

The Dispatch of the Company of Military Historians

December 2008

The Book Review Edition

Welcome back to the *Dispatch*. It has not been distributed for some months, but it is now back with a sizeable amount of book reviews that have been kindly contributed by Company members. So, we have titled this “The Book Review Edition”. As announced in our *Journal*, the book reviews will now be published as part of our *Dispatch*. There are several benefits to this approach. The foremost is that the book reviews will be timely; at present we have a considerable backlog and the later reviews are made available to the public at large, the less relevant they become. The reviews will always be available on our web site. We will save our always slim monetary resources for printing while offering more publications that will appear more promptly after submission.

So that members may know what is being reviewed, a list of the book reviews will be printed in the journal. This way, should any member who does not have internet access wish to see a review, he may contact the Administrator who will be pleased to send a printed copy by the postal service. Last but not least on this topic, the quality of the reviews will in no way be compromised as the same exacting standards are being maintained. Those who submit reviews have always been expected to be members in good standing of the COMPANY with suitable interest and knowledge in the topics being reviewed and this does not change. Finally, a number of other academic or semi-academic publications already produce reviews as distinct entities for the same reasons as cited above.

There will be more book reviews in the months to come with future issues of the *Dispatch*. As will be seen, the degree of expertise attained by reviewers is considerable and should help anyone who reads the reviews to make wise and informed choices. That these reviewers should spend considerable time in crafting each review, for the benefit of fellow COMPANY members, is the very essence of our association: to be informed of the best sources. And as Christmas is just around the corner, this is an especially good time to see these reviews so you will have an answer to the recurrent question: “What would you like for Christmas?”

So! Scroll below to see all those goodies!

New Webmaster

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Todd Post as our new webmaster. In this day and age, this position, unheard of before the advent of web sites, is of crucial importance in the life of an association such as ours. To one and all readers, a vote of enormous thanks to John K. Roberston, the computer “guru” who set up our web sites and its many features. John is still most active in the digital aspects of our publications and the good looks of your Journal and MUIA plates are very much due to him. There will be plenty to do for Todd, the other computer “guru” in our crowd who has generously thrown his hat in to contribute the time required to keep our web site up and attractive.

New Interim *Dispatch* Editor

For the time being, your vice president for publications is the interim editor. The first and most pleasant task is to give profuse thanks to James Ronan, the previous editor of the *Dispatch*. James' many excellent issues, each dealing with a variety of interesting topics to Company members, can be consulted on our web site.

The present editor does not have much technical capacity with informatics. Thus, and in spite of valiant efforts from our new webmaster, Todd Post, the results are likely to be a bit rough around the edges. However, half of something is better than all of nothing, and we do hope the content will nevertheless be pleasant and useful. It is hoped to issue the *Dispatch* via e-mail about every eight weeks. A call to members will be in an upcoming Journal seeking a more permanent editor for the *Dispatch*.

Events, Near and Not So Near

COMPANY Meeting, Albany, NY, 23-26 April 2006. It is at the Holiday Inn, Wolf Road in Albany. **This, of course, is the most important event of the year!** In fact, it is the 60th Annual Meeting. Forget election, marriages, births, earthquakes, etc., this is IT! Great program – some of it was in the last Journal (see p. 232) and news more to come on this.

HISTORICON, Lancaster, PA, July 2009. **Historicon** is the largest gaming convention in North America devoted to historical miniature wargaming. Last July, over 4,000 persons were in attendance. It is held at the Lancaster Host & Resort Conference Center and is sponsored by the Historical Miniatures Gaming Society, a nonprofit guiding organization. The *New York Times* has described Historicon as “the mother of all wargaming conventions.” Typically, Historicon is a four-day convention held in late July each year. The COMPANY will likely be present with a table as a non-profit association at next July's convention.

ICOMAM meeting, St. Petersburg (Russia), September 2009. The armed forces of the Russian Federation will be the host of next year's meeting of the International Committee on Museums, Arms and Military. This is a UNESCO based organization currently gathering about thirty countries, represented by the military historical services in the defense departments or military or arms museums of each participating nation. Your editor was part of the Canadian delegation to the ICOMAM meeting in Rio de Janeiro this year, which was hosted by the Brazilian Navy (with some help from the air force and the army), and it was outstanding in all aspects. Nearly every country in the America was represented by delegates from its armed forces, except the United States (which, however, had individual delegates). This being said, there are no exclusions and any one interested can attend. ICOMAM also has a very useful newsletter, the “Basiliscoe Mercury” and an online journal. For more information, please go to: <http://www.klm-mra.be/icomam>

Any news from your quarter? Let the editor know.

Uniform Document

Some things, found in the archives or memoirs, for your files and, who knows, of use for a future article or MUIA plate!

NY Volunteers 1838

4 July 1838 – Parade in New York City:

“I noticed especially the Montgomery Guards in green laced with silver”

7 September 1838 – at Saratoga Springs, NY:

“...a company of volunteers at drill in the Grove... Uniform: white pantaloons, grey jacket, tall red plume, rifle, tomahawk, hunting knife, powder horn and a small belly box.”

From: Amédée Papineau, *Journal d'un fils de la Liberté* (Journal of a Son of Liberty – published at Québec: L'étincelle, 1978), Vol. 2, p. 150. Amédée Papineau was the son of Patriot leader Louis-Joseph Papineau at the time of the 1837-1838 Rebellions in Canada. Like many opposed to the government, he sought refuge in the United States, married a girl from Saratoga and settled in Albany where he practiced law.

Quotable Quotes

“We have shared the incommunicable experience of war,
We have felt, we still feel, the passion of life at its top,
In our youths, our hearts were touched with fire.”

Oliver Wendel Holmes (reflecting on the Civil War)

“Electronic interdependency recreates the world in the image of a global village.”

Marshall McLuhan

[In June 1940]: “When I warned them [the French] that Britain would fight on alone, whatever they did, their Generals told their Prime Minister and his divided cabinet that in three weeks, England would have her neck wrung like a chicken - Some chicken! Some neck!”

Speech made by Winston Churchill to the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa on December 30, 1941.

And to quote a great American figure that ate carrots in public:

“That’s All Folks”

René Chartrand
Interim Editor

The Book Reviews:

Here they are, 73 reviews! All of them done by the best authorities. All you have to do is read them to be convinced of their sharp analysis and good advice. Some are a year or two old; no malice on our part, but our *Journal* simply could not handle so many in spite of going up to nearly a hundred pages at times. But this way, on the Dispatch and henceforth to be consulted at leisure from our website, no one is forgotten and no book – past, present or future - that is worth a review should be without one.

(Listed alphabetically by the name of the reviewer)

John W. Thomason, Jr. *The United States Army Second Division Northwest of Chateau Thierry in World War I*, George Clark, ed. MacFarland & Company, Inc., Jefferson, NC, and London. 2006. Soft cover; 252 pp., index; biblio., 1 picture, Thomason drawings, and maps. \$39.95. ISBN -10: 0-7864-2523-7

As an amateur historian and collector of books dealing with World War I and Marine Corps operations, I was intrigued when I discovered on the internet a mysterious manuscript about the 2d Division at Chateau Thierry in 1918. The seller represented that he could not identify an author or a date when it was written. Obviously a post-war account, there was no identifying information. I asked him to send me an email with a copy of the title page and table of contents. Once I looked at them, I was convinced the document must be one of the rare John Thomason manuscripts produced in the 20s but never published. An unpublished Thomason manuscript is referenced in Robert Asprey's bibliography in *At Belleau Wood*. I quickly purchased the document and waited anxiously for its arrival. I was not disappointed. In a footnote on page 205, there is an editorial comment ending with the initials "jwt jr." This had to be the divisional history written by John William Thomason, Jr. However, I could have saved myself considerable time and money if I had waited a few years. I could have purchased instead George Clark's recent edited publication of this important 2d Division history at a considerable savings.

There is little need to recount the career and accomplishments of Col. John W. Thomason, Jr., the Marine Corps' greatest artist and gifted story teller. Suffice it to say, the publication of this history is just another feather in his cap. We owe a great debt to George Clark who has made this rare history available to the general readership. Significantly, he has added another volume to his expanding library of important Marine Corps history books. The volume is also noteworthy because Mr. Clark has included some Thomason drawings from the original collection at Sam Houston State University not previously published.

As outlined by Mr. Clark in his preface, then Major Thomason was selected in 1927 by Maj. Gen. John A. Lejeune, the Marine Corps' Major General Commandant and a former commander of the division, to join a group of Army officers who were writing a history of the 2d Division in the Great War. Thomason was selected to represent the Marine Corps due to the fact that he served with distinction in the 5th Marines, 4th Marine Brigade, and had recently published his acclaimed *Fix Bayonets*. He possessed that rare combination of operational experience and literary skill. Recognizing the importance of allied and German sources, Thomason traveled to Europe where he interviewed French and German veterans and examined relevant battle reports in the respective military archives. With access to US participants and US official records of the Division as well, his part of the project was an unvarnished and impartial account of the Division's operations near Chateau Thierry in June 1918. Of particular significance to Marines, this volume included what I call the Belleau Wood Campaign of the 4th Marine Brigade, i.e., those operations not only in the wood itself but also those on the flanks.

In 1920, the Marine Corps had published an official history of Marine Corps activities in the war written by Maj. Edward McClellan, a historian who was working directly for the Major General Commandant. Unfortunately, this is a superficial account that carefully avoided sensitive issues. Colonel Thomason must have been aware of this account and McClellan's failure to provide a thorough and critical historical analysis. Thomason's draft addressing Belleau Wood was the complete opposite of the corresponding portion of McClellan's "official" history. Thomason realized early on that the Division and subordinate commands' staffs had committed serious blunders and there was plenty of blame to go around. These conclusions were contrary to almost a decade of self-adulation both in the Marine Corps and in the Army. It must be remembered that the 2d Division had earned a host of honors for its exemplary conduct in France during hostilities. However, Thomason highlighted what Paul Harvey calls "the rest of the story."

According to Mr. Clark, Thomason's Chateau Thierry draft quickly drew criticism from those asked to review it and who didn't appreciate his frank account that identified warts and all. While some Marines may have bristled at the comments about the 4th Marine Brigade, senior Army officers were undoubtedly concerned about comments concerning the 3d Brigade's operations between Bouresches and Vaux in early June. Apparently, Thomason tired of the controversy and left the divisional history project (possibly at his request) in 1929 prior to its completion. The Major General Commandant by this time was Major General Wendell Nivelles who, as the former 5th Marines commander at Belleau Wood, may not have been an enthusiastic supporter of Thomason's draft. In family letters, Thomason stated he did what he was asked to do: write an "unbiased investigation of source materials." If someone altered his account later to placate egos and to "correct the record," so be it. It wouldn't be him. Fortunately, a few copies of the Thomason manuscript that was distributed for comments survived. Regrettably, a division history was completed finally in 1937 that, in the opinion of many, was an uncritical, lukewarm whitewashing. We don't know what Colonel Thomason thought of this publication. Mr. Clark has been unable to find any comments by Thomason about this "vanilla" report.

The story begins 9 May 1918 when the Division concentrates in the Verdun Sector. On the 18th, the division heads west to Chaumont-en-Vixen about sixty miles north of Paris. The stalemate in this French Sector was shattered at dawn on 27 May 1918 when twenty-nine German divisions slammed into the allied command comprised of French and British units. Much has been written about the unorganized deployment of the division from Chaumont-en-Vixen to the area west of Chateau Thierry. What is unique about the Thomason draft is the manner in which he tells the story from the perspective of both sides. The first portion discusses the strategic situation and the 2d Division tactical deployment with some very good terrain analysis. Next, the author describes the opposing German IV Reserve Corps' movements and dispositions prior to contact on 1 June 1918. The period before 6 June is in many ways the classic meeting engagement with both sides feeling their way forward in an attempt to discover the enemy's intentions. What transpired thereafter rocked the German IV Reserve Corps to its knees and halted the Kaiser's offensive.

