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CANADIAN MILITARY HISTORY

BOOK REVIEW SUPPLEMENT

Issue 1



Canadian Military History is pleased to welcome you to the first edition of our new book review supplement. In response to requests from our readers, we have created the supplement to provide brief glimpses of works currently available on a wide variety of military subjects. Its scope will be as broad as possible, taking in books in American, European, Asian, and African military history, from all eras. The most important books in Canadian military history will still be reviewed in the journal itself. You may, however, see short advance notices of these books in the supplement.

We have printed the reviews in random order in part to discourage readers from flipping immediately to the subject areas which already interest them. Instead, we hope that you will browse through the entire supplement and find your interest provoked by reviews of books that you might not otherwise have read.

We hope that you enjoy the supplement, and look forward to receiving your comments.

Jonathan F. Vance
Editor, Book Review Supplement

Contributing Reviewers:

Michael Bechthold, Terry Copp, Paul Dickson, Marc Kilgour,
David Lenarcic, David Mackenzie, Dean F. Oliver, Jonathan F. Vance

Claude C. Sturgill, **The Military History of the Third World since 1945: A Reference Guide**. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1994, \$69.50, 256 pages, (ISBN 0-313-28152-1).

Erik Goldstein, **Wars and Peace Treaties, 1816-1991**. London: Routledge, 1992, \$52.95 US, 284 pages, (ISBN 0-415-07822-9).

At a time when civil wars and localized disputes appear to be breaking out on a weekly basis, reference volumes such as these are invaluable to make sense of the historical context. Historians, journalists, and general readers alike will find much of interest in these books.

Claude Sturgill has done a great service by compiling a collection of brief, thumbnail sketches of the military history, defence spending, and armed forces of dozens of nations. It is broader than the title suggests, for the author includes Israel, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, and many other nations whose status in the Third World is debatable. The book shows a distinct American bias (the size of each nation is related to one or more American states, for example), but it is no less useful as a result. It provides a valuable road map through the often dizzying changes occurring in regions which have become the temporary homes to thousands of UN peacekeepers.

In *Wars and Peace Treaties*, Erik Goldstein has arranged the conflicts roughly according to theme and geography, and each listing gives a brief sketch of the cause, course, and results of the war. While the entries are necessarily too short to provide any useful details on the major wars of these centuries, the brief accounts of such little-known conflicts as the Barra War of 1831, the Chaco War of 1932-35, and the Tanzania-Uganda dispute of the late 1970s are invaluable. A more comprehensive bibliography, noting articles as well as monographs, would have been welcome. The

appendices, however, are excellent, and provide handy reference lists of all belligerent nations involved in the world wars, post-1945 peace treaties, UN peacekeeping operations, and arms control agreements.

The main weakness of this sort of book is obvious. With the pace of change as quick as it is, Sturgill's reference guide will inevitably become outdated, probably sooner than the author and publisher would like; the section on Somalia, for example, requires an addition already. Goldstein's book is less vulnerable in this regard, but additions are unfortunately already necessary to his book as well. Nevertheless, both volumes are valuable resource tools for anyone interested in international affairs.

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Donald Richter, **Chemical Soldiers: British Gas Warfare in World War I**. Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 1992, \$35.00, 293 pages, (ISBN 0-7006-0544-4).

Chemical Soldiers is a unit history of the Special Brigade, established in 1915 to retaliate against Germany's use of gas. Richter has attempted to go beyond strictly administrative history to discern the experience of the individual chemical soldier; in this, he has mined an impressive range of personal collections from British archives. He has also highlighted one of the greatest weaknesses of the gas warfare programme: the inability of the Special Brigade to overcome the reluctance of infantry commanders to choose gas as an offensive weapon.

Most interesting, though, is Richter's final chapter, which seeks to dispel some of the myths that surround gas warfare. The chemical soldiers had few qualms about the morality of gas as a weapon, and even the infantry viewed dying from phosgene poisoning as no worse than any other form of death. The author

quotes many observers who believed that gas was a relatively humane way to die compared to bleeding to death after being sliced apart by shrapnel. Furthermore, Richter points out that the prognosis for gas casualties was good; only about 4% died, a figure that compares very favourably to the 25% who died after sustaining other sorts of wounds.

Chemical Soldiers is a valuable corrective to propagandized tales of gas warfare. On a more basic level, it is a fascinating account of another slightly pathetic and ultimately unsuccessful attempt to solve the tactical riddle of war on the Western Front.

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Stephen Conway, **The War of American Independence, 1775-1783**. London: Edward Arnold (distributed in Canada by Copp Clark), 1995, \$32.95 (paper), 256 pages, (ISBN 0-340-57626-X).

This is the first volume of the publisher's new Modern Wars series, which has been launched under the editorship of Hew Strachan and Michael Howard. The aim of the series is to provide solid, single-volume studies which examine the origins, events, and outcome of wars since the eighteenth century. Notably, future volumes will fill a void by covering non-European wars which have typically been ignored by mainstream European and American historians.

Conway's book is a highly readable account of the war which gains strength from placing the conflict in the widest possible context. He discusses the European, Caribbean, Indian, and African dimensions to the war, and examines the impact it had, not just on the protagonists, but on those nations which were affected by the shock waves, like the Spanish, the French, and the Dutch. His arguments are bolstered by the impressive range of primary sources he marshals, all of which

are listed in a very useful bibliography. If future volumes live up to the standard set by Conway, *Modern Wars* will be a valuable series for both the specialist and general interest reader.

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J.L. Granatstein and Peter Neary, eds., **The Good Fight: Canadians and World War II**. Mississauga: Copp Clark, 1995, \$26.95 (paper), 500 pages (ISBN 0-7730-5458-8).

