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War and Society: A Yearbook of Military History

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not readily apparent. Nothing at all has been added (as, for example, a new introduction or statement of purpose), and one can only assume that this standard reference, long out of print, is needed by libraries whose original copies have disappeared. Lewis Hyde Brereton (1890-1967; USNA, 1911) served with the Air Force and its predecessor organizations continuously from 1912 to 1948. He had entered the Naval Academy in 1907 only because he couldn't get into West Point, and upon graduation switched to the Coast Artillery Corps and, a year later, the Aviation Section of the Signal Corps.

These diaries cover the period from 3 October 1941 through 8 May 1945, a period during which Brereton held an unmatched series of senior appointments in all major theaters of the war: Commander, Far East Air Forces at the opening of the war; then Commander, 5th Air Force; Commander, 10th Air Force (India, 1942); Commander, Middle East Air Forces (June 1942); Commander, 9th Air Force (Europe; October 1943); and Commander, 1st Allied Airborne Army (August 1944, in time to be in overall command of the airborne forces who sought out, under his deputy, British Lt. Gen. F.A.M. Browning, *A Bridge Too Far*). A paragraph written by Hanson W. Baldwin (USNA, 1924), when the book first appeared in 1946, remains valid.

'Louey' Brereton pulls no punches; he is aggressive and quick in sizing up a . . . situation and he can be frank to the point of tactlessness. From such a man one might expect, therefore, war diaries of startling impact. Yet the reader will find little that is exciting and not too much that is new in the present volume. Neither in content nor in style do they reflect the same reckless, restless vigor that personifies the author.

Despite Baldwin's disappointment,

view of many important decisions, campaigns, and personalities of the war. For that reason it is still considered an integral part of the semiofficial literature of World War II.

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Bond, Brian and Roy, Ian, eds. *War and Society: A Yearbook of Military History*. New York: Holmes and Meier, 1977. v. II. 196pp.

The noted British military historians Brian Bond and Ian Roy are the editors of this collection of essays and book reviews. The editors state in the introduction of this yearbook that their purpose was "to provide a forum for the scholarly interest in war and its repercussions which has increased and broadened in recent years." Unfortunately, this thin volume fails to accomplish the purpose of its editors. Readers intent on finding a scholarly collection of essays on war comparable to E.M. Earle's *Makers of Modern Strategy* or Michael Howard's *The Theory and Practice of War* will be disappointed. The items that are of value in the yearbook are obscured by this volume's defects.

One drawback is its prohibitive price of \$25. For this amount the reader receives a poorly bound volume with typescript printing. The general impression thus created is that of a collection of undergraduate senior essays finished the night before the deadline, rather than a collection of thoughtful essays on a serious subject. Another drawback is that there is no connecting theme to the essays and reviews. Articles covering social, political, administrative, medical, diplomatic and archival aspects of military history appear in this volume without any meaningful introduction by the editors. Because of these drawbacks the reader is bound to ask himself whether time should be spent in the reading of this volume when the editors do

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not seem to have spent much time preparing it.

Yet these drawbacks of high price, poor quality, lack of sufficient editing, and no central theme could have been overcome if the individual essays were of high quality. Unfortunately the quality of the essays must be described as uneven: several of them are superficial and without focus, while others are precise and thought-provoking pieces. One of the better essays is "Colonial Africa and its Armies" by V.G. Kiernan. This is a superb study in an area neglected by historians of European imperialism in the 19th century: in their focus on the economic aspects of imperialism, like markets and raw materials, they have neglected the value of colonies in providing manpower for military purposes. With the exception of Britain's Indian Army, military historians in the English-speaking world also have paid little attention to the colonial armies of the great imperial powers. These armies played an important role in the imperial adventures of the great powers in Africa and Asia. Also, the colonies provided huge manpower resources that were tapped by the great powers in the First and Second World Wars. For example, the French brought 1,918,000 men from their colonies to France during the First World War. Kiernan concludes that the French empire proved "itself an asset, instead of a liability, to national defence." This conclusion has important consequences in the debate over whether imperialism paid.

In another essay entitled "War and Social Change: The Black American in Two World Wars," Neil A. Wynn provides an historical perspective to the racial problems of our own day. This essay, based on Professor Wynn's book *The Afro-American and the Second World War*, is full of insights connecting the various strands of foreign policy, military affairs and domestic racial problems. Wynn concludes that the

United States' increased involvement in world affairs "encouraged Americans to continue the progress in civil rights." This conclusion is an excellent starting point for a study of the racial turmoil of the 1960s and 1970s, and how it affected our armed forces and foreign policy during the Vietnam War.

