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BOOK REVIEW SUPPLEMENT

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Mike Wright, **What They Didn't Teach You About World War II** (Novato, CA: Presidio Press, 2000), $17.95 US paper, 345 pages, ISBN 0-89141-723-0.

This is a book that will be both fascinating and frustrating to the reader, regardless of whether one is an expert in the subject or a neophyte. The reader who is not well versed in the history of the Second World War will find the book chock-a-block full of interesting and entertaining details, many of which they will not be familiar with (did you know that the average infantryman's foot grew by a full size because of the amount of time he spent on his feet?). However, the newcomer to the subject may find the book a little hard to follow. The chapters are basically thematic, but it is written in a stream-of-consciousness style; the narrative jumps around dramatically for no apparent reason, and is full of asides which are interesting but divert what little flow the book has.

This lack of continuity will not bother the expert reader who knows the history of the war and will be familiar with the context of any given aside. However, this same reader will already know a good proportion of the details and anecdotes presented in the book. Still, it's a great book just to pick up and flip through, reading a few pages here and there. Even the most informed experts will find something new here, whether it be the service careers of Hollywood actors (Ed McMahon was a Marine Corps fighter pilot!) or the favourites on American jukeboxes during the war (who could forget such classics as "Goodbye, mama, I'm off to Yokohama").

JFV

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Francis T. Lind, **The Letters of Mayo Lind: Newfoundland's Unofficial War Correspondent, 1914-1916** (St. John's: Creative Publishers, 2001), $12.95 paper, 159 pages, ISBN 1-894294-30-0.

These letters have not been widely available since 1919, when they were published in book form – they had originally appeared in the St. John's *Daily News*. Frank Lind (the nickname comes from a brand of tobacco he was particularly fond of) was thirty-five years old when the war broke out and, though he was considerably older than the average soldier, immediately volunteered for service. He wrote these 32 letters home as a way to keep in touch with his family and friends, and to inform his compatriots of the exploits of the Newfoundland Regiment. They begin with the arrival of the First Five Hundred in Scotland in December 1914, and continue right through to 1916. Since Lind regarded himself as an unofficial war correspondent, the letters are longer and newsier than typical correspondence, and are full of wonderful patriotic phrases about the sterling qualities of Newfoundland's soldiers. A running theme is the frustration of Lind and his fellow soldiers at being mistaken for Canadians – they were constantly reminding their Scottish hosts that Newfoundland was a separate colony, and took it as their special mission to educate the locals about imperial geography.

The letters are reproduced just as they were originally published, the only addition being an introduction by Peter Neary. While this format retains the integrity of the original text, it would have been helpful to have some explanatory footnotes, to describe the fate of some of Lind's fellow soldiers, many of whom must have perished at the Somme. Indeed, the last letter in the collection is dated 29 June 1916; two days later, Lind was

killed in action at the Battle of Beaumont Hamel. Obviously the letter gives little hint of the impending offensive, although there is a bit of foreshadowing in his closing comment that "I will write again shortly, when I hope to send you a very interesting letter." One wonder how he would have described that day had he had the chance.

CA

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Gregory F. Michno, **Death on the Hellships: Prisoners at Sea in the Pacific War** (Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press [distributed in Canada by Vanwell], 2001), 367 pages, ISBN 1-55750-482-2.

This book chronicles one of the most brutal chapters in the history of prisoners of war. During the Second World War, the vast distances of the Pacific theatre were traversed by a motley collection of captured passenger liners and decrepit freighters which ferried Allied POWs from one frightful camp to another. The already weakened captives endured indescribable conditions in the cargo holds of these ships: punishing heat, vicious guards, lack of food and water, and horrific latrine provisions which meant that they spent days quite literally bathing in human waste. These conditions combined to take a dreadful toll of prisoners, who were occasionally reduced to murder and cannibalism in an effort to survive. Indeed, it was a rare hellship voyage that did not witness the death of at least a few prisoners.

But the dangers were not all from the Japanese, for Allied submarines frequently and unwittingly torpedoed hellships, which usually travelled with normal convoys (often carrying military cargoes) and were almost never identified as carrying POWs. Many sinkings resulted in death tolls that dwarfed the *Titanic*'s; the greatest maritime disaster of the Pacific war occurred in September 1944, when the British submarine *Tradewind* sank the hellship *Junyo Maru*, killing over 5600 Allied POWs. Six other sinkings claimed over a thousand victims each, and in total, over 21,000 prisoners died on Japanese hellships during the Second World War; a captive travelling on one of those ships had a one in five chance of dying during the voyage.

This cannot have been an easy book to research and write, nor is it an easy book to read. The degradation described is so complete as to be positively disheartening. But Michno has done an excellent job with a difficult subject, finding enough flashes of courage in the story to relieve the gloom. It is an important book, the first to document this aspect of the war in any detail, and Michno is to be commended for taking it on. He has done a great service in shedding light on a tale which, because of its horror, might easily have been forgotten.

JFV

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James W. Essex, **Mutiny: The Odyssey of H.M.C.S. *Uganda*** (Cobalt, ON: Highway Book Shop, 2000), $41.40, 139 pages, ISBN 0-88954-417-4.

Stanley R. Redman, **Behind Open Gangway: The Halifax Riots, 1945** (Toronto: Lugus, 1999), $18.95 paper, 255 pages, ISBN 1-896266-65-7.

Two of the most significant disturbances involving Canadian naval personnel during the Second World War involved the so-called "mutiny" on the cruiser HMCS *Uganda* in the Pacific in 1945, and the riots that struck the city of Halifax in the wake of VE-Day. These two books provide first-hand accounts of the incidents, although it is clear from the narratives that there are still many unanswered questions.

James Essex was a native of Stratford, Ontario, who joined the Royal Canadian Navy and trained at the University of Western Ontario on the latest radar equipment. He served on Canadian ships around the world (including on the HMCS *Prince Robert* on its fateful cruise to Hong Kong in 1941) before being posted to the *Uganda*, where he found an inexperienced but loyal and eager crew. The story of the command and personnel problems on the ship, the poor rations, lack of amenities, and general inept administrative operations that led to her premature return from the war zone is well known, although Essex is able to add some new and interesting details from his own personal experience. Just as interesting are the many shipboard photographs from his own personal collection.