Assembling an anthology like this is a tricky proposition. Because of the uneven quality of material to choose from, there is a tendency to fall back on the old chestnuts and produce a very standard compilation. Happily, Granatstein and Neary have avoided this temptation, and the result is a very entertaining and informative book.

Its greatest strength lies in the breadth of sources used. One expects to see excerpts from the work of Earle Birney and Hugh Garner, but the editors have included the writings of F.R. Scott and Roch Carrier as well. There are a number of articles by scholars, on subjects like the black market in Canada and the veterans charter, as well as selections from personal diaries, unit war diaries, and government reports. The appendices contain an interesting series of public opinion surveys, and some handy statistical tables on Canada in the war years. There is even a reproduction of a children's comic entitled 'Commando raid on Dieppe.'

All in all, *The Good Fight* is a worthy record of both the positive and negative aspects of Canada's war effort that ends with an especially touching essay. Rick Johnson describes his search for the father he barely knew, an infantryman killed in Italy when Johnson was only three years old. It is a very moving piece, and speaks volumes about the impact of war in human terms.

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Russell Duncan, ed., **Blue-Eyed Child of Fortune: The Civil War Letters of Colonel Robert Gould Shaw**. Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 1992, \$29.95, 449 pages (ISBN 0-8203-1459-5).

Geoffrey L. Rossano, ed., **The Price of Honor: The World War One Letters of Naval Aviator Kenneth MacLeish**. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press (distributed in Canada by Vanwell), 1991, \$46.50, 254 pages, (ISBN 0-87021-5841).

Aside from a wonderful title, *Blue-Eyed Child of Fortune* has much to recommend it. Moviegoers will be familiar with the author of these letters through the film 'Glory,' in which Matthew Broderick played Colonel Shaw, the commander of the Union's vanguard black regiment, the 54th Massachusetts Infantry. This volume provides a glimpse of a very different man than the one-dimensional screen character. The Shaw who emerges is at once more and less likeable. He was no abolitionist yet he struggled to come to terms with his own prejudices, and the letters provide a compelling portrait of a man slowly learning about himself and the blacks under his command. At the time of his death in action in July 1863, Shaw had come a long way from the doubter who had to be convinced by his family to assume command of the 54th.

The letters of Kenneth MacLeish, mostly addressed to his fiancé, are interesting in a different respect. A Yale man (Shaw went to Harvard), MacLeish was among the first American naval aviators, and his letters have much to say about other pioneers of naval aviation and the aircraft they flew. As such, they hold particular interest for the specialist, for they shed much light on what was a very dangerous profession. His comments on the capability of various naval aircraft, like the Curtiss F-Boat, are especially enlightening. MacLeish was killed in action in October 1918.

MacLeish's letters were carefully preserved by his fiancé for decades, until Rossano learned of them almost by chance and assembled them into a book. His editing is perhaps a little too minimalist: the explanatory notes are rather sparse, as is the biographical information. The book would also benefit from a bibliography and source citations. In contrast, Russell Duncan has done a superb job with Shaw's letters. All were published in an expurgated form after Shaw's death, and Duncan has carefully reviewed the manuscript sources to ensure that the versions are as complete as possible. He has provided full explanatory notes for each letter, and has also written an excellent biographical introduction.

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Craig Howes, **Voices of the Vietnam POWs: Witnesses to Their Fight**. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993, \$25.50 (paper), 301 pages, (ISBN 0-19-508680-5).

In this fascinating account of the creation of a collective history, Howes examines the memoirs and public utterances that came out of the American POW experience in Vietnam. The 600 POWs who returned to the US in Operation Homecoming in 1973 were a remarkably homogeneous group: most were aviators and career officers with high levels of commitment and education. Notably, there was not a single draftee among them.

Even while in captivity, these men embarked upon a concerted effort to rehabilitate the image of the American POW, which had suffered badly during the Second World War and the Korean War. More importantly, they were interested in rehabilitating the image of the entire war. Under their motto 'Return with Honor,' the POWs cultivated their image as real American heroes in response to the antiwar sentiment of the time. To

this end, they went so far as to rehearse homecoming speeches and establish corporations for managing post-war publishing and public-speaking ventures.

What emerges in Howes' book is the creation of an Official Story of the American POW experience in Vietnam, a story which was passed down by the earliest POWs to later arrivals and which eventually took on the force of scripture. Though his allusions to colonial captivity accounts seem somewhat out of place, the author's study is a penetrating account of the creation of memory and the uses of collective history.

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Allan M. Ogilvie, **All the Luck in the World**. St John's: Creative Publishers, 1994, \$9.95 (paper), 96 pages (ISBN 1-895387-43-4).

Charlie Hobbs, **Past Tense: Charlie's Story**. Burnstown: General Store Publishing House, 1994, \$14.95 (paper), 208 pages.

Ogilvie's is a short and straightforward account of his successful evasion through France. A navigator with 8 Squadron RAF, a Pathfinder unit, Ogilvie was on his fifty-first operation when he was shot down in March 1943. He came down near Verdun, and embarked on a journey that took him through occupied and unoccupied France, across the Pyrenees into Spain, and back to the United Kingdom. The entire odyssey lasted less than three months, from his descent into France to his return to Glasgow, a textbook evasion assisted, as the author fully admits, by a large measure of luck.

Charlie Hobbs had less luck when his 83 Squadron Pathfinder Lancaster was shot down in April 1943; he was captured and spent the rest of the war as a POW. His account is at once more reflective and more light-hearted than Ogilvie's. As a rear gunner, he recalls the feeling of intense isolation, in large part because the only part of the aircraft visible to

him from his turret was the tips of the tail assembly. Hobbs' sense of humour obviously helped him cope with feelings like this.