The significance of the Thomason draft is that it provides an analysis of division operations in many cases derived from primary sources. Not only did Colonel Thomason have access to U.S. records and veterans, his trip to Europe exposed him to important German documentary sources, such as the divisional diaries preserved in the *Reicharkivs* in Potsdam. There is a section of the manuscript that explains German sources and how valuable they were. Colonel Thomason's analysis supports several conclusions with which many of us who have studied Belleau Wood have wrestled. There was a paucity of maps. There were repeated intelligence failures such as relying on stale French reports without commanders conducting personal reconnaissance. There seems to have been an amazing, almost continuous, lack of

coordination between adjacent units. This was true on both sides as the brigade attack on Hill 142 demonstrates. Opening an Allied offensive on 6 June, the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, struck the German divisional boundary between the 197th and 237th Divisions. The confusion between German flank units as to the exact location of the boundary contributed to the allied success.

To his unbiased eye, Thomason notes that the German forces by 6 June were not the crack units some would have us believe in the post-war analysis. Left to right, the German units facing the Marine Brigade initially were the 197th, 237th, and the 10th Guards Divisions with the 10th Guards being the only first-class formation. It not surprising that on 6 June the 10th Guards was pushed out of Bouresches and the southeastern portion of Belleau Wood as they had been in constant “high tempo” contact since 27 May. After failing in repeated attempts to retake the previous positions, they were relieved finally by the 28th Division. In addition, the other Divisions were not assault divisions but “sector-holding” divisions. This makes the defense of the 461st Regiment, 237th Division, in Belleau Wood all the more remarkable.

The 461st Regiment was led by Maj. Josef Bischoff, a veteran of bush fighting in Africa. He was ably supported by Major von Hartlieb, commander of the 1st Battalion, and those nameless others who must have been superb small unit leaders. Their masterful use of terrain in the tactical defense enabled the command, depleted considerably by combat and influenza, to stymie repeatedly assaults by the Marines and the 7th Infantry. For his exemplary leadership, Major Bischoff was awarded the *Pour le Mérite*, his nation’s highest award for gallantry.

The reproduced maps are particularly interesting because they contain the grid line system used in the brigade orders and reports in the official records. Further, the map of the area around Bouresches contains the railroad line that was a brigade objective on 6 June. The tracks of the railroad line running from Chateau Thierry to Belleau were northeast of the village in 1918. Only vestiges of the railway remain today. Where the road from the village approached the railway line, a branch to the left led to the village of Belleau as the road continued through an overpass under the line. Due to the nature of the terrain, the railway line was built on a berm more than 10 feet high that provided excellent fields of observation and fire into the village itself and the southeastern approaches to Belleau Wood. In addition, the area behind the embankment provided the Germans excellent concealed avenues of approach into Belleau Wood. Thus, the occupation of the embankment was hotly contested. Getting men and supplies into Belleau Wood via the southeast edge was problematic throughout the battle due to accurate machinegun fire from the embankment. Although the village was eventually taken, and despite repeated Marine attempts to take it, the railroad embankment remained in German hands throughout the campaign.

This is a real treasure and must be on the bookshelf of any 4th Marine Brigade buff. Mr. Clark includes the draft in its entirety with the original maps and only supplements or edits the material when appropriate. He adds a biography of Colonel Thomason, a history of the Brigade, and a very interesting background piece on the draft itself. Also included is one of the best 4th Marine Brigade bibliographies, an update to Asprey’s comprehensive one in *At Belleau Wood*. As previously mentioned, rare Thomason drawings are included to illuminate story. Not only do we have the pleasure of reading a history based upon official records and witnesses, we also benefit from the author’s ease at telling the story. Few historians are able to master a literary style in which they provide an accurate historical account in such a readable manner.

William T. Anderson

"Congress as my Government": Chief Justice John Marshall in the American Revolution (1775–1781) by Keith Marshall Jones III. New York: Connecticut Colonel Publishing Company, 2008. Softcover; 257 pp., with illustrations and maps. \$24.95. ISBN: 0-9709703-3-1

The many biographers of John Marshall (1755–1835) have universally acknowledged the influence of his military service during the Revolutionary War in shaping the nationalistic vision which guided his seminal tenure as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (1801–1835). Usually devoting their attention to Marshall's judicial statesmanship, however, they have not delved very deeply into the details of this formative chapter in their subject's life. In his impressively researched new book *"Congress as my Government": Chief Justice John Marshall in the American Revolution*, Keith Marshall Jones III, a direct descendant of the Chief Justice, sheds light on the young Marshall's experiences during these eventful years. In recounting the story of John Marshall the soldier, Jones demonstrates just *how* service in the Continental Army enabled him to transcend strict loyalty to his home state: "Through military necessity, (he) formed himself into an American before he ever had opportunity to develop into a Virginian." In addition, Marshall's years as an officer under Gen. George Washington provided him his first practical experience in the law, and also enabled him to forge connections with influential people who later assisted him in starting his legal career.

Marshall began the war as a lieutenant in the Culpeper County (Virginia) militia. Though this unit successfully helped defeat British and Loyalist troops under Virginia's Royal Governor Lord Dunmore at Great Bridge (9 December 1775), Marshall's subsequent experiences as a Continental Army officer (lieutenant in the 11th Virginia Regiment from October 1776 until the reorganization of the Virginia Line in September 1778, then captain in the 7th Virginia Regiment until the reduction of the Virginia Line in December 1779 left him without men to command) convinced him that the thirteen states could meet the challenges to their existence only through unified action. With the army in the field, he witnessed firsthand the gradually increasing effectiveness with which units from various states cooperated against the common enemy. For Marshall, nowhere was this more dramatically demonstrated than in the light infantry corps, comprised of picked soldiers from several states' regiments, under Gen. William Maxwell that Washington assembled in the late summer of 1777 as the Philadelphia campaign opened. Facing with this band of brothers the oncoming British and Hessian forces under Gens. William Howe and Charles Cornwallis at Cooch's Bridge (3 September 1777) and Brandywine (11 September 1777), Marshall saw "New Yorkers, Pennsylvanians, Jerseymen, Marylanders, Delawares, North Carolinians, and, yes, Virginians, all primed and loaded...and made ready to shed blood together." As Jones asserts, "Surely it was here, in the melting pot of Continental Light Infantry – the country's first truly multi-state military unit – where (Marshall) was 'confirmed in the habit of considering America (rather than Virginia) as (his) country and Congress as (his) government.'"

And yet, Jones reveals, Marshall's loyalty to his home state could still supersede his nationalism. After leaving the Continental Army in December 1779, his next military task was assisting Baron Friedrich von Steuben with recruiting and training new soldiers, with whom Gen. Nathanael Greene built a new Southern Department Army, in late 1780. Despite being a "proven master of the drill and experienced infantry company commander," however, Marshall did not assume a position in Greene's army. Instead, he chose to assist in the defense of Virginia, serving under Col. George Rogers Clark to contest the assault on Richmond led by Benedict Arnold, by then a brigadier general in the British Army, in early January 1781.

Besides imbuing Marshall with the nationalism shared by many other officers, the Continental Army also provided him with his first practical experience in the law, even before he attended law school at the College of William and Mary and passed the Virginia state bar in 1780. Between November 1777 and August 1778, he served as one of three assistants to Judge

Advocate General John Laurance; of the three, he was the only one who had not yet graduated from law school. As the Continental Army encamped at Valley Forge during the winter of 1777–1778, Marshall helped Laurance adjudicate an enormous backlog of pending court-martial in accordance to the Articles of War that Congress had adopted in September 1776. As Jones points out, during these proceedings, Marshall frequently “dispensed interpretive advice regarding the Articles of War and previous rulings to both the court and the accused,” and, as a Deputy Judge Advocate General, he also “possessed notarial powers similar to present-day notary publics and summary court officers.” Although the closing days of Marshall’s tenure as a DJAG coincided with the court-martial of Gen. Charles Lee in the aftermath of the Battle of Monmouth (28 June 1778), Jones points out that the surviving documentary record provides few clues about the extent of Marshall’s involvement in these hearings. Still, when Marshall years later wrote the first major biography of George Washington, his account of Lee’s trial has what Jones calls a “first-hand tonality.”

After so many biographies of the great Chief Justice have dismissed this chapter of his life with summary comments, Jones has finally shed light on the details of Marshall’s military service, dispelling several long-held misconceptions in the process. (For example, he did not serve in the 3d Virginia Regiment under his father, Col. Thomas Marshall, and the senior Marshall was not among the troops that Gen. Benjamin Lincoln surrendered, along with Charleston, in May 1780.) Some uncertainty remains about certain details, which Jones readily acknowledges, such as the circumstances in which John Marshall allegedly was wounded in the hand during the battle of Germantown (4 October 1777). Although there are a few minor inaccuracies in this early edition (for instance, the mention of the battle of Cowpens on 17 January 1781 states that Banastre Tarleton then held the rank of major), Jones’ work provides a fascinating and informative look at this crucial, formative (yet heretofore neglected) chapter in the life of a great American and of the country he served with such distinction.

Jon Ault

OSS: The Secret History of America’s First Central Intelligence Agency, by Richard Harris Smith. The Lyons Press, Guilford, CT 06437. Reprint 2005 (Originally Published in 1972). Soft Cover; 413pp., illus., index. \$16.95. ISBN 1-5922-8729-8.

Readers may at first be disappointed in Richard Harris Smith’s *OSS: The Secret History of America’s First Central Intelligence Agency*. It is not a book devoted to the material culture of America’s first secret intelligence agency. It is a book published in 1972 years prior to the release of declassified OSS documents from CIA archives.

However, with that being said, Smith’s book is a remarkable account of the origins, operations, and demise of the OSS. Based on hundreds of interviews with OSS veterans, secondary sources, and some, at the time, still “technically secret” documents he portrays the agency for what it was: brilliant, visionary, dissenting, zany, daring, chaotic, eccentric and mysterious.

The scope of the book is nearly equal to the founder of OSS, William J. “Wild Bill” Donovan’s, imagination. Smith begins with Donovan’s maneuvering to acquire businessmen, scientists, academics, lawyers, leftists, New Dealers, - all and every one -devoted to defeating Germany and Japan. He depicts Washington bureaucrats who were angry of the OSS’s limitless budget, wide ranging territory, and usurpation of America’s most influential old schoolers and bright young men and women.

The most interesting parts of the book emphasize the challenges and consequences of merging Secret Intelligence and Special Operations - one of Donovan’s strongest ambitions. Smith’s

strength is in his ability to focus on political and diplomatic personalities as well as the agents who were dropped behind lines in France, North Africa, Indochina, China, and other occupied zones. The intended and unintended consequences of such difficult operations are described thoroughly.

For readers looking for in-depth accounts of specific OSS branches, operations, and material culture, one should look elsewhere. However, Smith's book is an excellent place to begin when exploring the OSS. People familiar with the researching the OSS know the difficulty in excavating its elusive history. The fact that Richard Harris Smith undertook such a task at the mere age of twenty-two and completed it is a rare feat.

What readers of this new edition may find most interesting is the candid "Retrospective Preface" where the author discusses the evolution and reception of the book, acknowledges "errors and omissions," and offers commentary on the value of the OSS and its "spirit" in regard to current challenges the Central Intelligence Agency faces.

Michael Barton

The Mexican Soldier 1837–1847: Organization, Dress & Equipment, by Joseph Hefter Edited and Expanded by Patrick R. Wilson. Oklahoma City, OK: The (Virtual) Armchair General, 44 pp., illus., plates. 2008. \$40.00. No ISBN in evidence

This is a reprint and enlargement of a 1958 volume by the late Joseph Hefter, which was drawn from Mexican military archival sources. The original volume included eight color plates and another eight in black and white. This edition has brought color to all sixteen plates. This edition also includes a much wider selection of illustrations of the standards of the Mexican Army instead of a single illustration as in the original work.

The text includes listings of most of the regiments of the Mexican Army and a table showing their participation in various actions throughout the Mexican-American War of 1846 to 1847. A table showing the chronology of the twenty-plus presidential administrations during that decade speaks to one of the more difficult obstacles facing the Mexican Army. Tables also delineate the organization of the Mexican Army in 1835 and in 1839.

One of the plates contains some basic formation diagrams, but without a strong key, so there is much left to interpretation. Another plate includes sword signals and illustrations of bayonet drill. The uniform plates are well done to the standards of 1958, so they show some age, but are an excellent source for a visual representation of the range of uniforms worn by the Mexican soldiery.