Stanley Redman was also an eyewitness to the events he describes. He joined the Royal Canadian Air Force but was disqualified from flying duties on account of colour-blindness. He was eventually posted to the RCAF Marine Squadron in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, from where he witnessed the events of May 1945. The book (originally published in 1984) in fact tells two stories: the tale of the riots themselves, and the story of Redman's long and frustrating campaign to ferret out the documentary record of the affair from various government agencies. By the same token, there are two villains: Rear-Admiral Leonard Murray, who is blamed for not controlling his sailors in what he knew to be a volatile situation; and the faceless bureaucrats in Ottawa, who did everything they could to ensure that the truth did not come out.

As both authors point out, there was a considerable degree of misunderstanding of these events, particularly in the media, when they occurred; the books are attempts to sort out some of these misconceptions and to set the record straight.

LF

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Les Chater with Elizabeth Hamid, **Behind the Fence: Life as a POW in Japan, 1942-45** (St. Catharines, ON: Vanwell, 2001), $35.00, 288 pages, ISBN 1-55125-064-0.

Chater was a graduate in civil engineering from the University of Saskatchewan who went to Eng-

land in 1935 in search of work. He eventually landed a job with the Air Ministry, and was sent to the Far East to supervise the building and maintenance of RAF facilities there. An officer's rank came with the job, something which worked in Chater's favour when he and his fellow members of the Air Ministry works department were captured in the fall of Java in March 1942. He found himself performing a variety of administrative duties in captivity, and interacted closely with camp staff in a variety of situations in camps in Java and Japan.

He kept a diary throughout his captivity, but this is no ordinary diary. Many POW journals are confined to a few lines per day, but Chater's is immensely detailed and includes a nominal roll of his fellow prisoners, which he maintained as part of his administrative duties in the camps. Because of his engineering background, he took particular interest in the buildings, kitchens, and latrine facilities of his camps, and was especially concerned to improve the sanitary arrangements. He goes into great detail about food rations, relations with the camp staff, contact between the prisoners and the outside world, and the morale of the men under his command, making this one of the most useful diaries to emerge from the Far East POW experience. Another interesting aspect is that, even allowing for Chater's reluctance to commit the worst horrors to paper, he was lucky to be incarcerated in camps which were relatively decent. Kanose camp (in the Niigata group), in which he spent over a year, was run by a Japanese officer who seemed to be willing to do as much as he could for the prisoners in his charge, insofar as the regulations allowed. Indeed, Chater wrote an affidavit in support of the commandant after the war to seek a reduction of his sentence; few prisoners of the Japanese would have considered doing that. This unusual angle, and the sheer detail it conveys, make *Behind the Fence* a fascinating document that can stand with the best of the published war diaries.

DG

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Roman Johann Jarymowycz, **Tank Tactics: From Normandy to Lorraine** (Boulder, Colorado: Lynne Riener, 2001) $59.95 US, 362 pages, ISBN 1-55587-950-0.

Lieutenant-Colonel Roman Jarymowycz is a well-known figure in the small community of those who study Canadian military operations. His distinguished military career, which includes considerable experience as an umpire in NATO exercises and command of his own regiment, the 17th Duke of York's Royal Canadian Hussars, was recognized with the award of the Order of Military Merit. Jarymowycz is well known to militia officers across Canada for his trenchant and humourous comments as a member of the Directing Staff and "Dean" at the Canadian Militia Land Forces Command and Staff College Kingston, Ontario.

The oddly misnamed book, which is about operations and strategy, not tactics, developed out of a doctoral dissertation at McGill University. The work was begun under the late Robert Vogel whose untimely death continues to be mourned by all who knew him. Jarymowycz would be the first to agree that both thesis and book would have benefitted from Vogel's guidance. The many important insights into the campaign in Northwest Europe never come together as a coherent account of either the German of Allied operational art.

Jarymowycz tell the reader that the Germans possessed "armour not only vastly superior to the attacker but virtually impregnable to direct fire." He is also aware of the quality of German anti-tank guns and their effectiveness when positioned on high ground with uninterrupted fields of fire. He documents a process which saw Allied tanks repeatedly destroyed at ranges well beyond the reach of their guns yet insists that the "failure" was due to doctrinal weakness at the operational level. The author believes the answer to the Allied dilemma was "operational manoeuver, any manoeuver…" All that was required was for the Allies to "get past fixed defenses." In the break-in – breakout phase the Shermans bowed to the Panther-Tiger combination. The pursuit ran their tracks off.

Unfortunately Jarymowycz has little to say about how the Allies would have modified their operational or tactical doctrine to achieve operational or any manoeuver. The Germans did maintain a continuous defence-in-depth until repeated attritional attacks permitted a breakthrough. How exactly do you manoeuver before a breakout in the circumstances of 1944?

This fundamental criticism aside, there is much to learned from the accounts of individual battles and the extensive and detailed tables and footnotes. Jarymowycz knows the German sources well and uses them effectively. His account of 1 SS Panzer Corps' counterattacks in July are the best we have and his analysis of Maczek's 1 Polish Armoured Division will force others to reassess their views. Other chapters such as "Who Killed Tiger" provide much food for thought.

The chapter on "Stavka in Normandy" is the most ambitious. Here the author outlines Soviet theatre-level strategy and asks how it might have been applied in Normandy. The suggestion that a Soviet theatre commander functioning in place of Montgomery would have concentrated his resources in the Caen sector and used overwhelming superiority to break through and conduct the deep battle is not easy to dismiss except as a practical possibility under coalition war.

A book to be read by all those interested in military operations. Readers will find contradictions and hyperbole but they will be forced to think and for that we all should be grateful.

TC

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Camilla Viglino Hurwitz and Victor Viglino, eds., **Memoirs of Lt. Camillo Viglino, Italian Air Force, 1915-1916** (Privately published [available from the author at 7672 Rolling Acres, Dallas, Texas, 75248], 2001), $29.95 paper, 121 pages, ISBN 1-552129-33-0.

William Paul Haiber and Robert Eugene Haiber, **Frank Luke: The September Rampage** (La Grangeville, NY: Info Devel Press, 1999), $34.99 US paper, 220 pages, ISBN 0-944089-21-6.

