globe; no major event is left unmentioned. Its major strength is that it takes the war to the level of the individual. When informed that her son has been the first soldier to cross the Rhine during a conflict since Napoleon, Karl Timmermann's mother's response is suggestive of the book's perspective: "'Napoleon I don't care about. How is my Karl?"' In this context, the book succeeds.

That said, the book is dated and no attempt has been made to update it. The Pacific and Eastern front are covered but the main focus is on the Anglo-American effort; more specifically, it largely parrots a British perspective which believed the Italian Campaign was wasted because of American timidity and Operation Dragoon, and which perceived Berlin, the Balkans *et al* as being given away to the Soviets due to the combination of Roosevelt's naivete and declining health. Collier also seems genuinely angry that the Labour tricked the British voters with visions of a socialist utopia.

Perspective is less important than the way the book is marred by some old, indeed some incorrect, interpretations, that are useful devices for heightening the dramatic tension but have been superseded, and probably were when the book was written. For example, the characterization of the French Resistance as a popular uprising that had been waiting for years for the Allied return; even DeGaulle called the Resistance a 'bluff' that came off. Overall, if you want to gain a bit of insight into how the Karls or the Winstons and the Adolfs saw the war unfolding around them then this book is worthwhile, even if you will now recognize many of the pieces from other sources.

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Arthur Bishop, **The Splendid Hundred: The True Story of Canadians Who Flew in the Greatest Air Battle of World War II** (Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 1994) $19.95 paper, 170 pages, ISBN 0-07-551683-7.

Arthur Bishop continues his series on Canada's military exploits with this book detailing the exploits of "the Splendid Hundred" - the 101 Canadian fighter pilots who helped to save England during the Battle of Britain.

The Splendid Hundred is a well-written tale of derring-do. The exploits, accomplishments, successes and tragedies of Canadian fighter pilots are recounted in considerable detail by Bishop, a former fighter pilot himself who flew Spitfires with 401 Squadron later in the war. The book is written primarily from secondary sources, though it is occasionally supplemented by combat reports and other primary sources. Of particular interest are the personal comments inserted by Bishop based on his own experiences. For example, at one point when discussing the fighter pilot's penchant for informal dress he postulates that the famous photo of his father, William "Billy" Bishop, VC, with the top button of his tunic open, started the fad among pilots who thought it "sporty."

Firmly entrenched in the tradition of Churchill's "few," this book is a good read that highlights the contributions of the first Canadians to get into the fight against Hitler.

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Larry Milberry and Hugh Halliday, **The Royal Canadian Air Force At War 1939-1945** (Toronto: CANAV Books, 1990) $75.00, 480 pages, ISBN 0-921022-04-2.

Larry Milberry and Hugh Halliday have combined to create a monumental work that belongs in the library of everyone interested in the RCAF in the Second World War. This book looks at all aspects of the RCAF in a way that no other single volume has ever done. In its nearly 500 pages it covers the Commonwealth Air Training Plan; day and night fighters; Bomber and Coastal Command operations in Northwest Europe, the Mediterranean and Far East; Air Transport; as well as evaders, escapers and POWs. Each chapter contains a detailed history of the topic at hand. This is supplemented by personal accounts and excerpts from interviews, diaries, letters, log books, combat reports, etc. As well, each chapter contains a number of "Albums" and "Galleries." The albums are based on the snapshots and memories of pilots and aircrew while the galleries focus on particular aircraft, squadrons, bases, etc. The most outstanding feature of this book is its photographs - over 1,500 in total. These photos have been culled from official sources (Canadian Forces Photo Unit, National Archives of Canada) but there are also many from private collections that are being published for the first time. Though the cost of the book is dear, it is well worth the price.

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Stephen Will, **Wings of Change: Canadian Airmen in Europe** (Cold Lake, AB: Hornet House Publishing, 1993) $25.00, 128 pages, ISBN 0-9697582-0-0.

Bookstores are full of beautifully illustrated coffee table books detailing every aspect of the United States Air Force. Until now, there has been a real dearth of books in the same genre dealing with the Canadian Forces. Stephen Will, a veteran CF-18 pilot, has done a good job of filling this gap.