A downside of the text is its lack of a bibliography and only a few modest footnotes. Overall, possibly the single available source for information on the organization and uniforms of the Mexican Army during its wars with Texas and the United States. A must have for anyone serious about studying the Mexican Army of that period.

Steve Baule

Muskets of the Revolution and the French & Indian Wars: The Smoothbore Longarm in Early America, including British, French, Dutch, German, Spanish and American Weapons, by Bill Ahearn. Andrew Mowbray Publishers, Inc., Lincoln, RI. 2005. Hardcover; 248 pp., illus., biblio., index. \$49.99. ISBN: 1-931464-19-7.

This text is an excellent compilation of material on early military muskets and civilian muskets used in warfare. There are nearly 500 black and white illustrations showing the details of extant weapons from a range of private and public collections. The illustrations

show regimental markings, lock details, and other often-ignored details. The text is well footnoted and includes a fair index and a complete bibliography.

The author does a good job articulating the specific details of firearms and comparing and contrasting the various versions of longarms. More than a third of the text is devoted to British manufactured weapons that were heavily used by both sides during the Revolution. Ahearn liberally quotes from DeWitt Bailey's recent extensive research on British weapons, which strengthens his own commentary. Ahearn also tries to put many of the weapons in context as to their potential experiences during the war. He quotes period journals and letters throughout. The text is weaker where it strays from weapons to comment more generally on the military.

The author maintains his focus on smoothbore muskets and fowlers. Rifles and pistols are not within the scope of the work. Overall, this is an excellent text with regard to period longarms. It should be included within the library of any serious collector or student of Early American weapons.

Steven M. Baule

The Young Hitler I Knew. By August Kubizek Greenhill Books, Hardcover; 264 pp., photos, illus., index. Introduction by Ian Kershaw. ISBN: 1-85367-694-2. \$29.95

August Kubizek met Adolph Hitler in 1904 when both were young, disenfranchised teenagers in the fading years of the Hapsburg's Austrian-Hungarian Empire. Kubizek's prose is thoughtful and paints a picture of Hitler as a dreamer unable to contend with the realities of the world. The Hitler described by Kubizek also has a fiery temper and is a domineering friend. Kubizek provides a short history of Hitler's boyhood and school career. Kubizek, an aspiring musician who works in his father's upholstery shop, met Hitler at an opera in Linz, Austria. Music served as a connection and the two became friends. Kubizek provides some insights into Hitler's home life. Hitler lived in a small apartment with his mother, a youngish widow and his sister, nearly a decade his junior. His older half-sister married an Austrian civil servant with whom Hitler did not get along. When his mother died, apparently of breast cancer, he was alone except for Kubizek. Kubizek and Hitler then move to Vienna to advance their artistic careers. Some of the more interesting points of the memoir include Kubizek's remembrances that Hitler tried to convince him to evade the Austrian draft, Kubizek's interpretation of Hitler's fantasy affair with a young girl to whom he was never introduced and his thoughts on the disappearance of his friend in 1908 while Kubizek was in the army.

Kubizek's last chapter discusses his occasional interactions with Hitler, after their friendship revived a 30-year lapse. It also explains some of his interactions with a number of Nazi functionaries who appear to have wanted to mine Kubizek for information about their Fuhrer. Kubizek occasionally includes a brief passage from *Mein Kampf* and then articulates his own remembrances of the period. They do not always agree in substance. It is also the first time that Kubizek's work is available in its entirety in English. An earlier translation in English published in 1954 omitted several sections. Any serious student of Hitler will want to read this text. Whatever his potential biases and flaws, Kubizek provides a unique window into Hitler's formative year.

Stephen Baule

Organization and Insignia of the American Expeditionary Force 1917–1923, by Robert J. Dalessandro and Michael G. Knapp. Schiffer Publishing Ltd., 4880 Lower Valley Road,

Atglen, PA 19310(www.schifferbooks.com). 2008. Hardcover; 325 pp, color and b&w illus., endnotes and bibliography. \$69.95. ISBN: 798-0-7643-2937-1.

This book has been written by two members of the Company of Military Historians, who present it “as a resource for better understanding the organization, structure, operations and assignment” of troops who made up the AEF from 1917 to 1923. There are six chapters which cover the AEF GHQ and Service of Supply, Armies and Corps, the Regular Army divisions and those of the National Guard and the National Army. A chapter is also devoted to the Air Service and specialist branches. Three full page tables show the organization of the GHQ from July 1917 to November 1918 and reflect the numerous changes as the war progresses. An additional two pages of tables show the organization of the AEF Infantry and Cavalry division.

Each chapter follows a general format of information. There is a general history of the organization or division with numerous photos of officers and enlisted men relating to that particular area of the book. The authors drew on private sources, the Military History Institute and the National Archives for the pictures and there are many that the viewer will be seeing for the first time. A number of the photos show combat areas and many of the individuals are identified. With each unit are examples of their shoulder patches and again most of these are shown for the first time since they are from private collections. There are twenty-nine different examples for the 2d Division. Noted with each patch is a brief description and history. All are in color. At the end of most of the unit sections is a reference bibliography which is very useful in obtaining further information on not only the division but regiments as well. Organizational information is highly detailed with data on stations and depots, campaigns, and division breakdown into brigades, regiments, battalions and supply and ammunition trains. The aviation chapter not only shows the various shoulder patches but squadron insignia. Balloon groups are also included with their companies duly noted. Four pages cover the role of the Marine Corps with seven patches being shown. There are two appendices. One is a quick reference chart of the AEF organization with numbers of each divisional infantry regiment, MG battalion, FA regiment and Engineer regiment. Quite a help in identifying that collar disc in your collection. A second appendix consists of four pages of AEF post office numbers. Unfortunately there is no index.

The authors are to be commended for this undertaking and making such a vast amount of information available in one book. Kudos do not extend to the publisher when printing the color plates of the patches. Color does matter and this is an extremely important factor to the collector, historian and researcher. There are critical variations in color intensity which do not present the true appearance of the patch and are therefore misleading to the viewer. A note from one of the authors says this will be corrected with a second printing. Four trench mortar insignia are in black and white, and would have been more attractive in color. A section of endnotes and a bibliography round out the book.

This book is highly recommended for the scope of material presented. The text is well written and content well organized. It will be highly useful to the World War I historian, re-enactor, collector and others who are interested in this important part of our American history.

Dale E. Biever

Due To Enemy Action: The True World War II Story of the USS Eagle 56, by Stephen Puleo. Available from The Lyons Press, 4100 246 Goose Lane, P.O. Box 480, Guilford, CT 06437, 2005. Hardcover; 352 pp., illus., notes, index. \$22.95. ISBN 1-59228-739-5.

From the outset of the book, author Stephen Puleo draws the reader into re-living the suffering and loss that accompanied the sinking of the *Eagle 56* at the end of World War II.

Although the general idea of the story is given from the dust jacket blurb, the author's talents ably serve to give us a great tale of heroism, dedication, and mystery that grabs one from the start and maintains high interest throughout the remainder of the story. It is the factual record of the last US warship to be sunk by a German U-Boat; and that happening within the very harbor of Portland, Maine.

However, a court of inquiry ruled the sinking was the result of a boiler explosion thus denying the crew, both alive and dead, from eligibility for any war service medals as well as inflicting a sense of personal guilt upon them. Almost by accident, attorney Paul M. Lawton became involved in the case and with bulldog tenacity pursued the story to resolve the truth. It is his search for this truth that drives the story as the reader follows his research and findings from historic records and people on both sides of the Atlantic. At the same time the reader's emotions are pulled as the text actively draws one in to the lives of the crew and their associated families devastated by this tragedy. The book shines as a mystery that only good research and forensic facts can resolve. Here is one more excellent war story that is well worth the read and reinforces the need for honest historic research.

Lawrence J. Bopp

Georgia's Confederate Sons, Volume 1, by Dr. David N. Wiggins, University of West Georgia Press, Carrollton Georgia, 2007. Softcover; 176 pp., illus., index. No price given. ISBN #1-883199-18-2

"Every man," an 1861 advertisement for a Southern photographer read, "who goes to the war ought, before starting, leave his likeness with his mother, sister, wife or dear parent." For those who want to gaze into the visages of the soldiers who faced the death and destruction wrought by it is gratifying that many men did just this. They sat in front of cameras operated by a variety of photographers, from itinerant to established, posed, armed and accoutred as the soldiers they wanted their family's to remember. The resulting images, captured on silver, glass, metal or paper, not only served as *aides memoire* for the relatives or friends the soldiers left but offer us a glimpse into the moment when light fixed their picture.

William Albaugh's *Confederate Faces* was the first book, in recent times, to bring together a collection of Confederate images. However, it and a number since, told little about the men in the images. Since then, through works such as the University of Arkansas's *Portraits of Conflict* series or Greg Mast's volume on North Carolina Troops, authors have put more effort into returning these men's stories to them. In *Remembering Georgia's Confederates*, former Carrollton educator, Dr. David W. Wiggins, showed himself as a worthy writer in this mould. With *Georgia's Confederate Sons, Volume 1*, he further enhances his reputation by drawing together an even larger number of photographs of Confederate Georgians and telling their stories.

The range and novelty of the photographs are essential to a work such as this. To Wiggins' credit, while there are some photographs that would be familiar to some, the book features many hitherto unpublished images of Confederate Georgians who served in all branches of the Army and Navy. The range of sources he has accessed the collections of renowned and generous individuals such as David Vaughan and Keith Bohannon, a variety of institutions as well as descendants of some of the men depicted, is a credit not only to his powers of research but also the respect that he affords the men whose images fill this book's pages. The selection of photographs and illustrations range from before to after the war but most, some 300, are from pre or war time. The hand coloured ambrotype of Sidney Nolen in the dress uniform of the Quitman Guards, two images of Confederate Marines and the *London Illustrated Times* engraving of officers and sailors of the CSS. *Alabama* stand out among many memorable

examples. The impact of each photograph is enhanced by didactic captions. These brief biographical vignettes are well researched and breathe more life into these men's portraits. The inclusion of an index of military units and soldier's names are valuable. This is a must for any interested in the knowing more about the sort of men who made up the armies of the Confederacy. It should also find a place on the shelves of any interested in the uniforms and equipment of Confederates. However, for those interested in photography the omission of any information on the photographers who took the images, the processes or type of photograph presented is disappointing. The introduction calls this the "most complete visual study of the uniforms and weapons used by Georgia Confederate soldiers and sailors." And, in combination with *Remembering Georgia's Confederates*, easily vindicates this claim. However, while the quality of reproduction of the images is such as to allow close visual study of details in those cases where the original is in sharp focus, the captions provide little if any information on the weapons or uniforms. To do this the reader needs to draw on other sources.

Ross A. Brooks

This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War by Drew Gilpin Faust. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 2008. Hardback; 346 pp., illus., index, notes. \$27.95. ISBN: 978-0-375-40404-7

In the Fall 2007 edition of *Military Collector & Historian*, Cadet Jennifer Lewis treated us to a fascinating essay "The Death of an Era" exploring soldier death in the Civil War. The 1861–1865 struggle presented combatants and their families with harsh realities. Battle and illness brought high casualty rates and, if a soldier did become a fatality, poor records and systems for identifying deceased meant that many of the families of those who forfeited their life would never know their loved one's final resting place. How then did people, North and South, deal with and seek to make sense of so much violent death during the War and make sense of these devastating losses in its aftermath? Buried in the footnotes of Lewis's article lay a citation to an article by Drew Gilpin Faust, entitled "The Civil War Soldier and the Art of Dying." It signalled that the respected, awarded and much published Civil War Historian and current President of Harvard University was shifting her focus from issues pertaining to the Confederate South to seeking to answer questions like these ; questions that impacted on all Americans of this period. The results of Faust's researches are presented in her most recent book, *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War*.

Confronting such grim material does not immediately seem appealing and I began the book with some trepidation. However, the very human aspect of the sources that the writer draws on, the clarity of her narrative and accessible writing style make for a compelling read. In a series of well sign-posted chapters the book examines the cultures surrounding death and dying from before the war to the post-war period and how the war challenged and transformed soldiers', civilians' and the nations' beliefs, understandings, rituals and systems as they sought to make sense of the carnage. Their struggles reveal much about the societies involved in a war that while maturing a nation compromised its romantic notions of death and dying. Partisanship weakens much writing on the Civil War and Faust generally avoids this failing by drawing on sources from both North and South. However, in discussing some of the atrocities that occurred in the Civil War, the writer presents a more one sided picture. In *A Shattered Nation*, Anne Sarah Rubin and, more recently, in Jason Phillips' *Diehard Rebels* have showed how tales of murder perpetrated on Southerners by Union soldiers provided a Confederate rallying point. Given these authors' work it is disappointing that, while

exploring the role that Confederate atrocities played in steeling Union resolve and demonizing Southerners, she does not show the reader that this impacted on both sides.