Another of the better essays, entitled "Staff Training and the Royal Navy, 1918-1939," by Anthony R. Wells, describes how the Royal Naval Staff College languished in the interwar period, despite the efforts of the eminent British naval historian Adm. H.W. Richmond during his tenure as president of the Royal Naval War College. In 1912, Churchill, then First Lord of the Admiralty, injected some elements of staff training into the courses of the Royal Naval War College in order to train officers for the Naval War Staff that he had also just created in that year. Churchill hoped these two institutions would provide the Royal Navy with officers educated to perform staff duties professionally. However, neither fared well during the First World War, where poor staff work greatly contributed to British reverses at the Dardanelles and in trade protection. Despite this dismal showing, the importance of staff training continued to be ignored in the interwar period, with the result that many mistakes committed at the Dardanelles were repeated in Norway. Wells thinks the most important failure of the interwar period was the lack of any significant cooperation between the Naval Staff and the Staff College; this meant that "by 1939 Churchill's original aim, that the RN Staff College should become the 'brain' of the Naval Staff was still a pipedream."

The remaining essays and reviews suffer from a variety of flaws. "The American Navy in the World of Franklin and Jefferson, 1755-1826," based on a lecture delivered by its author John B. Hattendorf, is too short and general to be of much value. Suzann Buckley's

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"The Failure to Resolve the Problem of Venereal Disease among the Troops in Britain during World War I" is a narrative essay lacking any imaginative insight. "German Air Power and the Munich Crisis," by Williamson Murray, is too short; but does show how unprepared the *Luftwaffe* was for war in 1938. "The Introduction of War Office Selection Boards in the British Army: A Personal Recollection," by Brigadier F.H. Vinden, is a chatty little memoir. Stephen Brooks' essay "Liddell Hart and His Papers" is informative about the material in the Liddell Hart archive, but makes no attempt to shed any light on the many controversies that surround this popular British military commentator. The rest of the volume is devoted to short reviews of recent works in military affairs.

In conclusion, this volume does possess several essays of merit; but, as a whole, it must be considered a disappointing failure. The editors Brian Bond and Ian Roy are probably correct in their view that "there is sufficiently wide interest and potential readership to justify" a yearbook of military history. They have not, however, produced a volume of sufficient quality, breadth or vision to satisfy the demands of this patient readership.

JOHN H. MAURER

The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy

Byrne, Edward M. *Military Law*. 2nd ed. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 1976. 745pp.

Books shipped in plain brown wrappers usually offer tantalizing text and enticing photographs. *Military Law* offers neither. With its "brown-side-out" exterior, fine print, and complete absence of graphics of any kind it has all the visual appeal of an issue of the *Federal Register*. In a society where it is said that the medium is the message, one would have to strive to produce a book less appetizing in appearance. At

least the first edition has gold seals on the cover.

In fairness to Commander Byrne, as a law text *Military Law* is not much more drab than traditional law books. However, this needn't be the case. Lawyers claim to be communicators, yet we are light years behind educators and industry in the use of graphic presentations. After 10 years' exposure as a trial judge to the dull presentations of the vast majority of lawyers I have to wonder whether lawyers are ever going to learn how to sell their product. While not advocating placing on the cover a photo of Cat Futch dancing aboard the U.S.S. *Finback*, surely the Naval Institute Press could have found something appropriate to liven up the book; perhaps an artist's sketch of the famous Brig O' War *Somers*, which is mentioned inside.

One should not judge a book by its cover; however, it is a shame that with today's visual communication techniques and the public's conditioning toward interesting learning displays, few potential readers will venture past this book's dreary exterior. This is unfortunate because in *Military Law* Byrne has combined some delightfully interesting case discussions with some well-analyzed information. The author's stated dual mission of text and reference book is unfortunately only partially successful. Because of rapid changes in the military law, the book is not functional as a practicing lawyer's reference work; but it would make a fine textbook for a college course on military law. It would also be good background reading for a line commander or civilian lawyer with his first military case. The book lacks sophistication for law school use, again largely because some areas of the book are already obsolete as a result of the "born again" changes in military law, courtesy of the current Court of Military Appeals. The book also lacks a table of cases, which is standard in legal texts.

Is the book practical? During a