Italian aviator Camillo Viglino and American scout pilot Frank Luke both had relatively short wars. Viglino, in fact, never got beyond the training stage. He began the flying course in July 1915, learning on aircraft which, even by First World War standards, look shockingly primitive, and completed his training in January 1916. But, in his first flight after receiving his much-coveted flying badge, he was a little over-enthusiastic in taxiing his aircraft and pushed it over onto its nose, badly fracturing his leg. Viglino, whose one ambition was to face the enemy in aerial combat, was out of the war in an accident that, by his own admission, had to be put down to his own impetuosity. However, he never lost his love of flying, and included in his memoirs some very interesting predictions on the future of aviation.

Luke, a native of Pheonix, Arizona, graduated from high school in May 1917 and enlisted in the U.S. air service in September. He completed ground training at the University of Austin, Texas, and flight training at Rockwell Field near San Diego. In February 1918, he went to England but not until July did he report to his new unit, the 27th Aero Squadron, at the front. Luke's first combat was on 16 August 1918, but his most intensive period of action was the September Rampage, the period between 12 - 29 September 1918, when Luke shot down four enemy aircraft and fourteen balloons (including five aerial victories on 18 September). His last three victories came on 29 September, the day he died in confused circumstances. Some accounts say he took his airplane up before the crew had completed servicing and eventually ran out of gas; others say he was downed by anti-aircraft fire. One common thread is that he landed his plane safely, but was killed by ground troops when he drew his sidearm. Even his stature is debated. Some historians see him as a prima donna who could have achieved great things with a little more discipline, but others lament the fact that the American air service did not have more pilots like Frank Luke.

Both books might be regarded as primary-source documents. *September Rampage* is a collection of various bits and pieces, including everything from documents on squadron logistics to Luke high school grades. Viglino's memoir was originally published in Italian in 1934, and is being made available for the first time in English. It provides a fascinating account of the training regimen of the Italian air service, and an intriguing glimpse into the mentality of the pilots. It is also one of the very few memoirs by Italian pilots of the Great War that is available in English.

SL

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Ian High Maclean Miller, **Our Glory and Our Grief: Torontonians and the Great War** (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2001), $45.00, 320 pages, ISBN 0-8020-359-22.

Given the existence of substantial regional and local variations, over-generalization is one of the dangers inherent in discussing the Canadian response to the Great War. The great value of Ian Miller's study is that it allows us to test generalizations about the reactions of Canada at the local level. Maclean's work is a chronological narrative of Toronto's response to the Great War, a structure which allows the author to explain the distinct phases of the war in Toronto. This book is likely to become a classic of the same stature as Elizabeth Armstrong's *The Crisis of Quebec, 1914-1918*.

Miller's exploration of Toronto perceptions of the 1911 Agadir Crisis and the Balkan wars of the subsequent years illuminates the city's response to the outbreak of war. Miller sees the early phase of the war as characterized by a sense of adventure in Toronto, but as the conflict evolved, the rhetoric shifted to that of a crusade. While hostility towards enemy aliens was evident even on the second day of the war, it took on a more virulent character as Toronto's casualty list lengthened. On the other hand, Toronto Catholic and Protestants were brought closer together by the conflict. The increasing shortage of military manpower elicited new methods of generating enlistment (although only two women in Toronto adopted the famous British practice of handing white feathers to men in civilian dress). The author shows that Toronto women did far more than participate in enlistment efforts, but there is little that is truly innovative in his chapter on "Women and War." Miller demonstrates that at times domestic concerns such as coal and electricity shortages and inflation-induced labour unrest overshadowed even the recruitment drives. The results of the 1917 federal general election in Toronto's six ridings reveal that the city achieved near unanimity on the issue of conscription; the few anti-conscription meetings held were easily dispersed. Miller's account of how the Military Service Act operated in Toronto illuminates the national debates, but his emphasis on the discretion the law allowed the local exemption boards leads one to wonder whether the low numbers of exemptions granted in Toronto were representative of urban English Canada as a whole. In his treatment of the attacks on Greek restaurants by men in uniform, Miller illustrates the scale of patriotic lawlessness in the city towards the end of the war.

AS

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John Clearwater, **U.S. Nuclear Weapons in Canada** (Toronto: Dundurn Press, 1999), $27.99 paper, 299 pgs, ISBN 1-55002-329-2.

The publisher's blurb promises the intrigue of "crashes and nuclear accidents…conspiracies and cover-ups." What author John Clearwater delivers in this follow-up to his 1998 *Canadian Nuclear Weapons* is, by his own admission, mostly documentary in nature. Each chapter amounts to little more than an annotated guide to published primary sources pertaining to nuclear weapons that the United States stationed in Canada (particularly in Newfoundland) in the 1950s and 1960s. It is to Clearwater's great credit that he has unearthed so many documents and struggled so mightily against bureaucratic inertia and residual Cold-War paranoia to get at them. That he puts them to no better use than he does is unfortunate. According to the biographical sketch on the last page, Clearwater, who received his doctorate in war studies from King's College, London, has provided background for MTV's "Pop Up Video" program. This book features that program's same fascination with abstract trivia and minutiae. Graduate students seeking primary sources and hardware junkies might find something worthwhile among the interminable pages of minutes, reprints of agreements, and accident reports (admittedly, some of the latter make for disturbing reading) but all others should beware.

In his introduction, Clearwater advances a number of ideas that he might have explored. By choice of its political and military leaders, he says, there was never any question of Canada pursuing a defense policy independent of the United States. Paul Hellyer even submitted the 1964 White Paper on defense to U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara for approval prior to its release. Only on the matter of black soldiers being stationed in U.S. bases in Newfoundland did the Canadian government dissent; according to Clearwater, Pearson did not want them there. Furthermore, Clearwater charges successive Canadian governments with being utterly intolerant of domestic dissent on nuclear policy issues. The full "security apparatus of the state" (presumably the RCMP) was directed to monitor and harass organizations ranging from the Communist Party of Canada to the diabolical National Women's Committee of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians. This is fascinating, provocative stuff, but Clearwater goes nowhere with it.