Both books are burdened with the same minor errors which often plague memoirs. Ogilvie, for example, confuses the Spanish police with the popular pasta dish, calling them 'Carboneri' instead of 'Carabinieri.' Despite such glitches, they have an interesting story to tell, and readers will be grateful that the small presses have decided to preserve the stories of Allan Ogilvie and Charlie Hobbs in print.

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John R. Gillis, ed., **Commemorations: The Politics of National Identity**. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1994, 302 pages (ISBN 0-691-03200-9).

The product of a two-year project at Rutgers University on the construction of identity, this volume contains much to interest the military historian. The role that memory plays in the creation of an image of the past is one of the more popular avenues of historical research at the moment, and few areas have been as influenced by this relationship as the memory of wars.

Thirteen essays discuss various aspects of memory and identity. Kirk Savage's chapter on Civil War memorials examines monuments as an attempt to reach a consensus between old enemies. Kurt Piehler, in a study of American commemoration after the First World War, charts the efforts of the US government in transforming the war dead into a symbol of national identity that crossed boundaries of class, religion, and ethnicity. Daniel Sherman offers a fascinating glimpse at the commercialization of the French war memorial industry and the ways in which mass-produced monuments were able to express local identities.

Taken together, the essays raise a number of interesting questions. Historians have long been

determined to uncover the real, true facts of any historical event. Only recently have they begun to consider how historical reality was filtered by those who experienced it. As these essays make clear, understanding what war was like for the participants is one thing; it is quite another to understand how war was perceived after the fact, both by combatants and non-combatants.

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Barrett Tillman, **Carrier Battle in the Philippine Sea: The Marianas Turkey Shoot, June 19-20, 1944**. St. Paul, Minnesota: Phalanx Publishing, 1994, \$12.95 (paper), 48 pages, (ISBN 1-883809-04-5).

Released on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the greatest battle between carrier-based aircraft ever, Tillman's book is a straightforward account of the engagement that involved twenty-four carriers and over 1,300 aircraft.

Based primarily on secondary sources, this is a well written and detailed blow-by-blow account of the two-day battle that cost the Imperial Japanese Navy over 400 aircraft. Tillman has some interesting comments about how little the principles of carrier warfare have changed, even with the leaps of technology since 1944. The photographs, many of them from the author's collection, are excellent, and there is also a full-colour centre section showing the principal aircraft involved. A very useful statistical appendix provides the American and Japanese orders of battle and a careful accounting of the losses on both sides.

Tillman's book is another addition to Phalanx Publishing's Gold Wings series; other volumes document the air battle over the beaches during the invasion of North Africa in 1942, and the US Marine squadrons which flew North American Mitchells.

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Yisrael Gutman and Michael Berenbaum, eds., **Anatomy of the Auschwitz Death Camp**. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1994, \$39.95 US, 528 pages (ISBN 0-253-32684-2).

Published in association with the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, this collection of essays is an exhaustive examination of all aspects of the death camp. There are technical discussions of the mechanics of mass murder, statistical analyses of the victims of Auschwitz, summaries of the historiography of the camp, articles on women, children, gypsies, and other inmates, profiles of the camp staff, and sections which examine modes of resistance and Auschwitz in the wider context. Particularly interesting in this regard is an article on the controversy surrounding the Allied failure to bomb the camp.

Many prominent international scholars are represented in this volume, including Yehuda Bauer, Leo Eitinger, Martin Gilbert and Robert Jay Lifton. There is also a valuable translation from a book by Jean-Claude Pressac, the former Holocaust denier, which stirred a storm of controversy when it was first published in France. Readers will be grateful for something rare in collections of essays: an index covering all articles. In sum, Gutman and Berenbaum have assembled a fine collection that provides indispensable background to the memoirs published by Auschwitz survivors.

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John Lawrence Tone, **The Fatal Knot: The Guerrilla War in Navarre and the Defeat of Napoleon in Spain**. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina (distributed in Canada by Scholarly Book Services), 1994, 239 pages (ISBN 0-8078-2169-1).

According to Napoleon, it was the Guerrillas of Spain who cost him the Peninsular War. Their

efforts caused him to deploy nearly a half million men in Spain and Portugal (against the 60,000 led by Wellington) between 1810 and 1812; when the French were forced out of Spain in 1814 by the guerrilla campaign, Napoleon left 300,000 casualties behind.

Tone has concentrated on Navarre, the heart of guerrilla country, and finds the root of the movement buried deep in the nature of peasant society. He argues that the guerrillas comprised only a minority of the population, yet their efforts were so effective that they often established *de facto* governments within French-occupied territory. Not only did they kill tens of thousands of French soldiers, but they also kept the local populace on a slow boil, with the occupiers never knowing where or when the next eruption of trouble would occur.

Based largely on archival material held in Navarre, *The Fatal Knot* is a fascinating study of guerrilla warfare as waged by the people who invented the term.

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Dwight R. Messimer, **Escape**. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press (distributed in Canada by Vanwell), 1994, 277 pages \$41.95, (ISBN 1-55750-578-0).

When Edouard V. Isaacs died in 1990 at age one hundred, the last surviving Medal of Honour winner from the First World War, he left behind few traces of the deeds for which he was decorated. From a variety of sources, Messimer has written a wartime biography of a man whose strong sense of duty drove him to attempt escape at every possible opportunity.

Isaacs was captured in May 1918 when his troopship was torpedoed in the Atlantic. He spent some weeks aboard a U-Boat, and gleaned information about the German submarine campaign which he believed could assist the Allies. A determination to get this

intelligence to England motivated his escape attempts. After a number of abortive efforts, including a jump from a train which showed more courage than intelligence, Isaacs and a number of his comrades used ladders to scale the wire of their camp; after a short trek, he swam the Rhine to Switzerland. Ironically, he arrived in London so close to the Armistice that the information he brought was no longer useful.