This is, however, a small blight on an otherwise illuminating and valuable accession to Civil War historiography. While we can look to writers such as Reid Mitchell and James McPherson to find out about the economic, social, political, and more visceral reasons that impelled men to lay their lives on the line during America's bloodiest war. Faust is the first writer to make clear the spiritual and metaphysical understandings that enabled American society to endure such sacrifice. By doing so, this book complements and fills out our understanding of the people who fought to define the meaning of the American Union.

Ross A. Brooks

The Civil War and Yadkin County, North Carolina: A History: with Contemporary Photographs and Letters; New Evidence Regarding Home Guard Activity and the Shootout at the Bond School House; a Roster of Militia Officers; the Names of Yadkin Men at Appomattox; and 1200 Confederate Army and Navy Service Records with Parents, Vital Dates and Place of Burial for Most by Frances H. Casstevens. McFarland and Company, Inc., Publishers, Box 611, Jefferson, North Carolina 28640. 2005. Softcover; 304 pp., illus., photos, tables, biblio., appendixes, index. 2005. \$32.00. ISBN 0-7864-2444-3

Frances Casstevens' introduction to this book makes it clear that her intentions are parochial. This book is aimed at the 37,000 some residents of this small county nestled in the north-west corner of North Carolina. For them the author tries to capture the life-style, memories and experiences of the 9,800 so residents of their county who lived through the Civil War. To do so she divides the work into two sections: a narrative history of County and a series of appendixes.

The style of Casstevens' history, some 120 pages, is uncomplicated and informative. The breadth of information provided shows an author aware that her audience may have no background in this field. Casstevens therefore helpfully provides, through concise and clear history of aspects such as pre-war political parties, the school of the soldier, or a clear explanation of North Carolina's pension system, background. The background allows the text to flow into accounts of local and more removed events that involved people from Yadkin. Accounts peppered with snippets drawn from sources such as family anecdotes, excerpts from letters and documents. The result is a history with a human dimension.

Yadkin's war, in common with many Confederate communities, ripped social seams apart. It is Casstevens' contention that in Yadkin County these wounds were so profound that a "conspiracy of silence" grew up around events that occurred. It was a community's attempt to put the War behind them. In doing so the events disappeared from the Counties memory and, thereby, its history. Casstevens' aim to "illuminate shadows" is realised in fascinating sections dealing with conflicts, such as the affair at Bond School House and the militia and Home Guard activities that arose between Confederate authorities, deserters and citizens.

Following the history come eight appendixes of information related Yadkin's military. The first section, a collection of previously unpublished soldier letters and documents related to the Bond School House affair, breathes more life into the soldier experiences and events mentioned in the history. The next appendixes are more aimed at providing genealogical information and consist of alphabetical lists, such as those who were militia officers, veteran pensioners, or who surrendered at Appomattox. The vast bulk of this half of the book is made up of an alphabetical and richly detailed biographical list of the 1200 odd Yadkin men who served in the Confederate military. While based on previously published sources, such as Louis A Manarin's and Weymouth Jordan's massive *North Carolina Troops 1861-1865: A*

Roster, Casstevens has also drawn on Census records, family histories and other sources. By doing so she has been able to create richer histories for men whose lives would be otherwise lost.

Casstevens's aim at writing a book to let Yadkin County know of its Civil War heritage is modest. Casstevens certainly doesn't launch into the academic debate regarding class and conflict in the Appalachian counties covered more recently by historians such as Mark Wetherington (*Plain Folk's Fight: The Civil War and Reconstruction in Piney Woods Georgia*); or go into the sociopolitical/ geopolitical breadth of John Inscoe and Gordon McKinney's *The Heart of Confederate Appalachia: Western North Carolina in the Civil War*. However, the acknowledgement that this book has received since its publication from sources such as the North Carolina Society of Historians, the Journal of Southern History and North and South Magazine indicates that it resonates with a wider audience. It is probably the accessibility Casstevens provides by telling the story without going into the historiography that is behind its acknowledgement.

While this book has many strengths the lack of a subject based index was frustrating and I was disappointed to find that only one of the contemporary photographs showed a Yadkin man in Confederate uniform. And while the author states that Yadkin men fought in many battles she only writes about a few and only Gettysburg in detail.

So would it resonate with our readership? As I read it I looked for the mentions of or insights into the uniforms, arms and equipment of Yadkins' soldiers. Apart from a great description and black and white illustration of the flag of 21st North Carolina Regiment's "Yadkin Grey Eagles" and a few sentences on individual soldier's uniform there is none. For those interested in soldiering in camp and battle, the letters provide some wonderful and unpublished first hand accounts. Particularly touching are the letters surrounding the execution for desertion of Milton F. Willard of the 44th Regiment during late 1864. For those interested in campaigning, the chapter on Maj. Gen. George H. Stoneman's raid through Yadkin in early April 1865 provides insight into how a community reacted and was affected by the passage of 8000 Union cavalry. But, what will bring me back to this volume is the knowledge that opening any page I will find a human story to touch, captivate or intrigue.

Ross A. Brooks

The All Americans in World War II- A Photographic History of the 82nd. Airborne Division

at War edited by Phil Nordyke. Zenith Press, 380 Jackson Street, Suite 200, St. Paul, MN_55101-3885.2006. Hardcover; 192 pp., \$34.95. 365 photos, 30 maps or diagrams. ISBN0-7603-2617-7.

In September 1944, the commander of the British Second Army entered the command post of the U.S. 82d. Airborne Division and said, "I'm proud to meet the commanding general of the finest division in the world today." Whether it was the best U.S. division in World War II is an open question but there is no debate about the fact that the 82d. was one of the handful of elite units in the war.

This book, magnificent may be too strong a word, is more than impressive. It is packed with pictures and captions depicting the unit, beginning with its formation in February 1942 as a regular infantry division under the command of Maj. Gen. Omar Bradley. The greatest U.S. hero of World War I, Sgt. Alvin York, had served with the 82d and became its sponsor in World War II.

Converted into an airborne unit in August 1942 under Gens. Matthew Ridgway and James Gavin, the 82d. went on to serve more than 300 days in combat in Sicily, Italy, and in Northern Europe from Normandy to the Elbe River.

The wealth of pictures depict parachute training in the States, overseas training in North Africa, fighting in Sicily, and dropping to support the vulnerable Fifth Army landing at Salerno, Italy. The editor continues to follow the 82d as it prepares in England for the Normandy campaign, participates in the D-Day landings, jumps in Holland in the ill-fated "Market Garden" operation, hurriedly moves in to help stop the German offensive in the Battle of the Bulge, and action across Germany in the last great campaign in Northern Europe. Later it served as an occupying force in Berlin.

The book is divided into thirty-five sections, each introduced by brief explanatory text and most with a map or sketch explaining the division's activities. The last section shows the division in its unique Victory Parade marching up Fifth Avenue, New York City on 12 January 1946. This was an impressive ending to its superb wartime record and, as I observed as a spectator that day, very well-received by thousands of New Yorkers. .

The book is easy to read and hard to put down. The editor has done a magnificent job in assembling pictures and writing informative captions. The book would make a fine addition to any collection dealing with the war. If it gets into the hands of one of the remaining 82d Airborne veterans, this wonderful book is something they'd want to put into their pack for their final journey.

Robert Calvert, Jr.

Hitler's Ardennes Offensive: The German View of the Battle of the Bulge. Danny S. Parker, editor. MBI Publishing, 380 Jackson Street, Suite 200, St. Paul, MN 55101-3885. 2006. Softcover; 264 pp., 2 maps, 11 b/w photos, preface, and index. \$14.95. ISBN 1-853657-683-7. Often described as "Hitler's Last Offensive" the German attack in the Battle of the Bulge had several goals. One was to reach to port of Antwerp and create split the British and American forces. Another was to destroy as many divisions as possible. As this book points out, the German high command hoped to put as many as thirty Allied divisions out of action, eliminating a third of their forces, and discouraging further advances. The attack was launched in the west as destroying thirty Russian divisions in the east wouldn't affect the much larger Russian army.

The author searched the U.S. National Archives to find out what seven captured German generals said about the Battle of the Bulge when they were interviewed by U.S. Army historians following the end of World War II. Their candid remarks make interesting reading. Many had led armies in the attack including the Fifth Panzer Army, the Sixth Panzer Army (plus its Chief of Staff) and the German Seventh Army. Also included are comments on the Bulge made by Col. Gen. Alfred Jodl and Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel, Hitler's key military advisers, who were later executed for war crimes. An interesting several page introduction to each interview profiles the general involved and includes the impression he made at the time on the U.S. interrogator.

Much of what they say has already been mined by historians of the Bulge. The German units were under-strength, it took two or three 1944 divisions to equal the strength of a single 1940 unit. The Allies dominated the air and this handicapped advances and re-supply efforts except at night. The German generals said a division on the attack should have access to two or three good roads and their front in the Bulge was so narrow that troops often had to wait to use a road. And, when available, movement was slow because of the condition of the roads.

In one respect the German offensive was remarkable -- it turned out to a complete surprise to the Allied forces, drove a deep salient into their line, and created a state of confusion which lasted several weeks. But then, as the German generals pointed out, their resources at this late stage in the war were inadequate for the task they faced. They not only needed more top-caliber infantry soldiers (not more "Poles with ulcers") but also artillery assault gun formations, bridge equipment, supplies and maintenance, and relief forces to replace burned-out front line formations.

The editor seemingly has made a good selection from among the materials in the National Archives. However, one wonders about the market for the book. It may be too detailed for the average reader and serious military historians will want to search the archives for themselves.

Robert Calvert, Jr.

Armed America: The Story of How and Why Guns Became as American as Apple Pie by Clayton E. Cramer. Thomas Nelson, 501 Nelson Place, Nashville, TN 37214. 2006, Hardcover; 300 pp., b & w photos, notes, biblio. \$26.99. ISBN 13; 978-1- 59555-069-9.

An interesting book that tells how legislation regarding civilian militias; concern about danger from Indians; the widespread use of hunting as a source of food; and other factors led to

a huge supply of guns in America from Colonial times (1607) to the Mexican War (1846). But before the author gets into his main subject, he digresses to talk about Michael Bellesiles a Emory University professor who wrote a book, *Arming America: The Origins of a National Gun Culture*, whose theme was that guns were scarce in the Colonial era and the years which followed. This revisionist title had a short life, but was popular enough to be awarded the Bancroft Prize in American History by Columbia University. Historians who doubted its conclusions rechecked the sources cited in the book and found they most were suspect and the author had reached conclusions just the opposite from the facts. Eventually, Emory University, knowledgeable historians, and Columbia University all turned on Bellesiles—Columbia revoking its Bancroft award and asking that the prize money be returned.

The author discusses gun ownership in American during three different time periods: Colonial America (1607–1775); Revolutionary America (1775–1783); and the Early Republic (1783–1846). He discusses laws requiring that militia members maintain guns; cites sources regarding the number of guns owned by residents of towns, describes the number of gun sellers (which offers clues to the number of owners); and talks about the variety of guns. Later when the American Revolution began, he is able to better document the purchases and number of guns for selected groups based on information from governmental purchasing authorities.

Cramer cites numerous reports about the number of guns, such as one from Congress in 1806 that reported 132,000 in federal magazines, around 250,000 in the hands of militia. However, the author notes that the country had 640,000 white men of militia age at the time and feels that the figures above are understated.

An appendix describes the various kinds of firearms used up to 1845 including the matchlock, blunderbuss, flintlock, firelock, gunlock, pepperbox, pistol, revolver, and wheel lock

That the author knows his subject is clear from the scope of his discussion and the wealth of resources cited in the bibliography (eleven pages) and notes (thirty-four pages). A niche book that merits high praise.

Robert Calvert, Jr.

