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Vietnam Diary

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ransom by the Barbary pirates; newly enlisted Carpenter's Mate Holbrook, shocked by the appalling conditions aboard a gunboat in New York Harbor; Chaplain Taylor at the court martial and hanging of a seaman; and many others. In addition, one will be stirred by twentieth century epics such as the loss of the dirigible *Akron*, the rescue of a submarine crew trapped for 37 hours, and the Battle of the Java Sea as seen by a naval aviator aboard the intrepid *Houston*. In few other books are the illustrious traditions of the United States Navy related with such striking impact by the men best qualified to tell the story.

J. H. Koach, Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy

Tregaskis, Richard. *Vietnam Diary*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1963. 401p.

Richard Tregaskis has written another 'Diary' about another war. He discusses in typical Tregaskis style his observations and experiences during the time he spent with the Marine and Army helicopter units, the Special Forces, the MAAG personnel, and the Junk fleet. Of special interest is his description of the strategic hamlets. The book presents a firsthand account of the kind of war that Americans are fighting today in Vietnam. It is a war considerably different from any war they have fought before; the author makes this point vividly. In his closing lines, Tregaskis predicts, 'War will be going on in Vietnam, and other countries like Vietnam, for many years, all over the world.' And you are somehow left with the distinct feeling that Americans will be involved in these wars.

R. C. Rosacker, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps

Fleming, Thomas J. *Beat the Last Drum*. New York: St Martin, 1963. 375p.

This is an extremely interesting and readable account of the last great battle of the American Revolution. The author takes particular pains to provide a great amount of detail and background of events leading up to the siege of Yorktown. The French contribution to victory, especially the efforts of French commanders, is carefully depicted. The British position is also clearly set forth, with emphasis on the Clinton-Cornwallis dispute, and the failure of the British Admiral Graves to view the campaign in its full perspective. The American forces are well handled by the writer,