The rest of the book is clerical work rather than scholarship – which only makes the absence of a proper index all the more inexplicable. Clearwater presents no thesis, advances no real argument, but, then, there isn't really a narrative to follow, either. The book concludes with a "chapter" – not an appendix, mind you - but an actual chapter on archives and libraries in which the author conducted research. A book on nuclear weapons might be expected to end with a bang. Instead, *U.S. Nuclear Weapons in Canada* ends, as T.S. Eliot predicted the world might, with a whimper. In this case, I'm afraid, the whimper will be the reader's. GB

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Kenneth T. Brown, **Marauder Man: World War II in the Crucial But Little Known B-26 Marauder Medium Bomber** (Pacifica, CA: Pacifica Military History, 2001), $29.95 US, 236 pages, ISBN 0-935553-53-3.

Harlo Jones, **Bomber Pilot: A Canadian Youth's War** (St. Catharines, ON: Vanwell, 2001), $14.95 paper, 192 pages, ISBN 1-55125-084-5.

Much information is contained in Brown's self-explanatory if clumsy title. The B-26 Martin Marauder (not to be confused with the A-26 Douglas Invader) was a curious aircraft. Known as the Widowmaker, it in fact had the lowest combat loss rate (911 losses in 129,943 sorties) of any Allied aircraft used during the Second World War. It had a landing speed that was higher than any fighter aircraft's, and a ridiculously short wingspan for its size; another one of its nicknames was the Flying Prostitute because it had no visible means of support. It was also the first bomber to use a four-bladed propeller. In part because of its unusual characteristics, the Marauder inspired terrific loyalty in its crews. Brown was a bombardier and navigator who flew his first mission in September 1944; he went on to fly forty-three sorties, including more than two dozen as lead navigator, a difficult and demanding task that counted for extra mission credits when determining the length of one's tour of duty. The ops were mostly pinpoint strikes, many against bridges and rail junctions, which by that time were very heavily defended. Indeed, Brown describes one raid which met with what might have been the heaviest concentration of flak in that part of the European theatre.

Harlo Jones got into the air war a little earlier than Brown. He had joined the RCAF in May 1942, two years after his brother had been killed in action over Dunkirk while serving with the RAF. Jones flew his first operation in April 1944, while at an Operational Training Unit, and was eventually posted to 408 Squadron RCAF. By the time he was discharged in April 1945, he had flown thirty-two operations (the majority of them as first pilot) and had been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, all before his twenty-first birthday. Jones is an award-winning short story writer and, like Brown, his skill as a raconteur comes through clearly in his memoir. It is judicious and well thought out, but is also written with candour (he admits, for example, that he was never particularly good at landing the Halifax bomber) and a sense of humour. He relates one amusing anecdote when a new flight commander was discharging Very flares on the flightpath in an unsafe manner. "I offered him some advice," Jones recalls, "on what he could do with his Very pistol and

to pull the trigger when he got it there."

Both Jones and Brown did a lot of maturing in a very short period of time when they were flying operationally, and emerged from it all fundamentally changed. Their contributions to the literature of the air war is most welcome.

DR

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Susan Mann, ed., **The War Diary of Clare Gass, 1915-1918** (Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2000), $34.95, 306 pages, ISBN 0-7735-2126-7.

That wonderful Canadian history magazine *The Beaver* has a fine feature entitled "From Canadian Attics," which showcases photographs which have been culled from the private collections in Canadian homes. Historians are constantly astonished at what treasures lie in private hands (and, conversely, at how many of these treasures will ultimately be thrown out during spring cleaning or estate sales), and this diary is a case in point. It first came to light in 1997, when a young girl read excerpts from it at a Nova Scotia Remembrance Day ceremony. Later, it was used in a television documentary on John McCrae (Gass quoted "In Flanders Fields" almost six weeks before it appeared in print). Now, this remarkable diary is available to the general reader for the first time.

Gass was a Nova Scotia native who trained in nursing at the Montreal General Hospital and enlisted in the Canadian Army Medical Corps as a Nursing Sister in March 1915. She was a member of #3 Canadian General Hospital (McGill), but was attached for varying periods to other establishments, including #1 Canadian General Hospital, the Duchess of Connaught Canadian General Hospital at Taplow, #2 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station at Remy Siding, Belgium, the Canadian Red Cross Special Hospital at Buxton, and the Segregation Hospital at Kinmel Park. As a result, her diary (certainly the most complete first-person account of the Canadian nursing services that is currently available) sheds lights on a wide range of experiences. Given the pressures of her duties, it is surprising that she had the time to keep a diary at all, and indeed on many occasions her responsibilities consumed most of her waking hours. But, inveterate diarist as she was, she usually found time to jot down a few thoughts, about the men she treated, the friends and relatives she lost, the nursing sisters with whom she shared such intense experiences.

Mann's introduction and explanatory footnotes are excellent, although an index would have been a welcome addition. Still, it is a valuable first-hand record of a remarkable woman who gave up a life of relative privilege and comfort to serve her country. Perhaps it will encourage more people to dig through their attics and see what historical treasures might lie there.

LT

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Mark Lynton, **Accidental Journey: A Cambridge Internee's Memoir of World War II** (Woodstock, NY: The Overlook Press, 1998), $15.95 US paper, 266 pages, ISBN 0-87951-848-0.

With a lively sense of humour and in a modest and self-deprecating way, Mark Lynton tells of his progress from being an enemy alien in Canada to commanding a tank after D-Day. Born Max-Otto Ludwig Loewenstein, a German Jew from an affluent family, the author came to Cambridge University in 1938 to study law. After a few idyllic months, he was interned and shipped to Canada. The "Cambridge Gang" ended up at Camp N, near Sherbrooke, where its members and German masons, electricians and bartenders made a huge Canadian Pacific Railway shed habitable.

Then officialdom discovered that Lynton had been wrongly interned, and he joined the Pioneer Corps – "a cheap though inefficient labour force." Lynton provides a hilarious account of life in the 251st Alien Pioneer Company. Since many of the instructors "had considerable difficulty distinguishing left from right, taking instruction from them was often akin to a mind-reading exercise." Six Nobel laureates served in the company, which spent much of its time building toilets. Lynton earned his paratrooper wings, but then was back to his unit to build more toilets. Then, after attending Sandhurst, he was commissioned and joined the 3rd Royal Tank Regiment in April 1944. Two months later, he landed in Normandy and spent eleven months fighting his way across north-west Europe, having four tanks shot out from under him. His account of life at the sharp end has seldom been bettered. He considered the Germans the "best fighting soldiers around." Leadership at the ground level was the key: "To be an effective combat leader ... requires just two attributes. The men must feel that you look after them and their welfare, and you must display personal physical courage."

