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Strange Soldiering

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Lawson, Richard. *Strange Soldiering*. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1963. 176p.

This is a true adventure story of the events in the Congo during the height of the internecine warfare between the factions of Gizenga, Tshombe, Kalonji, and Mobutu. It is told by Major Richard Lawson, British Regular Army officer on 'exchange' duty with a Nigerian brigade keeping the peace in Kasai Province of the central Congo. Major Lawson's hair-raising escapades during his four-month tour are too unbelievable to be anything but true. Written matter-of-factly and with wry humor, the book is a graphic portrayal of the disintegration of social and administrative order under the guise of 'independence.' It is a story of unreasoned, savage violence by undisciplined, illiterate troops; of incredible suffering and courage displayed by the missionaries and nuns who stayed behind; of self-styled generals, kings, and prime ministers; and of efficient and methodical leadership and organization by UN troops from dozens of countries. Though one may suspect that Major Lawson took far more liberties with his superior's instructions than the normal British officer is wont to do, the foreword by his commander substantiates the validity of the stories the Major tells. The book has no grandiose message for the world—far from it. Instead, it is an excellent reflection, from a primary source, of the dangers of independence to a people unprepared to assume the responsibilities that independence entails.

F. Kozaczka, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Air Force

Merrill, James M. *Quarter-deck and Fo'c's'le*. Chicago: Rand McNally, 1963. 509p.

This is indeed a unique volume of naval history that will quicken the pulse of every patriotic American reader. It certainly holds special significance for all those who have ever served under the 'blue and gold.' *Quarter-deck and Fo'c's'le* takes advantage of a rich, little-known reservoir of naval writings by the very men who served. This stirring book contains edited letters, essays, eyewitness accounts, ballads, journals, logbooks, and war diaries, written by officers and men who served from the Revolution to the present day. The purpose of the volume is to let the sailors of the United States Navy tell their own story, and tell it they do, in a most commendable manner. The reader will get a sense of continuity, and of the ultimate brotherhood of all those who have ever served, from the lowest to the highest in the fleet. The reader will meet Midshipman Fanning on John Paul Jones's *Bonhomme Richard*; Seaman Shaw and his mates, held for