Escape is an engaging tale of one man's war which remained hidden for seventy years. Readers familiar with escape literature will find the book especially interesting, for the organization of escapes in Isaacs' camps was so woefully inadequate that it is a wonder anyone got out at all.

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American War Plans, 1919-41, vol. 4, Steven T. Ross, ed., **Coalition War Plans and Hemisphere Defense Plans, 1940-41**. New York: Garland Publishing, 1992, \$125.00 US, 389 pages (ISBN 0-8153-0692-X).

This documentary collection offers a fascinating glimpse at American war plans before the attack on Pearl Harbor. Many readers will already be familiar with the outcome of the ABC-1 conference, which established the importance of the Atlantic theatre, the ABD conference regarding strategy in the Pacific, which confirmed that the Allies' goal would be to defeat Germany first, and ABC-22, which established a joint Canadian-American defense plan. Less well known, though no less interesting, are plans for the seizure of Martinique and Guadeloupe, intervention in Costa Rica and Nicaragua, and operations in the Azores.

Like all volumes in the series, this volume has a helpful general introduction and a brief but handy bibliography. Beyond that, the documents are allowed to speak for themselves.

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Archives of the Holocaust: An International Collection of Selected Documents, vol. 15, Paula Draper and Harold Troper, eds., **National Archives of Canada, Ottawa; Canadian Jewish Congress Archives, Montreal**. New York: Garland, 1991, 505 pages, \$135 US, (ISBN 0-8240-5497-0).

This series of document reproductions, now approaching twenty volumes, is intended to provide readers with an overview of the material held by government and private repositories around the world. It does not pretend to be exhaustive, nor does it attempt to address every facet of the Holocaust. Rather, it gives the reader a sampling of representative documents in each collection, making it easier for the reader to delve more deeply into specific areas.

Draper and Troper have mined the most significant collections of Holocaust material in Canada to shed light upon the conduct of the Canadian government and the role of Jewish organizations in Canada to 1950. They are to be commended for collecting a wide variety of interesting documents, from Mackenzie King's musings on the advisability of admitting Jewish refugees to a newsletter produced in the refugee camp at Farnham, Quebec. Particularly interesting in light of current efforts to deport suspected war criminals are the documents which advise leniency in admitting into Canada Nazi Party members and members of the Waffen SS.

The volume is well presented and easy to use, with a brief summary of each document and a short biographical glossary. It is especially helpful in giving undergraduates and general readers, who may never have used a major archives, a window into the archival heritage of the Holocaust.

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Charles M. Province. **Patton's Third Army: A Chronology of the Third Army Advance, August, 1944 to May, 1945**. New York: Hippocrene, 1994 (1992), \$11.95 (paper) 336 pages, (ISBN 0-7818-0239-3).

This book by Charles Province is a useful reference chronicling the exploits of Patton's Army in their drive across Europe in 1944-45. Beginning with the introduction of Third Army to operations on August 1, 1944, this book offers a day-by-day description of the trials and tribulations of Third Army as they sought to put an end to the Third Reich.

The level of detail provided is impressive. All major actions by the corps under Third Army are discussed, as are many divisional combats. The close relationship of Third Army and the XIX Tactical Air Command is recognized by the inclusion of statistics related to the number of sorties flown and claims made by the pilots. In addition, intelligence reports, operational orders and other pertinent information is included in the daily summaries.

The last two chapters of the book are titled "Third Army Operational Summary" and "The Staff." The operational summary provides a statistical breakdown of many useful items such as units under command, prisoners of war captured, medals and promotions awarded, and munitions expended. The chapter on the staff is particularly effective as it explains a poorly understood, yet essential component of a military unit. As the introduction to the chapter explains, "it is the objective of this chapter to outline and explain...the organization, structure and duties of the staff officers of the Third Army." This task is successfully accomplished.

This book does not offer any analysis or judgement on the operations of Third Army or its commander, General George S. Patton. Instead, it has provided a

concise, detailed synopsis of Third Army during the war in Europe. Province should be commended for creating a book that will become an indispensable companion to all future researchers investigating topics related to Patton's Third Army.

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Peter T. Haydon. **The 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis: Canadian Involvement Reconsidered**. Toronto: Canadian Institute of Strategic Studies, 1993, 297 pages, \$20.00, (ISBN 0-919769-64-0)

This is a well-written and well-organized study which highlights certain neglected military aspects of Canadian policy during the Cuban Missile crisis. The author's description of the Royal Canadian Navy's successful hunt for Soviet submarines off the eastern coast of North America is particularly fascinating. He argues persuasively for examining Canada's response to the crisis in a broad context encompassing Prime Minister Diefenbaker's role, Canada-U.S. ties, and civil-military relations. Thus, one of the book's strengths is that it is much more than merely a study of the Cuban missile crisis.

In challenging the conventional wisdom on the subject, Haydon emphasizes the collapse of effective political authority over the military during the crisis. This breakdown was reflected not only in the Diefenbaker government's isolation from military affairs—which led to its misunderstanding of and disinterest in them—but also in systemic problems within the military command and control structure itself. In other words, it was not simply the Prime Minister's oft-cited indecision which was to blame for Canada's tardy response; a complex array of factors was at work.

Solidly based on recently declassified documents and interviews with key participants, the author's own naval experience,

as well as a thorough understanding of the existing historiography, this book will be an indispensable source for anyone wishing to read up on or research the topic.

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John Foreman. **Over the Beaches: The Air War Over Normandy and Europe 1st-30th June 1944.** St. Paul, MN: Phalanx Publishing, 1994. 338 pages, \$24.95 US. (ISBN 1-871187-26-5).