Wings of Change: Canadian Airmen in Europe tells the story of Canadian air power in Europe following the end of the Second World War. It begins with a brief look at the Sabre and Starfighter periods, but concentrates on the Hornet period. Various segments of the book look at the squadrons that flew in Europe (409, 421, & 439 Squadrons), ground crew, Tiger meet, exchange pilots, Fang (mascot of 439 Squadron - a stuffed bengal tiger) and the CF-18 deployment to the Gulf during the 1991 war.

The real strength of this book is its photos. Full colour and large format, the photos provide an excellent look at both the machines and the pilots and personnel who kept them flying. In addition to numerous photos of Canadian aircraft (including some beautiful shots of 439 Squadron Hornets in low-viz "Tiger" paint schemes), there are a number of pictures of the aircraft of Allied air forces, including a neat shot of a CF-18 flying in formation with a German Air Force MiG-29. All the photos were taken by non-professional squadron members and aviation buffs. None of the photos have been previously published. As well, the photos are ably supported by a text that recalls the brief histories of the Canadian squadrons that served in Europe along with interesting vignettes of life in the squadrons - both operational and "behind-the-scenes."

Overall, this book is a worthwhile addition to the library of anyone interested in the now-ended Canadian military aviation presence in Europe.

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David Bercuson, **Significant Incident: Canada's Army, the Airborne, and the Murder in Somalia** (Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1996) $29.99, 242 pages, ISBN 0-7710-1113-X.

Over the last decade the debate over leadership and morale within the Canadian Armed Forces has been the predominant subject among senior officers. The debate, though, has been kept largely out of the public's eye. However, this all changed with the actions of a few members of the Canadian Airborne Regiment in distant Somalia. Although it is easy to see that there are problems, the origins and solutions are not so easily definable. One of the first to enter the fray so to speak, and examine these problems is David Bercuson with his work, *Significant Incident*.

Bercuson attempts to put the events in Somalia into the larger context of command problems within the military and this theme dominated most of the book's 242 pages. He explores the changing face of the Canadian Armed Forces and the impact of those changes on leadership within the ground element of the Armed Forces. Among the major issues he analyses are unification, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and personal economic difficulties for the average service member. Pivotal to his argument is Bercuson's discussion of these factors in a military increasingly asked to be committed in numerous difficult tasks as United Nations peacekeepers.

Although the first half of the book suffers from some minor analytical and factual errors, it is a very insightful book overall. For those without a background in the military it gives a precise picture of the problems of an inherently undemocratic system existing with a democratic society it attempts to serve.

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Geoffrey Swain, **The Origins of the Russian Civil War** (London: Longman [distributed in Canada by Addison-Wesley], 1996) $33.95 paper, 296 pages, ISBN 0-582-05968-2.

Geoffrey Swain points that many have incorrectly viewed the

Russian Civil War of 1917-1921 as a contest between Monarchists (the Whites) and Bolsheviks (the Reds). In fact, political control was contested in this brief period by a bewildering array of republicans, moderate Marxists, independent worker and peasant movements, a wide range of non-Russian nationalists, not to mention the foreign intervention of Czech, Polish, British and German forces.

Any attempt to address the Civil War must also confront the traditional views of October 1917 as a Bolshevik Revolution. Might it be seen instead as part of a larger Civil War?

It is not surprising, then, that many historians have avoided what Swain identifies as a "forgotten" war. Faced with these challenges, Swain successfully clarifies the main themes of this period. He demonstrates, first, that the Civil War broke out primarily because Lenin refused to share political power with non-Bolshevik socialists (known as the "Greens"). Secondly, Swain challenges the view that western powers were automatically hostile to the Bolsheviks, and supportive of Monarchist forces. In fact, the British government was eager to support the Bolsheviks after 1917 as long as they stayed in the war against Germany. International opposition to Bolshevik rule only occurred when the Bolsheviks sought a separate peace with Germany in the winter of 1917-1918. Finally, Swain shows how the civil war between the "Whites" and "Reds" only unfolded after the Bolsheviks had defeated moderate socialists, democrats, and their supporters. Ironically, this most familiar aspect to the Civil War was also the least significant, given the widespread disdain for monarchists forces in Russia.