Lynton recalls the hour he spent in Belsen-Bergen: "an eternity ... a vision of unimaginable horror. An hour later, I lost my tank and two men of my crew." As the only German speaker in 3 RTR, Lynton arrange the surrender of several towns, but failed to convince the commander of a formation of Heinkel 262 jet fighters to capitulate. After the war, he interrogated Nazis and engaged in intelligence work. He interpreted for Himmler, and then buried the head of the SS after he committed suicide.

The author, with an eye for detail and anecdote, had the knack for summing up the essence of the people he met in a few words. And he comments on the different styles of looting by Allied soldiers. The Russians stole anything and everything, while the French and Americans sought objects of value. With many details never before recorded, such as how Göring secreted the poison pill he used to kill himself, the book is infused with the *joie de vivre* of a soldier lucky enough to survive the war.

Lynton emphasizes the role that chance played in his life. Had he gone to Oxford, as originally intended, he would not have been interned. Going to Cambridge launched his "accidental journey" and every reader of this remarkable book will be enlightened and entertained by the story of it.

JL

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Christer Bergström and Andrey Mikhailov, **Black Cross, Red Star: The Air War Over the Eastern Front, vol. 2, Resurgence, January - June 1942** (Pacifica, CA: Pacifica Military History, 2001), $39.95 US, 234 pages, ISBN 0-935553-51-7.

The second volume in the history of the longest and largest air campaign in history is every bit up to the standard set by the first. It is the story of *Luftwaffe* successes on the tactical level, but a general failure to achieve the same level of victories it had achieved during the 1941 campaign. With superior tactics, aircraft, and pilots, the Germans were able to secure a general mastery of the air, which was in turn responsible for some of the key victories on the battlefield in the first half of 1942; the German armies at Kerch, Kharkov, and Sevastapol benefited from excellent air support which succeeded in cutting off the battlefield. However, this could only be achieved by a concentration of resources, and by pulling air units away from other sectors, for the *Luftwaffe* simply did not have enough equipment to cover the immense battlefield in the east. Nor could it afford to sustain the losses (over 1100 aircraft in the first six months of 1942) which were so characteristic of operations in the east. At the same time, it was unable to repeat the destruction of Russian aircraft on the ground which had been such a feature of the 1941 campaign. The Red air force, on the other hand, was hobbled by obsolete equipment (especially in the north, where many units relied on biplanes), inadequately trained pilots (the qualitative gap between German and Soviet pilots, in the view of the authors, widened in the period under consideration), and even a lack of reliable radio transmitters. Still, the authors suggest that, in the air campaigns of early 1942, the tide was beginning to turn. Those few months confirmed the *Luftwaffe* role as a mere adjunct to the army, and prevented it from becoming a strategic force. In many ways, they argue, its long-term decline on the Eastern Front grew out of the successes of late 1941 and early 1942. The Red air force, on the other hand, was beginning to recover. With Lend-Lease aircraft from the west and factories which had been relocated to the east coming into production, Soviet air strength began to grow, even with the admittedly heavily losses it continued to suffer at the hands of the *Luftwaffe*.

There are many more volumes to come in this series, each of which sheds more light on this immense but little understood campaign. Drawn from Soviet as well as German sources and fully illustrated with many photographs, colour studies of aircraft, and colour maps, they will make a valuable reference source for anyone interested in military aviation.

CT

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Arthur Yates, **The Trooper** (Victoria, BC: Trafford Publishing, 2001), $19.99 paper, 87 pages, ISBN 1-55212-665-X.

Up to a certain point, Arthur Yates' war was entirely conventional. Refused by the International Brigades in the Spanish Civil War because of his age, he joined the Territorial Army before the war and was called to the colours in September 1939. After a stint in the commandos, he became a tanker with the Lothian and Border Yeomanry, the 17th/21st Lancers (he worked at a tank depot, unloading armoured vehicles from trains and transferring them to waiting tank transporter vehicles), and eventually the Royal Tank Regiment. He fought in Italy with the 11th Indian Division, accepted a transfer to the 1st Derbyshire Yeomanry, and at the end of the war was attached to the headquarters of the 6th Armoured Division, then stationed at Klagenfurt, Austria. At that point, his story departed from the norm. Yates, a lowly trooper, decided to run against Winston Churchill in his own constituency in the 1945 British general election. The army sent him back to England to kick off his political career, but was careful to ensure that he did not arrive there in time to file his nomination papers. That he was prevented from going head to head with the great British prime minister did not stop him from becoming a media celebrity, as the newspaper clippings reproduced in the book verify.

Yates would have been well advised to secure the services of an editor or proof-reader, for the book is filled with distracting minor errors, typographical and otherwise. However, *The Trooper* is still an enjoyable read, thanks in large part to the irrepressibility of its author.

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James M. Perry, **A Bohemian Brigade: The Civil War Correspondents – Mostly Rough, Sometimes Ready** (Toronto: John Wiley & Sons, 2000), $34.95, 305 pages, ISBN 0-471-32009-9.

In this rambunctious and somewhat disjointed book, Perry tells the story of the first generation of war correspondents, a motley and ragtag collection of characters who covered the fighting in the American Civil War. It begins with William Howard Russell, the man who effectively invented the war correspondent during the Crimean War and who fired off the first despatches of the Civil War. He was soon joined by a small army of other journalists, working for newspapers in Europe, the Union, and the Confederacy. Battling each other for scoops and fighting field commanders for access to the fighting fronts, they pioneered battlefield journalism with their daring report-

age, vivid descriptions, and purple prose. Because of the woeful state of communications (they relied on access to "the lightning, or the telegraph, and often had to race to be first to the facilities), they often had to submit sketchy or incomplete reports to their editors; on more than one occasion, news accounts turned out to be crashingly wrong as the tide of battle turned after the story had been filed. The *New York Herald*, for example, proclaimed the first battle of Bull Run in July 1861 to be a "Brilliant Union Victory." It was, at least when the story was filed, but later in the day it turned into a complete rout for Union forces. Still, the journalists provided valuable services, and not only in informing the public of the progress of the war. Because neither army had a particularly sophisticated procedure for registering casualties, correspondents often combed the battlefields to bring in the wounded and record the names of the dead.