Over the Beaches is an impressively researched book. Its core is a day-by-day statistical record of the Allied air forces in Europe during June 1944. All Allied air activity over Europe is recorded, from the obvious British Second Tactical Air Force, RAF Bomber Command and the U.S. 8th and 9th Air Forces to the more obscure Air Defence of Great Britain, Coastal Command and even the Fleet Air Arm and the U.S. Navy.

The organization of the book is straightforward. Operations are covered on a daily basis with separate sections for day and night operations. Each section begins with a brief overview of the most significant air operations of the period and a discussion of important developments on the ground. This is followed by a listing of all Allied air combat victories and losses. These listings are very complete providing, in most cases, the squadron, pilot and aircraft involved.

An important component of this book is the author's use of sidebars and photographs. They serve to enrich the core material and prevent the book from being a dry recital of air activity. The sidebars, which contain excerpts from pilots' combat reports, serve to bring the statistical information to life. The photographs and their accompanying captions, likewise, illustrate aspects of the text while also providing useful information.

One major disappointment in this book is the lack of attention

devoted to the actions of the tactical air forces. Though the diverse nature of tactical air operations makes them difficult to summarize, greater use could be made of sidebars and photos to highlight the important role played by the tactical air forces in Normandy. Another useful improvement would be the inclusion of totals for the various information provided. This would allow the reader to tell at a glance the number of aircraft destroyed or lost on a particular day without actually having to count.

Overall, this is a very useful book that will aid researchers in their efforts to understand the massive scale of air operations that contributed to the Allied victory in Normandy.

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K.S. Coates and W.R. Morrison. **The Alaska Highway in World War II: The U.S. Army of Occupation in Canada's Northwest.** Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1992.

This book describes the nature and analyzes the impact of the peaceful invasion of Canada's northwest by the over 40,000 American soldiers and civilians who built the Alaska Highway during the Second World War. The authors usefully switch the focus from examining the more well-known political and diplomatic aspects of the story to explaining its less fully discussed social, economic, environmental, and cultural dimensions. Chapters on native peoples and the environment, law and order, gender relations, and urban growth provide the details, while the reminiscences of those who were actually there bring them vividly to life.

Coates and Morrison contend that the American presence transformed Canada's isolated northwest in a dramatic way that had significant short and long-term effects. A much improved transportation and commun-

ications network, burgeoning communities, and renewed interest on the part of the Canadian government were among them. In just a few short years, the American "army of occupation" set the pattern for the region's post-war settlement and development.

The authors argue provocatively that theirs is more than just a regional study. It also helps shed light on the wider phenomenon of post-war Americanization of the globe; American occupation forces in Allied nations during World War II played in a major role in this process.

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John Gardam. **Korea Volunteer: An Oral History From Those Who Were There.** Burnstown, Ont.: General Store Publishing House, 1994, \$17.95 paper, 262 pages, (ISBN 1-896189-00-3).

As several observers have pointed out, Canada's participation in the Korean Conflict of 1950-53 seems to be the country's "forgotten war." Yet it was a dangerous struggle which saw over 500 of the roughly 25,000 members of the Canadian armed forces involved give their lives. Now, John Gardam has rescued them from obscurity. His book collects and presents the stories of individual soldiers, sailors, and pilots as told in their own words.

These proud memories and recollections of those who fought on land, sea, and air run the gamut of emotions. Anecdotes both humorous and sobering convey a palpable sense of what it was like to be in Korea as seen through the average serviceman's eyes. Here unfolds the everyday experience of war up close and personal. The ill-preparedness of the Canadian Army, the adverse climatic conditions, the differences with the Second World War experience, and young men's coming of age under deadly circumstances are recurrent themes.

This oral history does suffer from the basic weaknesses of the

genre—the book is short on context and the selections do not necessarily form a coherent whole in terms of their interrelationship. In the end, however, these drawbacks detract little from the sheer power with which these individuals jump off the pages of this book, and diminish not at all their brave contributions to the cause of peace.

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I.C.B. Dear and M.R.D. Foot, eds. **The Oxford Companion to World War II.** Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995, \$73.95, 1243 pages. (ISBN 0-19-866225-4)

From Aachen to Zyklon-B, *The Oxford Companion to World War II* provides short, concise, and authoritative entries on the history of the Second World War. The book is fully cross-referenced to ease searches, and is generously illustrated with numerous photographs, drawings, diagrams, tables and maps which not only help to break up the text but explain much more than words alone could.

Of particular note are the sections on the countries involved. Each entry provides a detailed examination of the nation's home front, economy, government, armed forces, and culture. There are also detailed sections on campaigns, important people, weapons and equipment, intelligence and a myriad of other topics.

This is a book that should be on the shelf of everyone interested in the history of the Second World War. It provides a wealth of information at your fingertips that will answer most questions, or point to a more complete source. The price of this book is hefty at almost \$74, but it is really a bargain when you consider what you are getting.

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Roscoe C. Blunt Jr. **Inside the Battle of the Bulge: A Private Comes of Age.** Westport, Connecticut: Praeger Publishers, 1994. 205 pages, \$22.95 US, (ISBN 0-275-94545-6).

In the style of Charles MacDonald's masterful *Company Commander*, *Inside the Battle of the Bulge* is a first-person account of an American infantryman's experience in combat during the closing stages of the war in Europe. It offers an insightful look at the day-to-day experiences of an ordinary soldier and conveys very well the horror, terror, fear and simple joys that filled his days.

