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Across the Face of France

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BOOKS

Wiltz, John E. *In Search of Peace*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1963. 277p.

For those interested in researching or reviewing the period of the mid-1930's, specifically the munitions investigation, this volume offers an interesting few hours. After the League of Nations had reached its zenith in 1929, the world moved into the Great Depression. Deemed by many Americans to be a reaction to the inflation that resulted from the First World War, the depression was a major factor in the determination to avoid war. With the subsequent deterioration of international relations, as witnessed in Manchuria and Ethiopia, a growing number of Americans concluded that a good course would be to curb those individuals who profited from war. Congressional pressure was meager; however, the increasing mood of public opinion resulted in action during the Spring of 1934. This congressional action was manifested in the formation of the Nye Committee. *In Search of Peace* traces the background, organization, hearings, and evidence of this Congressional Committee. Its story, together with the short and long-range implications of the 'merchants of death' thesis, makes interesting and enjoyable reading.

P. R. Bush, Commander, U.S. Navy

Huston, James A. *Across the Face of France*. Lafayette, Ind.: Purdue University Studies, 1963. 251p.

Dr. Huston has written a combination political, economic, and military history covering the liberation and recovery of France during the period 1944 through 1963. This book is easily read; indeed, several portions have appeared in magazines, including the *U.S. Army Combat Force Journal*. The author's familiarity with the subject is based on his wartime service with the 134th Infantry Regiment in France and four separate visits to the battlefield scenes in 1962. He selects locations such as Omaha Beach, Saïut-Lô, and Nancy, and develops the military actions; then he relates that background to the political and economic conditions of contemporary France. In particular, he directs attention to how Charles de Gaulle, as leader of the French people, achieved a national unity of purpose by his adroit synthesis of their one-time divergent attitudes. To understand France, and inferentially de Gaulle, the author states that one must have intimate knowledge of Nancy and Lorraine. This is not a definitive or authoritative history. It is, however, interesting reading for students of military and French history.

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