These correspondents called themselves "the bohemian brigade." General William T. Sherman called them "the buzzards of the press." The truth, as Perry ably shows, was somewhere in between the two characterizations. AF

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Doug Chisholm and Gerald Hill, **Their Names Live On: Remembering Saskatchewan's Fallen in World War II** (Regina: Canadian Plains Research Center, 2001), $29.95 paper, 250 pages, ISBN 0-88977-121-9.

In 1947, under the authority of the Canadian Board on Geographical Names, the government of Saskatchewan began the process of honouring the province's dead of the Second World War by naming physical features after them. Working initially from official government casualty returns, and later from information provided by next of kin, the province officially named nearly 3700 lakes, bays, creeks, and other geographic features after Saskatchewan's fallen. This fascinating book documents the lives and sacrifices of eighty-nine men in short biographical sketches that are fully illustrated with family photographs. As one might expect, there are many touching stories here, like the three Isbister boys, all infantrymen who were killed within the first two days of the Battle of Normandy (two on the sixth of June), or the two Gordon brothers (an aviator and a sailor), killed within four months of each other in 1943. Each biography also includes a photograph and description of the natural feature which serves as the war memorial.

An appendix lists the names of all Saskatchewan residents who have been honoured in this way, but the authors point out that this is an ongoing task. Residents of the province continue to come forward with additional names, each of which is investigated by the Geographic Names Board (the successor to the CBGN) to determine its legitimacy. So, this most effective form of living memorial is an ongoing project, and something which might well be adopted by other jurisdictions.

JFV

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Mark E. Neeley, Jr. and Harold Holzer, **The Union Image: Popular Prints of the Civil War North** (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press [distributed in Canada by Scholarly Book Services], 2000), $74.25, 266 pages, ISBN 0-8078-2510-7.

In the era before photographs were cheap and widely available, lithographs and popular prints were the most common means of conveying visual information. Newspapers and magazines used them to illustrate stories, and publishers printed and distributed sets to be displayed in the home. Reproduced in either high-quality editions or cheap runs that could sell for a few pennies a copy, they were often equal parts propaganda, news, nationalism, and commemoration. However, because they were so very common, few people attached much value to them and the majority of these millions of prints have disappeared over the years. Those that survive rest in research libraries, and can rarely be seen by the interested public.

Neely and Holzer have gathered nearly 150 prints depicting aspects of the Union war effort, from battles, soldiers, and weaponry to conditions on the home front to allegorical scenes expressing Union values. Many are reproduced in full colour, including the cover image, a striking scene of African-American soldiers storming a Confederate bastion at Battery Wagner, South Carolina. As the authors argue, because these prints were almost always commissioned as profit-making ventures, they were dependent on public tastes; illustrators and printers had to be shrewd judges of public opinion if their lithographs were to sell. So, it is possible to chart subtle changes in opinion by studying the images. We see, for example, sublime faith early in the war that the Union victory would be quick in coming; this eventually gives way to a sober realization that victory would be hard-fought and costly. We see, too, how the symbols were used over time: the brave and stoical wife sending her man off to war; the Stars and Stripes; the African-American soldier. Some of these are maudlin and melodramatic, others entirely fanciful, and others realistic and historically accurate, but they are all fascinating, because they recapture images of the Civil War that would have been most familiar to the people who lived through it, and allow us to see the conflict as they did.

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Alan Harris Barth, **Tracking the Axis Enemy: The Triumph of Anglo-American Naval Intelligence** (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1998), $34.95 US, 308 pages, ISBN 0-7006-0917-2.

In *Tracking the Axis Enemy*, Alan Barth shows that the Allies tracked each other as much as the enemy. Although the U.S. established the first naval intelligence unit, the British stole the lead, as befits an island nation reliant on

merchant shipping and naval defense for its very existence. The First World War necessitated some military cooperation – which however had little effect on the conduct of the war (certainly in contrast to the Zimmermann telegram) – and was dropped immediately afterwards.

By 1940, despite the successes of Blitzkrieg, the would-be allies found cooperation thwarted by two factors. U.S. politics during a presidential election campaign for an unprecedented third term for Roosevelt led Washington to avoid anything that might scare voters by suggesting that the fate of the world mattered to Americans. Second, U.S. military officials opposed cooperating with each other, so they certainly weren't about to share secrets with foreigners – especially given the anglophobia present among many military and naval officers (Admiral King in particular). Only their shared fascination with spies led Churchill and Roosevelt to push for cooperation, however clandestinely. (It helped that Ian Fleming was serving in British naval intelligence at the time.)

As the U.S. slowly shifted into gear under the guise of preparedness, more high-level meetings took place between U.S. and British naval intelligence officers, with the British leading the way in revealing information (though not always the means by which they obtained that intelligence) even though they got little in return at first. The U.S. military – and the president himself – both feared that Britain would not survive, and sent two special envoys as well as top-level military teams to Britain to determine whether the British might surrender the Royal Navy if they lost the Battle of Britain. Once reassured, collaboration flourished.

The Battle of the Atlantic encouraged close cooperation between the Western Allied navies – British, American, and Canadian – because all were affected by the success of the convoys and the threat from the U-boats. Here the British had a monopoly on intelligence operations to track submarines, and the geometry of triangulation necessitated tripartite cooperation. This formed the first phase of active collaboration among the Allies. Phase Two came after Pearl Harbor, the classic failure of intelligence, which led to Midway and the greatest success of naval intelligence. Cooperation continued at a high level in the European theatre from Torch to Overlord, then trailed off as both partners started eyeing each other suspiciously regarding postwar ambitions: Britain wanted to survive as a Power; the U.S. wanted the world open to everyone and believed that the best way to accomplish this was for everyone else to do as the U.S. said and not as it did.

Barth presents a detailed account of Allied intelligence cooperation and operations during the war, and shows how the nascent Cold War allowed that cooperation to revive and flourish despite British and American intentions to dismantle it. His account is a rich and detailed analysis replete with both the personal and technical dimensions of this vital subject, and his attention to the Dominions makes it especially informative. JW

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Donald Stuart Macpherson, **A Soldier's Diary: The World War I Diaries of Donald Macpherson** (St. Catharines, ON: Vanwell, 2001), $17.95 paper, 192 pages, ISBN 1-55125-068-3.