A journalist by trade, Blunt has constructed a highly readable account of his wartime experiences based on a journal kept during the war and on dictations to his wife shortly after his return home. Blunt pulls no punches in his descriptions of combat and does not try to hide the horrors of war. He provides numerous descriptions of the executions of prisoners of war. One prisoner was beaten and shot to death in the middle of a prisoner of war cage for providing false information that resulted in the slaughter of a company of American soldiers. In another case, Blunt recalls a German sniper who surrendered after killing an American soldier:

We surrounded him and then, in a spontaneous outburst of hatred, every man in the squad fired at once. It was an eye for an eye. Many times later I learned that snipers were seldom taken alive... (p.21)

This degree of horror is replayed many times—the naked, young Belgian woman mutilated, along with her children, by the retreating Germans, the German sentry killed with a knife, the old German woman shot after pouring boiling water on a passing American.

This is not the story of a hero. It is about a young man trying to survive. Heroic moments are part

of the story, but so is the human side. Blunt is very candid about discussing his breakdown in combat under German shelling and his subsequent evacuation as a psychiatric casualty. At times he fell asleep on guard duty, or cowered at the bottom of a foxhole, afraid to go on, but for the most part he did the job that was expected of him.

The best quality of this book is the fact that it has been told from the perspective of a 20-something infantryman embroiled in the unimaginable horrors of total war. Events are discussed as they were seen at the time and no attempt has been made to apply the morals of today. In a most telling passage, Blunt recounts how he scavenged clothes, rations and ammunition from American casualties. "Combat was a time to be realistic; dead GIs no longer had need of clothing and gear. Conditions during the Bulge reduced most of us to insensitive, unfeeling basic survivors." (p.52)

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William Poundstone. **Prisoner's Dilemma.** Anchor Books, Doubleday, New York, 1992, \$15.95 paper, 294 pages, (ISBN 0-385-41580-X).

This fascinating book is part biography and part social history. The subject of the biography part is John von Neumann (1903-1957), one of the two or three greatest mathematicians of the twentieth century and inventor of the fundamental organizational structure ("von Neumann architecture") of virtually all computers today. The social history concerns two of von Neumann's accomplishments: Game Theory, a body of mathematical theorems and principles now widely used in Economics and other social sciences, and the development of nuclear weapons and their associated strategic doctrine. The title refers to a simple paradigm for many forms of human (and other) interaction discovered early in the history of Game Theory, a model

in which individually rational decision making seems to lead to socially undesirable outcomes.

Not only was von Neumann part of the Manhattan Project that developed the nuclear bomb during World War II, he was also a member of the U.S Atomic Energy Commission over the last several years of his life, including a crucial moment in 1955 when a French-British disarmament proposal, the "moment of hope," was rejected by the US and Soviet Union.

Poundstone has created a fascinating narrative, weaving back and forth among von Neumann, Game Theory, and nuclear strategy, emphasizing the connections among the purest kind of science, the most destructive of all weapons, and human interaction at every level from interpersonal to international. Both accessible and thought-provoking, *Prisoner's Dilemma* provides an important and original perspective on the nuclear age.

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Keith Sainsbury. **Churchill and Roosevelt at War.** New York: New York University Press, 1994.

At first glance the appearance of another book on the Roosevelt-Churchill wartime relationship is a little puzzling. This particular relationship has been studied in painstaking detail by many others, and virtually every word, letter, and action of the two men has been catalogued and made available to historians. Anyone who takes up the challenge today assumes a formidable task indeed: is there anything new that can be said about Roosevelt and Churchill's wartime relationship?

Keith Sainsbury, a former Senior Lecturer in International Relations at the University of Reading, is only partially successful. In *Churchill and Roosevelt at War*, Sainsbury delves into the character of both men—"prima donnas" (p.15) as he calls them—and examines their evolving relationship as they reacted to each

other and over several important wartime issues. Not surprisingly, the relationship was at its best early in the war, but it slowly began to deteriorate as disagreements appeared over such major questions as the creation of a second front, relations with de Gaulle and the Free French, the fate of Germany, Poland, and the Far East, and how best to get along with Joseph Stalin.

What is of interest is how the dynamics of their relationship impacted on allied strategy, and how the shifting power balance away from Britain to the US inevitably affected the personal relationship of the two leaders. Less startling is his conclusion that it "might be said that Churchill hoped to restore the old world, while Roosevelt aimed to build a new one." (p.182)

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Wilbur J. Scott. **The Politics of Readjustment Vietnam Veterans Since the War.** New York: Aldine de Gruyter, 1993, \$23.95 US paper, 285 pages, (ISBN 0-202-30406-X).

Scott's book is another in a long line of works to critique both American veterans' legislation and the inability of the United States to accept the legacy of its Vietnam commitment. The triumvirate of congressional committees, established veterans' organizations and the federal Veteran's Administration, he argues, constructed in light of the Second World War and Korean conflict to handle returned service personnel, was woefully ill-equipped to handle the Vietnam veteran. Previously unrecognized mental disorders and the long-term effects of exposure to chemical defoliants challenged the establishment at every juncture. To many, positive proof of the need for special treatment for Vietnam vets was lacking; to others, money earmarked for a select group threatened 'to upset the applecart' by limiting funding for more general programmes. Sadly, older veterans fought their offspring for scarce

federal dollars. In the meantime, Agent Orange and post-traumatic stress disorder took their toll.

Politicizing their concerns in organizations like the Vietnam Veterans of America and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation gradually effected legislative change, but there were few easy victories, not least because of divisions within the movement itself. The meandering sociological essay at the close of Scott's book obscures his obvious conclusion that the scars of Vietnam were deepened immeasurably by the widespread failure of its well meaning but outmoded veterans' assistance regime and the lack of consensus on needed changes. Entrenched political, bureaucratic and economic interests—not least several major corporations—all conspired against the speedy adoption of a Vietnam-era G.I. Bill. Noted activist (and veteran) Bobby Muller proclaimed in May 1979 that the United States had 'run a number' on its Vietnam vets; there is little in Wilbur Scott's book that might cause one to disagree.