Borrowed Soldiers: Americans Under British Command, 1918 by Mitchell A. Yockelson. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, OK 73069, 2008. Hardcover; 308 pp., b & w photos, maps, notes. \$29.95 ISBN 978-0-6061-3914-7

The literature of World War I is filled with statements from the American commander, Gen. John J. Pershing, that U.S. soldiers should fight as a separate unit and not be amalgamated into British or French ranks. Our allies really wanted Americans assigned to their units as individual replacements to fill vacancies caused by four years of war.

In view of Pershing's dominant philosophy, it is interesting that he allowed two of his units, the National Guard divisions, the 27th. (from New York) and the 30th. (from the Carolinas), to be assigned to the British and fight with its 4th. Army. This interesting book traces the story of the two divisions from their activation and training in the States to their eventually assignment with the British.

Upon their arrival in France in May 1918, the two units entered an intensive training program aided by combat-experienced British officers and non-coms and it wasn't until September that the British felt their American allies were ready for combat. The two American units were involved in successful attacks against the Hindenburg Line in late September along with British and Australian troops. The Americans suffered heavy losses but were an important part of the drive to force the Germans to evacuate their Hindenburg stronghold and fight more in the open field.

The war for the two American divisions lasted from late September to early November 1918, just long enough to acquire some combat savvy. Despite suffering losses of 3,500 killed and 13,000 plus wounded, the two American divisions never received replacements during the war—a sign of their neglect by the main American army.

Their story is well documented and the author does a good job of highlighting a neglected contribution of American forces to World War I.

Robert Calvert, Jr.

Boys of '67: From Vietnam to Iraq, The Extraordinary of a Few Good Men by Charles Jones. Stackpole Books, 5067 Ritter Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 7055-0412. 2006. Hardcover; 416 pp., 29 b/w photos, preface. \$29.95. ISBN 0-8117-0163-8.

This is the story of three Marine officers, initially commissioned in 1967 for service in Vietnam who, after long and distinguished careers ended up as generals. The author, a newspaper reporter was not himself a Marine, but his father served in three wars and retired as a lieutenant general in the Corps.

Martin Steele served in Vietnam as a corporal before entering Marine Corps Basic School and later returned there as an aerial artillery observer. Unusual for the Marines, his career focused on armor and he fought hard to give its infantry soldiers support from the best tanks in the United States arsenal. He was assigned to the joint military command in Korea when the Gulf War broke out and was hastily called back to the Pentagon to coordinate a group of top level officers developing attack plans for Kuwait. He retired as a lieutenant general, and known as the greatest armor officer in the history of the U.S. Marines.

Ray Smith had long and heroic service in Vietnam where among other decorations he was awarded the Navy Cross. He was one of the last of the combat Marines to vacate the country. Because of his reputation as a combat leader, he was called upon when small forces of Marines were landed in Grenada and Beirut He held a staff job during the initial Gulf War and

then was assigned to work with the Korean Army. As a major general, he was on the list to be considered for promotion when he ran afoul of a civilian Assistant Secretary of Defense who didn't like it when Smith said that "only losers send their women to war." Promotion denied, he retired shortly thereafter.

James Jones, Jr., (a relative of the author) was the son of a WWII Marine and the nephew of a career major general, also began active service as an officer in Vietnam. Just a year after being commissioned as a second lieutenant, he was acting as a company commander fighting off a spirited attack on what was known as Fox Trot Ridge. He eventually ended up as a general's aide in Vietnam. Then followed a series of stateside jobs until in 1990 when, as a colonel, he took over command of the 24th. Marine Expeditionary Unit which sailed to enter the Gulf War. The 24th. arrived too late to see much combat but played a significant role in helping refugees displaced by the conflict. He continued to merit promotions and in 1999 as a full general became the 32d Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps. He is currently Supreme Allied Commander, Europe

Interspersed with their individual stories is a picture of the triumphs and problems of the Marines over nearly forty years. Overall, an interesting story of the life of those who select the Marine Corps for their professional career.

Robert Calvert, Jr.

The Confederate Army, 1861-65 (1) South Carolina and Mississippi; (2) Florida, Alabama, and Georgia; (3) Louisiana and Texas. Three volumes all by Ron Field, illustrated by Richard Hook. Osprey Publishing, US address 2427 Bond Street, University Park, IL 60466. 2005 (1 and 2), 2006 (3). Softcover, each 48 pp., with 8 color plates, plus a picture on almost every page. \$15.95 each. ISBN 1 84176 849 9; 1 84176 850 2; 1 84603 0515.

Osprey, a distinguished British military publisher known best for its "Men-at-Arms" titles has expanded its books on the U.S. Civil War with this series. The titles of the books, however, may be misleading. Readers who pick up one of the volumes expecting to learn about the combat records of troops from the various states will be disappointed. On the other hand, members of the Company of Military Historians with a special interest in uniforms will find a treasure in these volumes. The books highlight the distinctive uniforms and equipment used by soldiers from the various states. Much of its content focuses on their prewar militia units and their distinctive uniforms. Readers unfamiliar with the scope of nineteenth century militias will be interested to learn they were an important part of the fabric of individual communities. Florida, as an example, with a population of just 140,000 in 1850 maintained 21 militia regiments to which every able-bodied man in the state was assigned. Alabama had 11 militia divisions organized into 22 brigades and 108 regiments. As units had the option of wearing distinctive uniforms this remains a golden era for historians of military attire.

Almost every page contains a picture of a uniformed soldier. Most depict state militia uniforms or outfits worn by soldiers departing for war in 1861; many not yet dressed in the gray and butternut that featured units in Confederate service. The various southern states were concerned about their units in combat continued and although the government in Richmond was supposed to clothe troops in its armies the state of Georgia sent thousands of uniforms north to its troops. As for weapons, most of the states had to scramble to arm their troops. The prewar supplies were insufficient when new regiments were mobilized for Confederate service and competent manufacturers were swamped with orders. The armaments sections are concerned more with supply and demand than the weapons themselves. The eight color plates in each volume merit special attention as they are very much like the plates prepared for CMH and with their extensive descriptions of each plate one wonders if they were not directly

inspired by this magazine. Overall, an interesting niche book and one may assume that two or three more books will appear in this series to complete the series.

Robert Calvert, Jr.

The Dieppe Raid: The Story of the Disastrous 1942 Expedition by Robin Neillands. Indiana University Press, 601 North Morton Street, Bloomington, IN 47407-3797. 2005. Softcover; 292 pp., 2 maps. 34 b/w photos, index. \$35.00. ISBN 0-253-34761-5.

Mention "Dieppe" and few Americans under the age of 70 will know what you are talking about. Mention Dieppe in Canada and hundreds of families will recall it as one of their major wartime tragedies.

Dieppe, a small French city on the Atlantic Coast was the scene of an Allied sortie in August 1942 when 6,000 soldiers (most in two Canadian brigades but some from British commando units plus American Rangers) attempted an early morning attack on city guarded by Germans. The attack ended in disaster with the bulk of the casualties Canadian. The Royal Regiment of Canada, for example, lost 94 percent of its men, the Fusiliers Mont-Royal 78 percent, and the Essex Scottish 90 percent.

The genesis of the attack began many months earlier. On the rebound after the failure of the Allied armies in France in May 1940 and the forced evacuation of their troops from Dunkirk, the British were groping for ways to stay in the war, and even offer a bit of offense. One suggestion, which was quickly implemented, was top form elite units called commandos to conduct hit and run raids of German held positions. This book describes the rugged commando training in detail.

Early commando raids were a mixed bag -- some were highly successful but others did little or no good. However, they did annoy the enemy to the extent that the German High Command ordered that all commandos who were captured should be put to death rather than taken prisoner.

Early in 1942, anxious to "do something," planning began for the Dieppe raid, code-named "JUBILEE." JUBILEE was intended to destroy enemy defenses, damage an airfield and a radio facility, search for secret documents, and take some German prisoners. In overall command was Lord Louis Mountbatten, who seemed to work well with his North American allies.

Having been in training for two years and impatient to see action, the 2d. Canadian Division was more than pleased to provide two brigades for the Dieppe mission. To gain some combat experience, the newly-formed US Rangers sent a token force of less than sixty men. The author blames the failure at Dieppe on a number things starting with its top commanders. There was inadequate air support and not enough help from big naval guns. German defenders were more numerous and ferocious than anticipated and their early actions destroyed Allied communications with units. Tanks couldn't be landed in sufficient numbers to support the ground troops. Overall, without far more weight behind the attack, Dieppe proved a bad choice for a landing.

The first Allied troops landed around 0700 on 12 August 1942 but by 0900 some commanders on land realized their efforts were failing and began to withdraw their men. Mid-morning, a general order to evacuate went out to all Allied forces and a mad scramble developed to hold off the Germans while attempting to re-board small craft in the face of enemy fire. The last successful evacuations occurred around 1200 and by 1300 the thousands of men left on the beach had surrendered.

The author is generally critical of the planning and execution for the Dieppe raid. He also points out how mistakes which occurred on its beaches were noted and corrected by the time D-Day occurred in 1944.

Robert Calvert, Jr.

Duffy's War: Fr. Francis Duffy, Wild Bill Donovan, and the Irish Fighting 69th. in World War I by Stephen L. Harris. Potomac Books, 22841 Quicksilver Drive, Dulles, VA 20166. 2006. Softcover. 434 pp., b & w photos, maps, notes, biblio. \$19.95. ISBN 978-1-57488-652-8.

Our country is filled with statues of military heroes but one of the most unique was erected in New York's Herald Square to honor man who was neither a general nor carried a weapon in combat. Father Francis Duffy, honored by the statue, served as chaplain for New York's 69th National Guard regiment in the first world war, the organization depicted in the James Cagney movie, *The Fighting 69th*. When Duffy died in 1932, an estimated 25,000 New Yorkers attended his memorial service or lined the streets to watch his hearse go by. It is obvious that Duffy had a tremendous impact on the men with whom he served, most (like himself) Irish. One of his first tasks was to persuade the Irish loyalists that Germany, not Britain, was the real enemy. The book tells the story of the 69th from its original call up in 1917, through the war, until it returned from Germany in 1919 and marched up Fifth Avenue. Along with Duffy, it focuses on William Donovan, a battalion and later regimental commander. With an outstanding record in the first world war, Donovan would serve as head of the top secret OSS in the second world war. The author profiles dozens of key officers and men; perhaps the best known was the poet, Sgt. Joyce Kilmer, who gave up a safe assignment back in headquarters intelligence to become Donovan's aide and lost his life as a result. The book's greatest achievement is telling the story of Father Duffy and making clear why his service warranted a permanent statue on a busy street in midtown Manhattan.

Robert Calvert, Jr.

Forts of the American Frontier 1820-91 Central and Northern Plains and American Civil War Fortifications (2) Land and Field Fortifications, by Ron Field. Osprey Publications, U.S. address: 2427 Bond Street, University Park, IL 60466. 2005. Softcover; 64 pp., each with around 60 pictures, five sketches, and several maps. \$16.95. ISBN 1-84176-775-1 and 1084176-883-9.

Mention American forts and most military historians may only recall Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth. However;-as pointed out in *Forts of the American Frontier*, at its peak in 1867 there were 116 forts spread out every 100 miles or so all the way from the North Dakota and Kansas eastern borders to central Idaho and Utah. While most ended up in the hands of the U.S. Army, many began as private enterprises supplying traders, trappers, and Indians. Many cities grew up in the protective shadow of a frontier fort including Bismarck, Bozeman, and Omaha..

This modest-sized book is packed with fascinating information on the forts beginning with their layouts and types of construction. Many of the so-called forts were merely clusters buildings—set out on the prairie with no wall or other protection from attacks. Others had walls so extensive any defense would be difficult such as Fort Phil Kearney in the Wyoming Territory which had a 2,800 foot outer wall. Where defenses were built up, they included

stockades, sally ports, blockhouses, ditches and moats, rifle loopholes, and embrasures for cannon.

The author describes the isolated life in the forts for soldiers and officers and devotes a whole chapter to "Forts at War" where without exception they successfully fought off Indian attacks. Twenty-six of the forts are visible today, most maintained by an agency of the federal government or a state or local historical society.

The book is impressive and equally impressive is the role which the various forts played in enabling the westward expansion of our nation—while crushing Native American claims to their traditional lands.

