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"Words on War: Military Quotations from Ancient Times to the Present," and "The Dictionary of War Quotations"

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antidrug surveillance) and "Lost in the Clouds" (the Hellfire missile).

A negative tone would be excusable if *Dirty Little Secrets* lived up to its promise to offer new and interesting information. Many books critical of the military have been valuable for this reason. In this case, however, the "meat" is lacking. The promised "secrets" are, rather than "startling," mostly bland or previously disclosed. For example, the naval section reveals such "mysterious" items such as that "the Russian submarine fleet consists of over 300 boats, but most are old"; that "U.S. carriers do not have sufficient space in the hangar to store all the aircraft they carry"; and that the nickname for an SSBN is a "boomer."

The book is a reference work composed entirely of anecdotal passages ranging in length from one sentence to a page and a half. Material is organized by subject and is divided into six parts: ground, air, naval, "high-tech," the human factor, and logistics.

There are certain interesting tidbits that do appear—the Sukhomlinov effect, for one (a theory that the loser of a war is likely to be the side whose generals have the fanciest uniforms, named after a well-dressed but tactically deficient World War I Russian general who lost several major battles to the Germans). To its credit, *Dirty Little Secrets* does explain that the famous C-5 transport aircraft's \$7,000 coffee pot was not much more expensive than such specially engineered appliances on commercial aircraft. Some entries do discuss valid issues, such as the history of Soviet naval

cruise missiles, stealth aircraft, and fighter development. But there are no "startling" new facts, and the discussion is sophomoric.

Dirty Little Secrets is worth a quick skim. These are interesting items, but its less than evenhanded treatment of material and its lack of substance do not justify spending \$19.95.

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Shafritz, Jay M., ed. *Words on War: Military Quotations from Ancient Times to the Present*. New York: Prentice Hall, 1990. 559pp. \$29.95
Wintle, Justin, ed. *The Dictionary of War Quotations*. New York: The Free Press, 1989. 506pp. \$29.95

The right quotation can often add the finishing touch to a piece of writing or the perfect opening to a seminar. Because I enjoy using them in my writing and teaching, I am always looking for good quotations that relate to almost any aspect of warfare. Having nearly worn out my old standby, Heintz's *Dictionary of Military and Naval Quotations*, I was delighted to have the opportunity to review two possible replacements.

However, reviewing books of quotations proved to be more challenging than I had anticipated. After thinking about exactly what I would be reviewing, I decided on a "road test" approach. Over the course of a year of teaching at the Naval War College, I used the two books reviewed along with Heintz's to

determine their relative value for my purposes. In the process, I made some discoveries both about the books and my own requirements.

As I began to work with the two new books, I quickly realized that most of my searches for material were keyed to specific subjects as opposed to authors or periods of history. For example, I would be looking for a quotation about naval strategy, Soviet tactics, or chemical warfare rather than the words of Admiral Nimitz or a quotation about the First World War in general. This need created a bias in favor of *Words on War*, which is arranged alphabetically by subject. *The Dictionary of War Quotations*, on the other hand, is organized into three sections, titled "Generalities," "Particularities," and "Personalities." The first section contains quotations about the general nature of war and is arranged chronologically by birthdate of the author. The second covers specific battles and wars in chronological order, and the third, notable personalities, is arranged alphabetically by name.

I compared the books by recording the source of quotations I used during a year of teaching seminars that covered aspects of operational art, campaign planning, and joint operations.

The results were as follows:

Source	No. of Quotations
Heinl	16
Shafritz	15
Wintle	4
Other	43

Some examples will illustrate the search process behind these numbers. During the time I was comparing Shafritz and Wintle I was particularly interested in material on counterterrorism and the military's role in drug interdiction. *Words on War* had no heading for counterterrorism, but the all-purpose index (author and subject combined) showed a section on terrorism with twelve entries. I found nothing on drug interdiction or related matters, but I realized that this subject is not related to war in the strictest sense. My efforts with *The Dictionary of War Quotations* were even less successful. Its threefold organization was of no help, so I turned to the two indexes. Neither the index of authors nor the main index, which contains only proper names, provided any leads. This shortcoming, which could be alleviated by a better general index, is unfortunate because the book contains many marvelous quotations.

Both books contain a wealth of material. The dust jacket for Shafritz's book claims "nearly 6,000 entries," that for Wintle's "over 4,000." At \$29.95 apiece, the books are reasonably priced by today's standards for reference works. Because of its organization, I developed a strong preference for Shafritz's *Words on War*.

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