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## An Armed America: Its Face in Fiction, a History of the American Military Novel

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## 92 NAVAL WAR COLLEGE REVIEW

one minor imperfection should be mentioned and that concerns the quantity of the maps depicting the battle progress. A map of the Motobu Peninsula plus more charts of the Southern Okinawa area dispersed throughout the book in the appropriate chapters would have provided a better pictorial representation of the printed word and would have made it easier for the reader to follow the total action.

*Typhoon of Steel* is an exciting, scholarly publication that is a fitting tribute to all the men who served in the battle for Okinawa.

WALTER S. PULLAR, JR.  
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps

Miller, Wayne C. *An Armed America: Its Face in Fiction, a History of the American Military Novel*. New York: New York University Press, 1970. 294p.

The present disrepute of the military, in the eyes of many Americans, is disconcerting to members of the Armed Forces, but, as Wayne C. Miller shows in his new book, a study of the American novel over the past century and a half reveals a history of recurring disenchantment with the military profession. From James Fenimore Cooper's *The Spy* (1821) down to Joseph Heller's *Catch-22* (1961) and even later, the military man has been viewed in fiction with emotions ranging from occasional enthusiasm to frequent distrust.

Professor Miller, who has taught at the Air Force Academy and now teaches at the University of Cincinnati, attempts to provide "a better historical and cultural perspective from which the American military man and military machine may be understood and controlled." By surveying the American novel from 1821 to 1964 (*Dr. Strangelove*) and discussing at some length the war novels of such major writers as Cooper, Melville, Crane, Dos Passos, Faulkner, and Hemingway, he demon-

strates that the main thrust of many fiction writers against the military institution reinforces the criticism of such social and economic analysts as Fred J. Cook, Tristram Coffin, Samuel Huntington, Morris Janowitz, Walter Millis, and C. Wright Mills.

The attitudes of the novelists toward the military have been as diverse as their works and their personalities. Cooper, William Gilmore Simms, John P. Marquand, and James Gould Cozzens have tended to look upon military life realistically without any overt criticism of the system, while many of the others have seen the Armed Forces as authoritarian (even tyrannous), brutal, stifling, vain, and self-serving, a danger to American society and its freedoms. Some have suggested that the American military is symptomatic of increasing disorientation in society, that the uneasiness of many people about the Armed Forces is an extension of their fears about the direction our civilization is taking.

But Professor Miller is not a pacifist or antimilitarist; as he says in his introduction, "It is important . . . that it [the American military] remain an arm of the state and not the brain at the center of the state's activities." Maintaining this relatively objective point of view throughout his analysis, he has produced an interesting book of social criticism and literary history which ought to be of interest to those of us who fret about our professional image.

ROBERT C. STEENSMA  
Commander, U.S. Naval Reserve

Steenberg, Sven. *Vlasov*. New York: Knopf, 1970, 230p.

All those who expressed or felt indignation when a Lithuanian seaman was forcibly returned to Soviet control in November 1970 should not fail to read this tragic portrayal of an episode infamous in Western history. The author, Sven Steenberg, with firsthand knowledge and extensive contacts with