Swain helps to clarify an important episode in modern Russian history, even as many will challenge his conclusions. Given the present uncertainty in Russia, questions about an earlier civil war may soon become even more vital.

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Edmund Hall, **We Can't Even March Straight: Homosexuality in the British Armed Forces** (London: Vintage, 1995) £7.99 paper, 180 pages, ISBN 0-09-949561-9.

In Britain, as in most countries, the Ministry of Defence considers homosexuality incompatible with a military career and regularly discharges (or forces the resignation) of all homosexuals found in the ranks. Edmund Hall himself fell victim to this policy in 1988. His book, based on interviews, tells the story of several men and women who were sacked from the military for homosexuality in recent years or who continue to work responsibly within it by hiding their sexual orientation. The book challenges the Ministry's policy head on: "The [Ministry's] argument seems to be, in essence, that the military is homophobic and therefore homosexuals shouldn't serve - for their own good. There is no suggestion that the homophobia is wrong."

Hall rejects President Clinton's "Don't ask - Don't tell" compromise in the United States. He urges British gay men and lesbians to organize in order to force social change through Parliament and the Courts, so that they may "serve openly in the British armed forces - alongside the many thousands of homosexuals who already do, in secret." This slight book is a passionate, logical and persuasive call to action, but is unlikely to change anybody's mind in a hidebound military establishment.

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David Hamilton-Williams, **Waterloo: New Perspectives, The Great Battle Reappraised** (New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1993) $39.50, 416 pages, ISBN 0-471-05225-6.

David Hamilton-Williams, **The Fall of Napoleon: The Final Betrayal** (New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1994) $39.50, 352 pages, ISBN 0-471-11862-1.

Hamilton-Williams is a controversial figure among Napoleonic scholars who have called both his personal honesty and the reliability of his research into question. This is not irrelevant to any evaluation of these books because Hamilton-Williams is always his own best booster, repeatedly suggesting that his discoveries force a significant re-evaluation of previous scholarship. In fact, he is a careless scholar who often muddles references (he repeatedly cites a non-existent AF7 series at the French National Archives), misquotes or misrepresents secondary sources, and demonstrates an ignorance of the finer details of Napoleonic history.

The study of Waterloo is by far the better of the two books reviewed here. The author claims to have rewritten the history of the battle by freeing it of the distortions that Captain William Siborne allegedly imposed on the story through his famous scale model of the battle (constructed in 1838) and his two-volume *History of the War in France and Flanders in 1815* (1844). Such boastful exaggerations aside, Hamilton-Williams has given us a competent and colourful narrative of one of history's most decisive battles, written with verve and well illustrated with maps and many photographs of the field as it is today. The author pays more attention to the Allied forces (Belgian, Dutch and German) than is usual in English-language histories. While he admires Wellington's military abilities, Hamilton-Williams clearly adores Napoleon and consequently sneers at British foreign policy towards France.

Hamilton-Williams ends the story of Waterloo by declaring that Napoleon did not lose the war on the battlefield; rather, his final defeat resulted from betrayal by men whom he himself had put in power. *The Fall of Napoleon*, which focuses on the years 1813-1815, tells the story of that so-called treachery. Anyone who is not already an unquestioning admirer

of the Emperor will find this an irritating book. It impugns the motives of anyone (French or foreign) who dared oppose Napoleon; for instance, the author dismisses Britain's rulers as a "contemptible clique" of "ruthless nonentities." On the other hand, ignoring the darker side of the regime and grossly exaggerating the Emperor's popularity with his subjects, he paints Napoleon as a true representative of liberty and equality. The book fails to recognize that Napoleon's own limitless ambitions eventually forced the exasperated European powers to league together to bring him down. Combining hagiography with conspiracy theory, *The Fall of Napoleon* does not even come close to being good critical history.