When Donald Macpherson dug out his wartime diary in 1965 and made it available to his children, he included a short preface: "It doesn't say much about the strategy and tactics of modern warfare," he wrote of the journal, "but it may tell you something of the way in which a whole generation of Canadians responded to the call of duty, heedless of the cost and conscious only of the privilege of serving their country and the cause of world freedom." Here, in a nutshell, is the value of this fascinating and utterly charming diary.

Macpherson was a student at the University of Toronto Faculty of Education when the war broke out, and in July 1916 he enlisted in the 67th Battery, Canadian Field Artillery, eventually reaching France in January 1917. He served with the 9th Battery at Vimy Ridge, Hill 70, and Passchendaele (where he won a Military Medal), was commissioned, and then returned to the front with the 23rd Battery. He was wounded at Amiens in August 1918 and spent the rest of the war in convalescence. Macpherson candidly admits that recording his thoughts had a very pragmatic aim: "Sanity and peace of mind could be preserved only by thinking ... and writing about the more normal things of life." As a result, there is little here about strategy and tactics, but we learn a great deal about what motivated him as a soldier and as a human being. We see his deep attachment to his parents and his siblings (three of his brothers also served in the First World War – one was killed in action in August 1918), his quiet patriotism, his fierce pride in his unit, his determination to acquit himself well – clearly, all of this went into making him a fine soldier and, not incidentally, a very decent man. JFV

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Eric A. Johnson, **Nazi Terror: The Gestapo, Jews, and Ordinary Germans** (New York: Basic Books, 1999), $52.95, 636 pages, ISBN 0-465-04906-0.

Johnson, an historian at Central Michigan University, is the author of two previous books on crime and violence in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Germany. Those books did not make a huge splash, but this one will probably enhance his reputation in the profession considerably.

It is a work of prodigious scholarship that argues a once radical but now more mainstream thesis, that the Nazis used terror tactics in a highly selective fashion, directed largely against the Jews, and that much of the German population lived through the years of the Third Reich with little interference from the police state. In this thesis, the Gestapo was a fairly small

(albeit well organized) group which was so effective largely because it could rely on the meek complicity of the majority of the German people, who were quite willing to police themselves.

The strength of *Nazi Terror* lies in the texture and detail. Johnson breathes new life into the notion of the banality of evil – it is quite shocking to read of the terrible things that people could do on such mundane motivation. The book is based on a wide range of primary sources, and is exceedingly well written. Interestingly, the author spends some time dealing with a question about the project that was often raised during the research stage: why would anyone want to read a book on this subject written by someone who is not German and not Jewish? This impressive book has broad implications, although it is essentially micro-history – it endeavours to generalize (and does so very effectively) from the experiences of three towns in the Rhineland, Cologne, Krefeld, and Bergheim. DG

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John Cornwell, **Hitler's Pope: The Secret History of Pius XII** (New York: Viking, 1999), $42.00, 430 pages, ISBN 0-670-88693-9.

Cornwell is Senior Research Fellow at Jesus College, Cambridge, and the author of a previous bestseller on the death of Pope John Paul I. This book has been one of the most controversial studies of the papacy ever published, and the reason becomes apparent soon after cracking the cover. Where other historians equivocated on the guilt of the Vatican with respect to the Holocaust, Cornwell wades right in, claiming that Pius was determined to increase the political power of the papacy, and had no compunction about using an alliance with the Nazis to that end. Furthermore, Cornwell accuses Pius of complicity in the Holocaust because he failed to use his influence to curb the excesses of Roman Catholics in the Nazi leadership. He makes much of Pius' Christmas 1942 homily which was virtually his only public statement on the fate of European Jewry, arguing that even that statement could not be considered critical, for he failed to mention either the Jews or the Nazis specifically. In Cornwell's view, the main reason why Pius was willing to make a deal with the devil, so to speak, was that he had deep personal antipathy towards the Jews. Because he believed there was a link between Judaism and a Bolshevik plot to destroy Christianity, Pius was not particularly disturbed by the offensive against the Jews.

Cornwell has certainly had his critics, most of whom question the assumption that Pius could have had any real influence with the Nazis at all. They argue that Cornwell's belief that the papacy could have effected change is misguided, and that a tough stand by Pius probably would have achieved nothing beyond the suppression of the Catholic church in Germany, Austria, and the occupied territories. This may well be the case, but Cornwell implies that it would have been a small price to pay to allow the Vatican to occupy the moral high ground on the Holocaust. SL

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Donald Chisholm, **Waiting for Dead Men's Shoes: Origins and Development of the U.S. Navy's Officer Personnel System, 1793-1941** (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2001), $125.00 US, 883 pages, ISBN 0-8047-3525-5.

This dense, exhaustive organizational study is not likely to catch the interest of the general reader, but it is nevertheless a work of prodigious scholarship that has many lessons for the military historian of any era. Chisholm's subject is the USN's long campaign to arrive at a promotion strategy that was both fair to the officers concerned and conducive to efficiency and fighting effectiveness. In its early years, the Navy, true to the egalitarian spirit that gave it birth, attempted to ensure that its promotion system was as equitable as possible. Virtually everyone was promoted in turn, but only as those officers occupying senior ranks died off; the speed of one's rise through the ranks was ultimately determined by the mortality rates of the officers in the higher levels of the naval hierarchy. This practice yielded such unusual expediencies as the "tombstone promotion" (the promotion of an officer as an inducement to securing his retirement, to make space for another to fill his place), and situations like that which obtained in 1840, when fully 60% of the Navy's officers at the rank of commander were not employed in sea duty. It was widely realized, even at the time, that this system was a failure, and that it poorly served both the officers themselves and the Navy as a whole. Change to a system based on merit, when the few were promoted at the expense of the many, was slow in coming, but it did come. In any given year in the 1890s, between 55% and 85% of the captains eligible for promotion to rear-admiral were promoted; in the first years of the twentieth century, the percentage dropped dramatically, in some years to just over one-quarter. By the time the United States went to war in 1941, the Navy had generally solved the inadequacies in its promotion system; amendments have obviously been made in the past sixty years, but they have been minor in nature and no substantial overhaul of the system has been required.