American Civil War Fortifications covers a later period of history when more substantial fortifications were required to cope with larger and better armed armies. The most substantial ten-mile long fortifications were built by the Union and Confederate forces during the months in front of Petersburg, which forecast the trench warfare of World War I. The two armies were also halted by fortifications outside Atlanta; but each morning, just before it grew light, Union soldiers were able to dig rifle pits as close as 200 yards to the Confederate defenses and Union artillery moved up to break down the barriers.

The fortifications included structures that go far back in the history of warfare including redoubts were built inside larger fortifications to provide a second line of defense if needed, redans to jut out from the main barrier to permit firing on the side of attackers, and blockhouses enabled small groups to successfully repel larger forces. Covered bomb-proof shelters protected troops when enemy artillery opened fire and casemates were built to preserve artillery from enemy actions.

Less permanent field situations may have involved breastworks, barricades, and even covered ways to disguise troop movements. All of these and other fortifications are described and pictured in this book.

One of the most interesting revelations is the fact that by 1863, the city of Washington was protected by sixty-eight forts, ninety artillery batteries, and twenty miles of rifle trenches. While not heavily manned, 25,000 soldiers were assigned to them at any one time. At the same time, the Confederate capitol of Richmond was protected by twenty-five inner forts and batteries.

This second volume describes the wartime role of Civil War fortifications, far more involved in fierce combat than the more passive western forts. It also describes the fourteen Civil War fortifications that can be visited today.

Robert Calvert, Jr.

Robert E Lee: Icon for a Nation by Brian Holden Reid. Prometheus Books, 59 John Glenn Dr., Amherst, NY 14228-2197. 2007. Softcover; 71 pp., b & w photos. \$18.95. ISBN 978-1-59102-585-6.

An admiring biography by a prominent British historian, the book reads almost like an essay.

It presents information: Lee's campaigns as head of the Army of Northern Virginia but, more importantly, discusses his overall strategy and handicaps that hurt his efforts. Countering the charge that Lee was reckless in attacking Northern forces who often outnumbered his army, Reid states that Lee felt a long war would favor the Union, in terms of its overwhelming population. He did not dare to remain indefinitely on the defensive. His aggressiveness at Chancellorsville (a success), Gettysburg (a failure), and near the end at Fort Stedman (a failure) reflected that strategy.

The author feels that Lee was handicapped because his immediate staff was inadequate to carry out its responsibilities and his subordinate generals were often incapable of executing

his strategies. When a general emerged capable of following Lee's inclinations, such as John B. Gorgon, he quickly rose to the top of the army.

That Lee was clearly beloved by his troops has been documented by numerous authors. Yet his troops were far less loyal to the cause for which they fought as thousands deserted the Army of Northern Virginia beginning in 1862 leaving a weakened army with no recourse other than surrender in 1865. Perhaps some of the respect felt for Robert E. Lee, on both sides of the conflict, was reflected in the fairly generous surrender terms offered by General Grant at Appomattox. A well-written and interesting book that makes no attempt at an exhaustive biography.

Robert Calvert, Jr.

Unfinished Journey: A World War II Remembrance, edited by Kerry P. Redmann. Lyons Press, PO Box 480, Guilford, CT 06437. 2006. Hardcover, 320 pp., 32 photos. \$22.95. ISBN 1-59228-761.

Some of the most poignant books are based on wartime letters written by young servicemen whose lives were lost in battle. Many are assembled by the families of the deceased to help honor his or her memory and sacrifice. This book contains letters written by Morris Redmann, the older brother of the editor between his induction in the army in October 1943 and his death in combat during the Battle of the Bulge in January 1945. Like many books of this type the wartime letters were initially saved by the family, later consigned to the attic, and finally "discovered" 50 years later. Morris Redmann was bright, he graduated from Loyola University at age eighteen and had just started law school when he was drafted. He was gifted in languages and some of his letters home were written entirely in French. His military career began with infantry basic training at Fort Benning, he was then tentatively assigned to the Army Specialized Training *LN K11* Program but when it was cancelled he was sent to the 94th. Infantry Division in Mississippi. He shipped overseas as an infantry private on the Queen Elizabeth in August, 1944. The 94th. Division arrived on the Continent in September 1944 and was assigned to guard German troops trapped in French ports. Redmann was hit by artillery shrapnel in the first week in Europe, but returned to duty in a few weeks. In the aftermath of the Battle of the Bulge, the 94th. was relieved from its role in France and ordered to join the Third Army in Belgium. There in almost his unit's first combat action, Redmann was hit by a German 88 and died instantly. His letters will remind many veterans of Army life in World War II: the eighteen-hour days on KP, joy at receiving boxes from home, obstacle and compass courses, waiting an hour for a pay phone to call home, inexpensive meals at service clubs on military posts, learning about and firing a variety of weapons, German prisoners digging ditches in the States, bivouacs, and field training, and the uncertainties associated with your next move. Morris Redmann never returned to the United States; at his family's request he was interned overseas at the American Military Cemetery in Hamm, Luxembourg along with so many other veterans of the US Third Army. His letters remind us today of the optimism of young soldiers and their attempts to restrain their families from worrying about them.

Robert Calvert, Jr.

U.S. Army Desert Operations Handbook, The Lyons Press, P.O. Box 480, Guilford, CT 06437. 2004. Softcover; 165 pp., drawings, references, index. \$18.95. ISBN: 1-59228-519-8.

U.S. Army Desert Operations Handbook is a commercial reprint of Army Field Manual 90-3, *Desert Operations*. The field manual and this commercial version are a “how to” for soldiers and Marines to live, survive, and operate in a desert environment. Included are lessons and descriptions of desert operations. When analyzing military history occurring in the desert or writing about desert operations, this book will give the historian or military enthusiast the documentation to understand what was done correctly.

Desert Operations topics range from individual soldier skills, planning preparations, and how to desert warfare is conducted by land forces. Since *Desert Operations* is an Army manual, it is written in a format that is easily understood. It includes black and white drawings that articulate points pictorially and graphically.

The book's eight appendixes provide an array of information to include the world's desert locations, techniques for operating equipment, concealment and camouflage, to the unpleasant topic of fratricide.

A weak chapter in *Desert Operations* is its treatment of service support functions. *Desert Operations* states “A unit's tactical effectiveness in the desert depends to a large degree to the combat service support available.” (4-1) For the individual who does not have access to the Army's field manuals on the subjects covered, the reader may go away unsatisfied and lacking the knowledge in this important topic.

Despite the ease and subject matter in the book, I would suggest *Desert Operations* is not a book you would obtain for general reading, its value is when used for reference.

Col. Robert s. Driscoll, USA

Wolf of the Deep: Raphael Semmes and the Notorious Confederate Raider CSS Alabama, by Stephen Fox. Alfred A. Knopf, New York. 2007. Hardcover; 336 pp., 25 b&w illustrations, 2 maps, notes, index. \$25.95. ISBN 1-40004-429-4.

Over the past few years the naval history of the American Civil War has garnered more attention among academics and the general reading public alike. More titles dealing with naval topics are appearing on bookstore shelves every week. The Confederate cruiser *CSS Alabama* has perhaps been the most popular naval topic, and has had more books, chapters, and articles written about it than any other ship in the war, with the possible exception of the *USS Monitor*. Ships such as the *Alabama*, *Monitor*, *CSS Shenandoah*, and *CSS H.L. Hunley* all provide compelling stories and have become the Gettysburg or Vicksburg of the naval genre. Stephen Fox has contributed to this wealth of work with his new book *Wolf of the Deep*. Fox himself is already an accomplished historian, holding a doctoral degree from Brown University and authoring six previous books on topics as diverse as professional sports and national memory, to the American conservation movement. *Wolf of the Deep* represents his first foray into the history of the Civil War, and military history in general.

What readers can expect from this book is a very well researched, highly readable, and engaging book that flows easily and quickly through the story. This however, is not simply the story of the *Alabama*, but also the story of Raphael Semmes, his crew, his career, and his family, and the interplay between them all. Fox first introduces us to Semmes, his childhood, early career in the United States Navy, service in the Mexican War, marriage and children. The division in his own family regarding the issue of secession is well told. Semmes' wife was a northerner and initially favored the Union, while his two oldest sons were officers in the Confederate Army. It was, literally, a family divided at the beginning of the war, but eventually Mrs. Semmes and the rest of the children were forced from her family's home in Cincinnati and returned to Alabama for the remainder of the war.

The story of the *Alabama* is told through a variety of lenses. Fox looks at the story not only through the eyes of Semmes and his crew, but also from the perspective of the Confederate press and public, the northern press and public, the Union government, and the British press and public. In this manner, Fox illustrates how the cruise of the famous ship affected all who had a vested interest in the war. Fox also flips the lens around and details how newspaper reports, the information lifeline of those on board the ship, affected Semmes and the way in which he thought of his own work. No matter what the lens, the story of the *Alabama*'s remarkable cruise is told in a lively manner that never gets bogged down by excessive detail. For those readers who are familiar with Confederate naval history, there is an eerie parallel between the story of the *Alabama* and that of another famous cruiser, the CSS *Shenandoah*. Portions of the story are remarkably similar to stories found in Angus Curry's recent book *The Officers of the CSS Shenandoah* (University Press of Florida, 2006). These two books could definitely be read as companion volumes. The issues aboard the two cruisers were much the same – disciplinary problems with the crew due to an extremely long cruise, lengthy draughts between prizes, and little of the promised adventure and prize money they had signed on for. What made the situation aboard the *Shenandoah* worse was open conflict between the officers themselves, a problem that Semmes did not face.

What Fox does particularly well throughout the book is to flesh out and explain complex personal relationships between Semmes and all of the people in his life, from his wife and children, to his superiors and subordinates, to friends and acquaintances. In every stage of the book, the story turns around these personal relationships, and the reader understands that Semmes was not the easiest person to relate to. He was highly intelligent, yet very introspective and introverted at times. Fox does a good job portraying the whole of Raphael Semmes, rather than simply Semmes, the naval officer.

If there is one criticism of this book, it is that by the end, Fox seemingly conveys a bias that is very anti-Semmes. Some readers will come away feeling that Fox unjustly judges Semmes through a modern lens, rather than dealing with him in his nineteenth century surroundings. This bias is conveyed in a number of ways. Throughout the book, Fox refers to Semmes as a "pirate." While the Union government, northern shipping interests, and northern media certainly thought of him as such, no one else did. The Confederate government viewed commerce raiding as a legitimate act of warfare and the British government, at least throughout most of the war, turned a blind eye to the practice. Semmes was welcomed in almost every port at which he called. Also, Fox dwells at some length on one of Semmes' most interesting contradictions, that being his vehement defense of slavery while arguing that the war itself had nothing to do with the peculiar institution. Later in life, Semmes wavered and even changed his interpretation of the causes of the war as they related to the issue of slavery. Bringing out this contradiction is important because it explains Semmes' thought process; however, it seems Fox is judging a nineteenth century person using twenty-first century values, which is a trap historians must avoid. Was Semmes racist by modern standards? Certainly. Was he more racist than most nineteenth century Americans, North or South? Probably not. In the end, readers may get the impression that Fox dislikes his subject. Even if true, this bias should not be apparent in the book.

Aside from this criticism, *Wolf of the Deep* is a wonderful addition to the mass of literature on the CSS *Alabama*. It has garnered high praise from many corners, including William Marvel, himself an author of a book on the subject (*The Alabama and the Kearsarge: The Sailor's Civil War*, University of North Carolina Press, 1996). The research in primary source documents is solid, and the volume is well-illustrated. A bibliography might be a welcome addition, especially for those not wanting to search the endnotes for sources. Altogether a very good book that should keep readers enthralled throughout.

Andrew E. Dupstadt

Four Stars of Valor: The Combat History of the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment in World War II, by Phil Nordyke. Zenith Press, Suite 200, 380 Jackson Street, St Paul, MN, 55101. 2006. Hardcover; 480 pages, maps, B&W photos, notes, bibliography, \$27.95. ISBN: 978-0-7603-2664-0.