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Richard J. Aldrich, ed., **British Intelligence, Strategy and the Cold War, 1945-51** (New York: Routledge, 1992) $95.00 US, 347 pages, ISBN 0-415-07851-2.

This distinguished volume, the first attempt at a recreation of British secret intelligence during the Cold War, is the work of many deft hands. Edited by Richard J. Aldrich, an expert in intelligence and national security issues, the book consists of 15 contributions, which, when taken together, give us a valuable insight into the workings of British intelligence. More than this, the volume will point the way for future scholarship. The sources upon which the essays are based have been used, in many cases, for the first time. In consequence new interpretations present themselves.

A brief review such as this does not allow in-depth analysis of each of the essays. However, it is possible to note that the contributions fall into two categories, as grouped by the editor. The first is entitled "Intelligence." Herein are essays by Aldrich on the reshaping of the British intelligence community at the close of the Second World War, Bradley Smith's discussion of Anglo-Soviet intelligence cooperation and breakdown, Beatrice Heuser's analysis of British and American concepts of containment, Scott Lucas and C.J. Morris's joint work on the British Information Research Department, and Sheila Kerr's discussion of defectors, "the versatile, durable toys of propagandists." These essays confirm the intimate linkage between intelligence and strategy, and they tell us something about the nature of Cold War - a form of warfare undertaken by the British so that the Services would not have to conduct a Hot War, as Tedder, Chief of the Air Staff, put it.

The second cluster of essays is entitled "Strategy." Herein Anthony Gorst reviews the making of British defence policy, John Kent and John Young analyze the Western Union in relation to British defence requirements, Saki Dockrill examines German rearmament in British policy, and Alex Danchev explores Anglo-American defence co-operation. Three case studies (of which we can never have enough) complete the volume. These are: Aldrich and John Zametica's look at the rise and decline of the Middle East as a strategic concept, Aldrich's examination of south Asia in British strategy as empire there tottered and then ended, and Karl Hack's look at southeast Asia and British strategy.

Taken together, these explorations into British clandestine activities, policy formations, internal arguments over nuclear strategy, and military dimensions of Britain's plans make compelling reading. In future years, many new works will come forward on aspects of this subject and we await them with eagerness. In the meantime, Aldrich and his cohorts have presented studies that provide, in profile, a portrait of a great power determined by every means to continue its influence in the post-Second World War era. This project, well worth doing, is a credit to editor, authors and publisher alike. As such it deserves wide attention by those interested in such matters.

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Robert B. Edgerton, **The Fall of the Asante Empire: The Hundred-Year War For Africa's Gold Coast** (New York: The Free Press [distributed in Canada by Distican], 1995)

For most of us, the idea of a European military campaign to conquer an African tribe conjures up images of a disorganized rabble of spear-armed tribesmen easily being dispersed after a single volley of bullets. With the exception of the Zulu campaigns against the British and the Ethiopian success against the Italians, a great myth has emerged in western culture that until the coming of the whites, Africa was a land of primitive stone-age societies. Robert Edgerton helps to quell that myth in his study of resistance to European colonization.

For nearly 100 years, the Asante nation successfully held back the British Army in its bid to expand British influence into Africa's Gold Coast region. Located in modern-day Ghana, Asante society was highly organized and controlled by a centralized political system. Its population of 3,000,000 inhabited a number of sizeable cities and fielded a large regular army, complete with European firearms. More importantly, a sense of what westerners would call "nationalism" had developed in the decades prior to the British arrival. Edgerton argues that this nationalism was the crucial element in sustaining the Asante military effort. It provided Asante warriors with a "cause" that transcended local and familial loyalties which often divided other African peoples.

Due to the virtual extinction of Asante culture after a century of bitter warfare, Edgerton was forced to rely heavily on British accounts of the period. Primary documents are also conspicuously absent from the references. The author claims that in his research he "discovered nothing of major significance that previous scholars had missed." Edgerton's contribution lies in his

re-interpretation of events from an Asante perspective. In addition, the book is aimed at a popular, rather than academic audience. Nevertheless, *The Fall of the Asante Empire* helps to fill a major gap in our knowledge of African warfare and will hopefully inspire more research into this area.