Chisholm brings to his work an impressive range of inter-disciplinary approaches, from the latest research in cognitive psychology to methods that would find favour with any decent business or management school in North America. He sees the USN as a corporate entity, but realizes that its success has often been constrained by the comradely ethos (or old boys' ethos, to use a more business-related term) which characterized it. Bringing in a modern, efficient promotion system without compromising those values was a tricky balancing act, and Chisholm does a fine job of explaining why it took so long. DR

Briefly Noted

Luis Sorando Muzas, **Banderas, estandartes y trofeos del Museo del Ejercito 1700-1843: Catalogo razonado** (Madrid: Ministerio de Defensa, 2001), $20.00 US, 206 pages and CD-ROM, ISBN 84-7823-812-3.

This outstanding work is an exhaustive history and catalogue of colours, standards, and trophies held by Spain's Army Museum. The CD contains detailed descriptions of each item in the collection.

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Joyce Gooding and Peter A. Scott-Edeson, **The London Gun Trade, 1850-1920: A Checklist of Tradesmen**, Historical Arms Series No. 41 (Alexandria Bay, NY: Museum Restoration Services, 2001), $10.45 US, 48 pages, ISBN 0-919316-41-7.

This fine compilation completes and expands on the late Howard Blackmore's pioneering studies of the London gun trade, and is a valuable reference for historians and collectors.

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Carlos Selvagem, **Portugal Militar: Compendio de Historia Militar e Naval de Portugal** (Lisbon: Impresa Nacional Casa Moeda, 1999), 710 pages, ISBN 972-27-0442-7.

Reprint of the essential 1931 classic compilation of Portuguese military history on land and sea in the four corners of the globe from the Dark Ages to 1910.

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Gary W. Gallagher, ed., **The Spotsylvania Campaign** (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press [distributed in Canada by Scholarly Book Services], 1998), $49.50, 272 pages, ISBN 0-8078-2402-X.

Another volume in UNC Press's excellent Military Campaigns of the Civil War series, this one covers the two-week period in mid-May 1864 which saw some of the bitterest fighting of the U.S. Civil War. The essays address everything from high command and strategy, to worms'-eye views of the battles and analyses of the collective memory of the campaign. Well illustrated and with excellent notes, this volume fully lives up to the high standards of the others in the series.

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Robert L. Bradley and Helen Camp, **The Forts at Pemaquid, Maine: An Archeological and Historical Study** (Augusta, ME: Maine Historic Preservation Commission, 1994), $25.00 US, 286 pages, ISBN 0-935447-11-3.

Although it was published some years ago, this little known yet excellent study gives a fine structural history of the forts garrisoned by Massachusetts troops until 1759. The many fascinating artifacts excavated are illustrated.

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Gerry Embleton, **Medieval Military Costume, Recreated in Colour Photographs**, Europa Militaria Special No. 8 (Ramsbury: Crowood Press, 2000), $22.95 US paper, 96 pages, ISBN 1-86126-371-6.

Written by one of the foremost authorities on the topic, this amazing book has hundreds of colour photographs that detail every aspect of medieval costume of men at arms, and also of the women who were with them. The subjects are so well researched and placed in appropriate backgrounds that, after a while, one forgets these are photos. The colour plates by the author, also one of Europe's finest historical illustrators, enhance details further. And there were indeed uniforms of sorts, as the section on liveries shows. The period covered is from about 1000 AD to about 1525, so much of the later data presented is pertinent to America. In any event, this is an excellent, highly recommended book about the first men at arms in Europe.

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Praful Bidwai and Achin Vanaik, **New Nukes: India, Pakistan and Global Nuclear Disarmament** (New York: Interlink, 2000), $18.95 US paper, 288 pages, ISBN 1-56656-317-8.

Bidwai and Vanaik are journalists and long-time anti-nuclear advocates who have published widely in newspapers and periodicals in India. They are Fellows of the Transnational Institute, and authors of a previous study of the nuclear test ban. This book, an examination of the causes and consequences of India's and Pakistan's recent round of nuclear tests, was motivated by two events: the U.S. Senate's rejection of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and the clash between Indian and Pakistani troops over the Line of Control in Kashmir in the spring of 1999.

The authors embark on a comprehensive discussion of how the Indian sub-continent arrived at a situation in which (in their view) nuclear war is a distinct possibility, and also provide a prescription of how a crisis might be averted. They believe that a solution must be sought in some measure outside the region; they argue that there is little likelihood of disarmament by new nuclear states until the old nuclear states (particularly the US and France) make more meaningful moves towards disarmament and the extension of nuclear weapons free zones.

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Michael Krupa, **Shallow Graves in Siberia** (London: Minerva Press, 1997), £8.99 paper, 197 pages, ISBN 1-86106-730-5.

Polish-born Michael Krupa left a Jesuit seminary, before taking his vows, to join the army, only to see his unit wiped out during the German invasion of Poland in September 1939. Realizing that many of his fellow soldiers were being shipped off to Nazi labour camps,

he attempted at escape into the Soviet zone of Poland, but was captured and sent, via the notorious Lubianka prison in Moscow, to Siberia. He managed to escape from there to Afghanistan, and eventually was taken into the Polish forces-in-exile in Palestine. This powerful account of his experiences, written when the author was a retired university employee in Yorkshire, pulls no punches, and gives a rivetting account of the brutalities of life in Soviet labour camps.

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Peter Pigott, **Flying Canucks III: Famous Canadian Aviators** (Madeira Park, BC: Harbour Publishing, 2000), $18.95 paper, 246 pages, ISBN 1-55017-224-7.

The third volume in Pigott's series profiles twelve more great Canadian fliers, including a good number with a military connection: Duncan Bell-Irving, the first Canadian pilot to gain five aerial victories during the First World War; "Babe" Woollett, bush pilot and part of the brains trust behind #1 Air Observer School at Malton, Ontario, one of the model establishments of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan; Don McDonald, who flew in operations over Ceylon during the Second World War; and George Lothian, one of the better known pilots on the Atlantic ferry routes. As usual, the sketches are light and breezy, fully illustrated, and great fun to read.

General

Pre-1914

1914-1939

1939-1945

Post-1945

* Briefly Noted