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W. David Parsons. **Pilgrimage: A Guide to the Royal Newfoundland Regiment in World War One.** St. John's: Creative Publishing, 1994, \$14.95 (ISBN 1-895387-40-X).

Dr. David W. Parsons practised medicine in St. John's, attending veterans at the Department of Veterans Affairs Pavilion. Both his parents were First World War veterans. In 1990 he visited Gallipoli and in 1991 he was part of the Newfoundland delegation to Beaumont-Hamel for the 75th anniversary of the battle of the Somme.

These experiences persuaded him to write a guide which would allow others to trace the journey of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. The book, he tells us, is 'to help those at home to understand better what their forbears endured, and to keep the memory of those men alive.'

The guide is organized into three parts. The history section offers a detailed account of each of the battles from Gallipoli to Ingoyssem Ridge on the banks of the River Scheldt. Part Two focuses on the five Caribou memorials which mark the stages of the Regiment's quest. Dr. Parsons describes a variety of routes that may be used to visit the battlefields, with information about side trips. The maps, reproduced from Michelin road maps, are not of much help and some of the instructions are already out of date but the essential route information to each of the battlefield memorials is clear.

The memorial park at Beaumont-Hamel is one of the three most visited First World War sites on the Western Front. The Caribou memorial is breathtaking. The four smaller Caribous at Gueudecourt, Monchy, Masnieres and Kortrijk are well worth visiting with guide in hand to explain their significance. This book should be a must for libraries and all Canadians who plan to visit Northern France and Belgium.

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Bruce L. Gudmundsson. **On Artillery**. Westport, Connecticut: Praeger, 1993, pp.176\$16.95 US paper (ISBN 0-275-94673-8)

Boyd L. Dastrup. **The Field Artillery: History and Sourcebook** Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1994, 220 pages, \$65 US (ISBN 0-313-27264-6)

Artilletry technology, doctrine and tactics is a surprisingly rich field of study, even when considered in relation to some of its more glamorous service cousins. Perhaps it should not come as a surprise; artillery-based fire-power was fundamental in shaping operations in the two world wars of the twentieth century—yes, even those of the Germans—not to mention the revolutions it has wrought since Mohammed II of Turkey brought an end to the Byzantine Empire by

destroying the walls of Constantinople with 35 ton bombards. Field artillery has come a long way from 1453 when sixty oxen and two-hundred men were required to move Mohammed's monstrous pieces. As both books relate, modern artillery with its sophisticated fire-direction control and observation techniques now has an "unsurpassed ability to move, shoot and communicate—in short, the dream of field artillerymen for centuries." (p.74, Dastrup)

These books delineate the progress of the artillerymen's objective from dream to reality, examining the innovators and the key technological, organizational and tactical developments. Dastrup's book is a sourcebook, and an excellent one. While he provides an overview of the evolution of technology and doctrine during the period 1350 to 1991, it is the bibliographical essays that makes this a valuable addition to the literature. Somewhat short on incisive critical commentary, these summaries are nevertheless succinct, yet extensive in their breadth as well as depth. The organization adds to their utility; they are ordered by period and each is divided into four categories: general histories, field artillery histories, technology and last, but not least in importance, tactics, doctrine and organization. The cost of the volume, as with others in this series, is prohibitively expensive to all but institutions and gentlemen scholars but it is an essential starting point for any examining the area.

Gudmundsson's work is a seminal one. It examines the development of field artillery technology and doctrine in the French and German armies, two nations whose artillery organizations he correctly characterizes as neglected in comparison to their English, American and Russian counterparts. The author does not ignore these nations—indeed he shifts his focus to the American field artillery after the Second World War, interpreting its roots as

planted in French doctrine—but his main goal is to fill this gap in the historiography. Beginning his examination with the organizational and technological turmoil that characterized the French army and artillery following the Franco-Prussian War in 1870-71, Gudmundsson examines the major innovations and innovators in the French and German armies through two world wars as both sides grappled with the implications of the new technology for the modern battlefield. We are told the story of the major conflicts of our time but from a decidedly different perspective; indeed, what strikes one first is the rigour with which the French and Germans sought to marry tactics and technology to achieve decisive results. Divorce has often been the result, however—and here the author sounds a cautionary note—as the field artillery and its leaders were, and are, removed from intimate contact with the combat demands of the infantry. In non-technical language, and with a certain verve, Gudmundsson explains why this was so, and how new weapons have always evolved to replace those removed from their support role. This is an important book for anyone who wants to understand the modern battlefield.

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R.J.B. Bosworth. **Explaining Auschwitz and Hiroshima: History Writing and the Second World War, 1945-1990** Routledge: London and New York: 1994; (1993). 262 pages.

Bosworth's book has established a standard to measure the numerous examinations of how the history of the Second World War has been fashioned. His juxtaposition of Auschwitz and Hiroshima illustrates the central theme of his study: the further we move from 1945, the more ambiguity replaces certainty as the former winners struggle to maintain the moral high ground they staked out during the war.