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Harold S. Orenstein, trans., **Soviet Documents on the Use of the War Experience, vol. 3, Military Operations 1941-42** (London: Frank Cass [distributed in North America by International Specialized Book Services], 1993) $45.00 US, 224 pages, ISBN 0-7146-3402-6.

In 1942, the Red Army General Staff began publishing volumes entitled *Collection of Materials on the Study of War Experience*, intended as a means of learning from the past and improving its conduct of the war. This volume, the third to be published by Cass, appeared in March 1943 and covers two significant themes: the joint use of airborne and cavalry forces in January-February 1942 in an operation that took Soviet units deep behind German lines; and the use of armour to conduct deep-penetration operations in July-August 1942 during the German Stalingrad offensive. Shorter studies deal with the use of operational deception, logistics, operations of river flotillas, combat experience on the Karelian front, and the use of anti-tank artillery units.

At the end of the volume, we see the directives and instructions which grew out of earlier volumes. Even for readers with little interest in the Eastern Front, this series is a fascinating practical glimpse at how an army can learn and improve over the course of campaigns.

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Ron Robin, **The Barbed-Wire College: Reeducating German POWs in the United States during World War II** (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995) $29.95 US, 224 pages, 0-6910-370-0-0.

The failed attempt to reeducate German POWs and turn them into American-style democrats is the subject of this fascinating account. Despite the provisions of the Geneva Convention, which prohibited indoctrination in camps, German prisoners were treated to lectures, films, books and study groups, all of which were intended to rid them of National Socialist ideology. Part of the reason for the program's failure, according to Robin, was that it used academics who had not yet been employed elsewhere in the war effort; he is too polite to call them second-rate, but admits they were not at the cutting edge of their profession. They sought to turn prison camp into college, and targeted their material towards the intellectual elites among the prisoners. For this reason, it missed the vast majority of captives.

Robin is careful to aver, however, that reeducation was a losing proposition from the start, thanks in large part to the strong group solidarity among German POWs. This solidarity was little different from the legendary resistance that Allied prisoners in Germany adopted, a suggestion which contradicts the conventional wisdom of German POWs as malleable and compliant. Not the least of the important conclusions of this book, then, is that there was "a universal code of military life in captivity that transcended the idiosyncrasies of the different civilian political systems."

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David Syrett and R.L. DiNardo, eds., **The Commissioned Sea Officers of the Royal Navy, 1660-1815** (Brookfield, VT: Ashgate Publishing, 1994) $127.95 US, 485 pages, ISBN 1-85928-122-2.

This is a revised and enlarged version of a list originally assembled by the Admiralty in 1954, a list which was never published. The information contained in this book, then, is made easily accessible to the general public for the first time. The editors have drawn from a wide range of sources in an effort to make the entries as complete as possible, and have also made a number of alterations to simplify the list and make it easier to use.

A typical entry lists when the officer was commissioned and promoted (as well as references for promotions), when he retired and died (occasionally the cause of death is given as well), and notes other positions held, such as those officers who served as Members of Parliament, and honours received. Where relevant, it is also noted that the officer was present at the Battle of Trafalgar.

It is a work of considerable achievement, and will be a boon to historian and genealogist alike.

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Mark Grossman, **Encyclopedia of the Persian Gulf War** (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 1995) $75.00 US, 522 pages, ISBN 0-87436-684-4.

Historians, journalists, students, and general readers will find much of value in this excellent reference work. The first section, the encyclopedia proper, lists everything from the A-4 Skyhawk to the ZSU-57/2 SPAAG self-propelled antiaircraft gun, complete with photographs and maps. References are provided for each entry, and an index allows the reader to find cross-listings. A large appendix reprints dozens of documents central to the history of the Gulf War, including American Executive Orders, statements by leaders on all sides, messages from the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council and the North Atlantic Council, and transcripts of press conferences and interviews.