This is the story of the only U.S. Army regiment to make four combat jumps during World War II. The story weaves in an enormous number of personal accounts of soldiers who served in the unit. Two chapters take the reader with the regiment to its departure from the United States. The remaining eighteen chapters take the reader through the regiment's combat experiences, from North Africa to the Elbe River. As the 80th Airborne Antiaircraft (Antitank) Battalion, the 456th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion, and the 307th Airborne Engineer Battalion supported the 505th, their stories are also part of the actions and events described.

The author has stitched a very large number individual accounts into the regiment's story. Many details have been drawn from nearly 150 interviews and questionnaires that add great detail to individual combat actions and incidents. These stories have been blended with accounts from previously published books to give a superior feel for the dynamics of combat. The detailed accounts of squad actions within the regiment while in combat are interesting and when combined with the first-person accounts of officers and the maps, tell the story of the regiment in combat. This was the unit that made the U. S. Army's first regimental jump when it went into Sicily. After heavy fighting with the Hermann Goring Panzer Division after that assault, two months later the regiment made a parachute jump into Salerno, Italy. It fought on to Naples before returning to England where it reorganized and then jumped on 6 June 1944, securing Ste. Mere-Eglise and holding it against heavy enemy counterattacks. After a month in combat the regiment rested and received replacements, then made its fourth jump when it was part of the assault at Nijmegen.

Some casual students of World War II are not aware that the regiment took its worst casualties when, after these four jumps and heavy combat, it was rushed to Belgium to counterattack German heavy armor forces. The stories of the poorly clothed troops fighting in snow for days and the casualties the unit took, tells of true American heroism that is often unsung.

Each battle is cover in great detail as told by individual soldiers in the first person. This book provides gripping details of small unit combat, besides giving stories of actions at the company and battalion level. For those who want to read of individual actions and battle accounts, this is the book. In addition, the author has nicely told the story of the entire regiment from the start of World War II until the regiment made a final river assault in late April 1945 in small assault boats across the Elbe River, occupied Berlin in early August 1945, and finally returned to the United States aboard the *Queen Mary*. For the World War II historian, this is a book that must be added to scholar's book shelf.

William K. Emerson

U.S. Military Flintlock Muskets and Their Bayonets: The Later Years 1816 through the Civil War, by Peter A. Schmidt. Andrew Mowbray Incorporated-Publishers Woonsocket, RI. 2007. 376 pp., illus., notes, appendices, index. \$69.99. ISBN 1-931464-27-8

With the explosion of information on U.S. Army small arms going back some eighty years to Claud Fuller in the 1930s and James Hicks in the 1940s, along with the fairly recent

publication by George Moller of two volumes on similar subject matter, one could rightly ask what the author wanted to accomplish with this volume and its predecessor, *U.S. Military Flintlock Muskets and Their Bayonets: The Early Years 1790–1815* (Woonsocket, RI: Andrew Mowbray Incorporated-Publishers, 2006). Clearly one answer was the inclusion of information on bayonets. But we get ahead of ourselves with that topic.

Author Schmidt's body of published material shows him to be a serious, careful researcher with a keen mind tuned to detail. Those skills are manifest in this book as well, as he seeks to take a fresh approach to the archival record of arms development and production in the early days of our republic. While acknowledging the importance of Fuller and Hicks to his archival approach, as stated in his introduction to this volume the author notes, "I draw my conclusions from the original records and experience of collecting, and I rarely consulted previously published works."

What is fresh in Mr. Schmidt's approach is a focus on how the production of muskets incorporated the goal of interchangeable parts, and how that goal contributed to an American system of manufacture with enormous productivity. That productivity in turn has enabled the U.S. Ordnance Department to provide more and better arms and equipment than its opponents, a superiority first evident during the Mexican-American and Civil Wars. It has remained a hallmark through two world wars and numerous smaller conflicts during the twentieth century.

The story of improving small arms production is a complicated one, with progress at and cooperation between the two armories of Springfield and Harpers Ferry often hampered by both personalities and slow communication. New challenges arose when private armories were contracted to produce arms for the state militias. However, unlike the general impression that contractors were used only when there was a need to increase production for specific requirements (often wars), the author shows how that parallel procurement system in the nineteenth century was often used to improve the pace of change at the public armories. Many labor-saving innovations, for example, came from the private sector since there was less incentive to increase productivity at the public armories.

Having myself spent many hours gleaning information from the records in the National Archives the reviewer can attest to the tremendous amount of effort that was expended by the author in collecting the tremendous amount of production and inspection information found in this volume. Many researchers stay with Record Group 156 (Office of the Chief of Ordnance), but few delve into Treasury Department records such as the author did in using Record Group 217 to assemble lists of workmen, when they were employed and what they produced. As just one example, for the month of February 1825 the specific tasks and wages of 256 different workmen are listed (pp. 78–82). This detail no doubt will be invaluable to collectors and historians wishing to determine the history of a specific musket based on the markings it still bears, as well as understanding the piece work system still in effect for much of this time. The production information gathered, organized and cogently presented (both here and in volume one) is possibly the most valuable recent addition to the historiography of U.S. military small arms.

All of this research was done with a view of letting the information tell the story, without its fitting a predetermined sequence of outcomes or existing typologies. The reviewer certainly applauds the approach. All of the new conclusions presented by the author have archival support; however, whether other collectors and researchers will embrace some of the conclusions reached remains to be seen. There are entrenched typologies begun in part by Hicks and reinforced perhaps most strongly by Norm Flayderman's nine volumes on arms values, to which some of the author's conclusions differ. For example, whether one terms a musket an M1816, Type III under "traditional" typologies or M1822/28, Improved (pp. 124-

6) under the author's may continue to be more of a personal preference than one influenced by archival documentation.

Another strength of this volume (as well as the first) is the gathering of much information on both the Ordnance officers involved in the process (principally as inspectors; see Chapter V, for example), as well as on the various contractors used over time. The "Background" sections, for example, keep the reader abreast of what the contractor was doing at the time he received a contract, and is followed by what happened under that contract (deliveries, payments, assignments, etc). This is very informative and presented close to the musket(s) being discussed, rather than in endnotes or appendices.

Bayonets were mentioned early in this review. Bayonets have become of increasing interest to firearms collectors who now want the 'correct' bayonet atop their muskets. However, the entire subject of bayonets was virtually ignored in the earliest publications cited above. Indeed, with the exception of Al Hardin's pioneering 1964 work, until Robert Reilly's *American Socket Bayonets and Scabbards* (Lincoln, RI: Andrew Mowbray Inc – Publishers, 1990) was published and The Society of American Bayonet Collectors was formed in 1987 (with Mr. Reilly acknowledged as founder) there was little detailed information on the subject of American bayonets.

Unfortunately, just as "and their bayonets" appears to have been tacked onto the title on the volume's title page, to this reviewer the subject of bayonets appears to have been added to a manuscript already largely finished. Thus they are given a mixed treatment. There is no doubt Mr. Schmidt approached this topic with the same questioning mind as he did with muskets. However, whether his opinions on what the markings on blades represent (those of just forgers, complete makers or inspectors) win converts from 'accepted' interpretations also remains to be seen.

Given his approach to the subject matter, it was not entirely surprising that a new typology for bayonets was also provided for readers. For example, a 'new' Pattern of 1827 bayonet is introduced (pp. 163-70). However, it is not clear that an entirely new pattern is justified even by the contemporary correspondence presented when the difference is merely the diameter of the shank. There is excellent empirical evidence that a slightly larger shank diameter did begin production at about this time, but whether this is enough of a difference to establish an entirely different pattern is certainly open to question. As with some of the 'new' small arms pattern additions, more time is needed to see whether collectors embrace this typology. (Interestingly the correlation of known working armorers' marks to the shank diameters provides the supporting evidence, an example of the author himself using just a portion of the data presented in this volume.)

Rather than dwell on any shortcomings about bayonets, the reviewer would rather restate there is much to commend in this book. First is the immense amount of information on scarce muskets and bayonets, ones most of us will not see or even be aware of without special access or miles of travel. Second, its focus on production (and all the trials and tribulations necessary to get to the goal of significant production) of standardized musket patterns is a real contribution to the story of U.S. small arms ordnance. Some readers may slide past many of the pages of data laboriously gathered, typed and laid out. But this minutiae of the production process will give all readers a new appreciation for what went into both the design and actual construction of muskets, and for collectors examples in their collections. Third, a corollary to the second is the emphasis on the people part of the production process. The number of names that have been assembled and their roles is simply astounding. Hopefully that information will be used, allowing new information to be associated to muskets and bayonets in many collections that heretofore just had accumulated those items.

The author has accomplished his goal of adding significantly to the story of the U.S. musket and this volume deserves to be on the shelves of collectors.

Frederick C. Gaede

Memoirs of the Stuart Horse Artillery Battalion, Moorman's and Hart's Batteries, Robert J. Trout, ed. Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 2008. 374 pp., illus., notes, biblio., index. \$45.00. ISBN-13: 978-1-57233-605-6

Part of the "Voices of the Civil War" series of primary source materials, edited by Peter S. Carmichael, this volume by Robert Trout continues his fine scholarship on the mounted batteries that accompanied Gens. J.E.B. Stuart and Wade Hampton. Indeed, these two memoirs and a history were part of primary source material for the author's seminal 2002 work *Galloping Thunder: The Stuart Horse Artillery Battalion*. Here they are separate, complete and available for the reader's perusal at his leisure.

The initial 170 pages comprise Lewis T. Nunnelee's transcription of his seven volume diary of four years with Moorman's Battery (which, by the way, was also used by his descendent, Lewis T. Nunnelee II, for *History of a Famous Company of the War of the Rebellion* [1998]). Mustered in as an infantry company, within two months the Lynchburg Beauregard Rifles became the Beauregard Artillery and subsequently (November 1862) the celebrated Moorman's Battery of Stuart's Horse Artillery. As such it participated in many of the epic battles of the Eastern armies of the Confederacy.

What makes Nunnelee's memoir so wonderful is his extraordinary attention to detail. He was not a young man at enlistment and his maturity may have contributed both to the perseverance of keeping the diary going as well as his detailed observations. The diaries are more like a continuous after action report, with notes on everything the members of the battery experienced. That includes not only things like the weather and who was wounded or killed in each engagement, or observations of officers' conduct and tactics. He went down to *minutiae* like whose farmer's chicken coop was plundered or destroyed in action! The wealth of directions and names of roads makes it easy to trace the battery's movements for virtually the entire war. The reader can get a real sense of the routines of daily battery life, if not the entire experience of battle, from this amazing memoir.

This is followed by "History of Hart's Battery," which was compiled in the 1890s by four members of the battery, including its commander, Maj. John F. Hart. This battery initially was part of the famed Hampton Legion. Upon the latter's dissolution the battery joined Hampton's Brigade (September 1862) and proved itself to be among the best of the horse artillery under Stuart. Certainly the collaborators thought it *was* the best! (After all, it was the last horse artillery in the field to surrender.) So, written a generation after the War, the history was slanted with that premise in mind. Some embellishments were made that did not stand the test of time. That said, it is still a valuable record of the battery's accomplishments.

One of the four collaborators on the history of Hart's Battery was Louis Sherfese, who compiled his "Reminiscences of A Color Bearer" not as a battery history but more as a series of personal *vignettes* of his life in camp and in the field with his "pards." As foreign born and the unit's color bearer, Sherfese had some unique perspectives from which to observe the action of the battery and battalion. He was absent from duty just four weeks in four years and many of his accounts flesh out what is sparsely told in the previous battery history. However, he just did not do enough of them and the reader can only wish that he had written more. Nonetheless his often lively, entertaining and informative style makes those he did record valuable for their detail.

Taken together these source materials add to our detailed understanding of Confederate army life in the saddle and as part of Stuart's Horse Artillery Battalion. They are worthy of a read by anyone interested in field artillery and the horse artillery during the Civil War.

Frederick C. Gaede

The Civil War in Arizona by Andrew Masich. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Oklahoma. 2006. Hardcover; 384 pp., index, maps, illus., and photos. \$32.95. ISBN 0-8061-3747-9

Overlooked by many Civil War enthusiasts are the scattered skirmishes that occurred between Rebels and Yanks in the arid reaches of the far west—a region now known as Arizona. Here is a book that focuses upon these westernmost battlefields and the “Column from California” that fought upon them. In the end, the California volunteers not only saved Arizona for the Union, but many of volunteers stayed after the expiration of their enlistments and, as merchants, miners, ranchers and civic leaders, were instrumental in turning the rugged territory into a productive region.