Further, the centrality of the war experience to the national identities of both the victors and the vanquished makes for often acrimonious, if not vicious, debate: the author's essay on the "Historikerstreit"—the "quarrel among historians" in Germany—and the relativisation of the Auschwitz brings together both themes. What emerges from all of the essays the major participants are covered in separate pieces (with the notable exception of the United States): Great Britain, Germany, France, Italy, Japan and the USSR—is that, although the real war ended in 1945, its construction as history began even earlier and has continued unabated ever since. Indeed, few wars have been fought with such an awareness of history's judgement. Bosworth traces how national and personal objectives have fashioned the historicization of the war, assessing the relationship between culture and international history through examinations of the major controversies within each combatant's society. Individually, each essay provides thought-provoking insights into the war's grip on the collective consciousness of the combatants. Overall, they illustrate the difficulties of maintaining the uniqueness of events like the Holocaust in the face of the efforts of those who would relegate them to one of a number of immoral acts during and preceding the war; this task will only become more difficult as the war passes completely from memory and becomes the exclusive responsibility of historians.

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John Ray Skates, **The Invasion of Japan: Alternative to the Bomb**. Columbia, South Carolina: University of South Carolina Press, 1994, 288 pages, (ISBN 0-87249-972-3).

It has become the custom to explain the decision to use the atom bomb by citing estimates that an invasion of Japan would cost a

million American lives. Furthermore, much of our understanding of American atomic strategy has been shaped by diplomatic historians relying on diplomatic sources. *The Invasion of Japan* is a corrective to these tendencies.

Skates challenges this myth, insisting that the projection of a million deaths was not made until after the war, as a post-bomb rationalization. During the war, a much smaller death toll was forecast, small enough that it did not stand in the way of detailed planning for the invasion of Japan. The biggest obstacle in American eyes was the determination to force Japan to surrender unconditionally. Planners were unsure of the best strategy to achieve this, and debated a range of strategies. Henry Stimson came up with the most promising plan, for three sharp blows delivered in quick succession: a warning to Japan that the destruction was about to escalate dramatically, a Russian declaration of war, and atomic attacks. If these failed to bring a surrender, the invasion could go ahead as scheduled, in November 1945.

The Invasion of Japan is an interesting book on a number of levels. It gives a glimpse of the difficulties involved in planning an amphibious operation that would have dwarfed the Normandy landings, and adds another dimension to a strategic decision which, since it was taken in 1945, has only become more controversial.

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Alan J. Levine. **The Strategic Bombing of Germany, 1940-1945**. Westport, CT: Praeger Publishers, 1992. 248 pages, \$49.95 US. (ISBN 0-275-94319-4)

Conrad C. Crane. **Bombs, Cities, and Civilians: American Airpower Strategy in World War II**. Lawrence, Kansas: University of Kansas Press, 1993, 208 pages, \$29.95 US, (ISBN 0-7006-0574-6).

The strategic bombing campaign against Germany has been the topic of countless books and articles. Many excellent studies have appeared, but so too have many that aren't worth the paper they are printed on. Fortunately, two new books do not fall into the latter category. *The Strategic Bombing of Germany* by Alan J. Levine and *Bombs, Cities, and Civilians* by Conrad C. Crane both make a valuable contribution to the historiography of the topic.

Alan Levine's *The Strategic Bombing of Germany, 1940-1945* provides an insightful overview of the air war against Germany. He has started with the premise that the reader is unacquainted with the subject, and proceeds to tell the entire story, from origins to conclusion.

Levine begins his study with a look at the roots of strategic bombing, including the First World War experience and British and American interwar doctrine. The first half of the book covers the early failures of Bomber Command and their eventual switch to a policy of nighttime area bombing. The remainder of the book looks at the increasing success of the campaign culminating with the Oil and Transportation offensives in the last year of the war. Of particular note is the manner in which Levine intertwines his discussion of the campaign with the continuing development and improvement of equipment and technology. While never allowing the technical side to dominate, Levine takes the time to explain new developments in radar, aircraft, and tactics, and how these changes affected the conduct of the campaign.

Overall, the book provides a complete, and generally objective, examination of the strategic bombing campaign. Levine argues that, in spite of the many failures and short-comings experienced by Bomber Command and the Army Air Forces during the war, "the defensive effort forced on the Germans...justified strategic bombing even if it never accomplished a more positive aim.

It is hard to see how any other use of Allied resources could have similarly affected the enemy in the same time period." One of the weak points of the book comes in the conclusion when Levine engages in a little "what if" history and tries to divine the course of the war had different decisions been made.

The Strategic Bombing of Germany offers new readers an excellent introduction to the role of Bomber Command and the Army Air Forces during the war, while providing experts with a sound and balanced account of the campaign.

Conrad Crane's *Bombs, Cities, and Civilians*, on the other hand, examines the strategic bombing campaign against Germany and Japan from a moral standpoint. The book was inspired by two questions: Why discussions about the employment of the atomic bomb centred around how to use it rather than if it should be used, and

second, what effect do moral questions really play in a high-intensity conflict.

The central argument of the book revolves around the American commitment to precision bombing as opposed to the British strategy of area bombing. The main difference between the two approaches was the stated target: for the Americans it was the war industries crucial to the Germany economy; for the British it was the civilian population. Crane admits that in practice there was often very little to differentiate the two strategies, but that primary sources show that the American high command remained committed to the principle of precision bombing for the entire war, while the British openly targeted the German civilian population.

The obvious exception to this argument was the American decision in the Pacific to wage a

terror bombing campaign against Japan that began with incendiary attacks and culminated with the use of the atomic bomb. Crane argues that this decision came about due to a number of factors unique to the theatre including the perception of the enemy, looser command and control arrangements and a commander (Curtis LeMay) who did not subscribe to the doctrine followed by the rest of the Army Air Forces.

The value of Crane's book lies in the questions it poses. It forces the reader to reconsider many of the standard interpretations of the strategic bombing campaign. Not all of Crane's arguments are wholly convincing, but that does not detract from the re-examination of the topic. *Bombs, Cities, and Civilians* is an important addition to the historiography of the bombing of Germany and Japan.



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