Included in the volume is a small appendix with statistical tables, a list of American fatal casualties during Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and an excellent bibliography.

Some of the items in the book will surely provoke debate (such as the statistics on Scud hits and the choice of documents appended) and it has a clear American bias (there is an entry for "Prisoners of war - United States," but POWs from other Coalition members are not listed). Nevertheless, the encyclopedia is useful fact-checker for anyone interested in the Gulf War.

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Elinor J. Brecher, **Schindler's Legacy: True Stories of the List Survivors** (Toronto: Plume/ Penguin, 1994) $15.99 paper, 442 pages, 0-452-27353-6.

The phenomenal success of Steven Spielberg's film *Schindler's List* inspired this collection of personal accounts by the benefactors of Oskar Schindler's efforts. Dozens of individuals and families have contributed their reminiscences. Some were children when they were swept up into the Holocaust, others were adults; some are the sole survivors of their families, others came through with their families largely intact. The most interesting dimension of this book, however, is that it traces the postwar lives of these survivors; as Brecher says, we get to see what these people did with the second chance that Schindler gave them. But there was more than just the legacy of their survival; there was also the more powerful legacy of experiencing the Holocaust. Brecher quotes ones survivor whose comments are instructive in this regard: "You never in the entire world could understand, unless you were there. There was no day or night. There was no happiness, just fear. There was nothing but the next thirty seconds." Living with the prospect of imminent oblivion left indelible imprints on these survivors, and this is the real legacy of their experience.

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Sheldon H. Harris, **Factories of Death: Japanese Biological Warfare, 1932-45, and the American Cover-Up** (New York: Routledge, 1994) $16.95 US paper, 297 pages, ISBN 0-415-13206-1.

There is a certain nightmarish quality about the book that makes it both compelling and disturbing. At its heart are a number of very able, perhaps even brilliant, medical minds who decided that their primary service was not to humanity, but rather to the state. Instead of healing patients, these Japanese doctors and scientists looked for better ways to kill, turning their talents to research in biological warfare. In Manchuria, they developed and tested a frightening array of weapons and pathogens, from anthrax bombs to typhoid-laced cakes, all of which were unleashed on the Chinese population in the name of science.

Equally disturbing, however, is the American reluctance to pursue war crimes proceedings against these men. In contrast to the attention given to doctors who worked in Nazi death camps, these doctors escaped prosecution, in part because of Cold War imperatives but also because American scientists (who had been doing their own biological warfare experiments) were interested in the results of the Japanese tests. Harris characterizes them as hungering after forbidden fruit because they were unable to conduct their own human tests.

It is a powerful book and, lest we feel smug, we must remember that all sides engaged in experiments with biological weapons. The Japanese did so on the assumption that, since they were prohibited by international law, they must be useful weapons. The motivation of Allied governments was probably no better.

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Byron R. Winborn, **Wen Bon: A Naval Air Intelligence Officer Behind Japanese Lines in China** (Denton: University of North Texas Press, 1994) $29.95 US, 253 pages, ISBN 0-929398-77-7.

After spending some time in the Bureau of Aeronautics in Washington (in part working with the development of the Chance Vought Corsair), Winborn was reassigned to the Technical Air Intelligence branch. The task of this little-known unit was simple: its members would search for downed Japanese aircraft, descend on the wrecks, and glean as much technical information as they could from them to be forwarded back to the US. One of the things they looked for were the identification plates attached to aircraft parts. By recording the information contained thereon, intelligence experts could trace parts through the Japanese aircraft industry, determine where bottlenecks in production occurred, and target those facilities for bombing. Winborn and his fellow officers would also apply special measured tape to all parts of a downed aircraft and take dozens of photographs to be dispatched to Washington. There, experts could take very accurate measurements from the photos, further expanding their knowledge of Japanese aircraft.

Winborn writes of this obscure aspect of the war in a breezy and conversational style, with as many fascinating anecdotes about life in rural China as about his work. It's a real eye-opener on both counts.

General

Pre-1914

1914-1939

1939-1945

Post-1945

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