The 1st California Battalion of Cavalry and 1st California Regiment of Infantry were the vanguard of the “Column from California”—Union volunteers who marched to Arizona to confront the Rebel invasion. Although the 1st United States Dragoons changed its name in name as of August 1861, to the 1st U.S. Cavalry and departed the West Coast, many of its traditions reappeared in the 1st California Cavalry. This was not accidental. Brig. Gen. James H. Carleton, a former captain in the 1st Dragoons from Ft. Tejon, commanded the Column from California. Lt. Col. Benjamin “Grimes” Davis, another former Tejon Dragoon officer, first commanded the 1st California Cavalry. Although this gifted young officer would soon leave the battalion to ultimately command a cavalry brigade in the Army of the Potomac and General Carleton would be appointed to take command of the Department of New Mexico, these two former Dragoons helped shape, organize and train the regiment.

Three of the cavalry captains, William McCleave, Nathaniel Pishon and Emil Fritz, added to the battalion’s Dragoon flavor. Each had served with the Dragoons at Ft. Tejon. (Masich errs when he writes Nathaniel Pishon was Gen. Carleton’s brother in law. Pishon was married, as it were, to Maria Tuttle, the former wife of Sgt. Minor Tuttle.) Lt. James Barrett of the 1st California Cavalry had been a corporal in the 1st Dragoons. Although the author neglects to mention that the Irish-born Barrett had his term of Dragoon enlistment extended for having deserted in 1857 and Carleton did not want Barrett in the battalion, he gives a detailed account of Barrett’s death at a skirmish with Confederate rangers at Picacho Pass, Arizona, on 15 April 1862.

To arm, clothe and march large bodies of troops across the wasteland of the Southern Mojave and Sonora Deserts required the masterful skills of Carleton and his unheralded staff of quartermasters and ordnance officers. The author carefully brings this element to the attention of the reader—something other accounts of warfare generally overlook. It is here that the author makes some a number of minor mistakes.

For example, Masich adopts the erroneous notion, found in several books on western firearms, that the Dragoons left their Sharps carbines, Colt revolvers, and sabers behind in California when they headed to the East. Regimental Ordnance reports and muster rolls reveal that the Dragoons were fully armed when they shipped out for the East. Indeed, when Companies B and K embarked at New San Pedro on the steamer carrying them to Panama, their commanding officer refused to surrender the arms because there was no ordnance officer around to properly take possession of these weapons. More basic was the fact that troops were required to be armed to protect bullion shipments being sent east with them.

The author falls into the trap when he notes that the Dragoons were not as good soldiers as were the California volunteers. True, the Dragoons had their fair share of slackers, but twenty-four Tejon Dragoon enlisted men would serve as officers of volunteer forces during the war.

Others became doctors, businessmen, ranchers, and farmers in California.

The value of the book lies in the author's considerable research. His sources go far beyond the shop worn *Official Records of the War of Rebellion*. Masich has done a masterful job of digging into some of the numerous record groups of the Department of Pacific found at the National Archives along with his use of a wealth of unpublished manuscripts and letters. Several of the soldiers wrote to San Francisco newspapers to report and complain of the conditions in Arizona and the author takes pains to use these letters to look at the historical events from the view of the enlisted man. As an added bonus, the book contains over 170 pages of letters printed in the San Francisco *Daily Alta* during the war years.

One thing shines through on every page of this book--it was written by an author who was very excited about what he discovered during his years of research and anxious to share his findings with the reader. In short, despite some minor problems, the *Civil War in Arizona* is a real gem and deserves to be on the shelf of anybody seriously interested in the Civil War and the West.

Will Gorenfeld

Custer's Ghosts; Custer's Gold by Donald W. Moore. Upton and Sons, Publishers, El Segundo, CA. 2007. Hardcover; 190 pp., photos, maps. \$25.00. ISBN 978-0-912783-43-7

The Battle of the Little Big Horn has fostered more unsubstantiated stories of almost any battle in U.S. History. Many of these stories have turned from rumors to "facts" over the course of time. The author, a company member, gathered all of the stories that he could find and set out to determine which were true and which were rumor. The twisted road to discover the facts proved to be much more difficult than it was for the original yarn spinners, whose stories were quickly published in the various Western magazines. Mr. Moore attempted to track down the original authors where he could. Not surprisingly some have passed away, some refused to talk to him, while others were ordered not to talk. Some stories could not be proved or disproved, others forever disproved. For those interested in Custer myths this book will shed some light on some the tales surrounding the aftermath of the battle. I found the book to be interesting, and not bogged down by the re-hashing of the Little Bog Horn battle. Mr. Moore's writing is light and punctuated with humor that kept me interested. I suggest that a copy of this book be read by every editor of a magazine on the old west so that these stories stay buried on Custer Hill.

Mark Kasal

Uniforms, Arms, and Equipment, The U.S. Army on the Western Frontier 1880-1892, Volume I, Headgear, Clothing, and Footwear by Douglas C. McChristian. University of Oklahoma Press, 2007. Hardcover; 330 pp. ISBN 978-0-8061-3789-6; *Volume II Weapons and Accouterments*. Hardcover; 297 pp. ISBN 978-0-8061-3790-2 Two-volume set \$95.00.

Any serious student of U.S. military uniforms and accoutrements of the post-Civil War U.S. Army has either read an article by Mr. McChristian, has copies of his articles, or previous publications. Mr. McChristian, a Company member and retired National Parks Service researcher, has studied all aspects of the Army of the Indian Wars and has now written the most comprehensive study of its uniforms and equipment. Company member and National parks Service researcher, Jerome Greene, contributes his comments in the form of the forward in each volume. These two volumes are rich in detail in the initial design and adaptation of the equipment and also how the various changes identify the year and model, which are of

great use to the collector and researcher. Each item of the officers and enlisted men of the period is covered with the exception of personal gear such as footlockers, barracks and field equipage, and furniture. Hundreds of photos punctuate these volumes. The only complaint this reviewer has is the lack of color photos to give the student an additional perspective of the colors of the items that made up the typical soldier of the West.

Mark Kasal

The 2nd Royal Irish Rifles in the Great War by James W. Taylor. Four Courts Press, Dublin, Ireland. 2005. Hardcover; 362 pp., illus., biblio., \$55.00. ISBN 1-85182-952-0. Available from ISBS, 920 NE 58th Ave, Suite 300, Portland, OR 97213-3786.

While not a professional historian, James W. Taylor has masterfully documented the World War I service of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles (RIR). While his list of sources used is extensive, he relies heavily on the official war diaries and the voluminous written daily record of Chaplain (Major) Henry V. Gill, a middle-aged Jesuit who served as the battalion's chaplain for most of the war. Useful maps and a few photographs of key personnel are helpful. In the first half of his work, Taylor takes the reader from Mons through the Somme and Messines, culminating in the battalion's advance into Flanders. While only peripherally mentioned, the 2nd Battalion is of added interest in that several members saw duty in the 1916 Easter Rebellion and a significant degree of hostility developed between the commander, then an Englishman, and one of his senior Irish captains over the colonel's volunteering the 2nd for service in Belfast and Ulster.

The 2nd RIR was in fact only about 70 percent Irish. A number of officers and other ranks were English or Scottish, or born in the dominions of India or Canada. Among the Irish residents of Northern Ireland and what became the Republic of Ireland both groups were represented with those from the south ranging from 33 percent of the battalion's strength in 1914 to 13 percent in 1918. There was a sprinkling of "old soldiers" who had served in India and in South Africa years before. Many officers had prior enlisted service and were OTC graduates. Sandhurst graduates were few in number.

While the first half of the work is a rather typical operational narrative, though perhaps better written than many, Taylor provides detailed useful appendices on combat losses of officers and enlisted, decorations awarded, and one covering courts martial and disciplinary matters. In regard to courts martial, the author provides details of the trial for desertion of Rifleman Samuel McBride who was convicted and executed.

The second half of the book is devoted to biographical material on all of the battalion's officers and a representative sample of enlisted personnel from private to regimental sergeant major. The entries are a blend of data from war diaries, extracts from service records, educational details, medical records, civilian employment, published reminiscences about the men, pension records, and assorted excerpts from regimental files and newsletters. The reader gets a remarkably complete picture of many who served, sometimes including a listing of personal effects forwarded to next of kin!

The sociological portrait of the battalion that emerges reflects the diversity alluded to earlier. For example, we find Captain Hayward to have started his career as a boy musician while Captain. Kennedy was undoubtedly much appreciated for the provision in his will leaving "a considerable sum of money to the RIR Officers' Mess for sport, adventure, and parties." Lieutenant Drysdale, while noted as efficient and fit for retention, had ongoing treatment for syphilis, though his gonorrhea was cured. Alas, his retention recommendation was negated by his being cashiered for drunkenness. Then there is the curious case of an officer, blinded in combat and rehabilitated at St. Dunstan's, who was initially deemed unfit for service and then

designated by the Army medical bureaucracy as “fit for light duty” with nobody being able to identify what sort of light duty he might perform. Lastly is the case of Lieutenant Weir, a Military Cross recipient in the Easter Rebellion who sought a suitable non-Irish assignment after the war, saying to the War Office that “he had to live in London for a considerable time to avoid being threatened by the IRA.” Among “other ranks” is Rifleman David J. Bailey, an 2nd RIR trooper captured by the Germans. He joined the “Irish Brigade” while a POW, and was returned to Ireland in the company of the Irish nationalist Sir Roger Casement, being apprehended shortly after being landed by a German U-boat. Managing to avoid trial, he went on to complete his Army service and be cited for gallantry as a corporal in the Royal Engineers.

At \$55.00 this book is a fairly expensive acquisition, likely to be of interest only to MC&H readers with a passion for exploring British Army unit histories or more specifically, Irish units that served in World War I.

G. Alan Knight

Confederate Heroines—120 Southern Women Convicted by Union Military Justice by Thomas P. Lowry. Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, La., www.lsu.edu/supress 2006. Hardcover; 232 pp. \$29.95. ISBN 0-8071-2990-9.

Company member, writer, and physician Dr. Lowry’s latest contribution to enlightenment concerning the American Civil War-era communicates information, facts, and anecdotes in a scholarly and readable manner. His 1994 *The Story the Soldiers Wouldn't Tell: Sex in the Civil War* spotlighted a dark corner of military and social history. So does *Confederate Heroines*. Both books communicate obscure reality concerning public and private life during the American Civil War. The book contains an excellent bibliography plus a valuable two-page appendix that outlines procedures used to appoint and conduct commissions, courts-martial, and courts of inquiry during the Civil War.

Confederate Heroines, for chronology and readability, delineates contents by state and region with chapters such as “Missouri” and “North of the Line.” The book provides well-researched documentation concerning resistance to authority and violation of martial law by Southern Women -- by both apparent patriots and obvious brigands. It also reports the treatment of “ladies and others” by the Union Army military justice system as well as the process of arrest and legal action related to cases ranging from illegal activities to “wrong place-wrong time-bad luck-false accusation.”

During the American Civil War, in accordance with martial law, military commissions, not civil courts dealt with crimes against the Union Army and many perceived threats to national security in occupied territory. The commissions, usually three-member tribunals, often headed by senior military officers recovering from battlefield wounds, heard evidence and made decisions. Representative charges included “lurking” around military camps, smuggling letters to and from Rebel soldiers, encouraging desertion, and maintaining a “disorderly house” where liquor was sold to soldiers. Dr. Lowry and his wife, Beverly Ann Lowry, reviewed more than 80,000 trial transcripts -- “every Union court martial, military commission, and court of inquiry for the Civil War” -- at the National Archives as research for the book. He selected from that pool more than 100 interesting cases to cite in “*Confederate Heroines*.”

U.S. Army commission decision-making followed legal due process including testimony by witnesses and documentation of proceedings. An interesting point made by Dr. Lowry is that detectives employed by the U.S. Army were sometimes key witnesses. So, sometimes, were civilians with possible grudges against the accused, including former slaves and business

associates. In the Antebellum Cotton States, slaves were not permitted to testify against their owners in courts. But, as conquest of Southern States progressed, “contrabands” were accorded the right to do so. Commission decisions were automatically forwarded for review and ratification by higher command authority, and as a result, sometimes prison sentences were shortened in duration or conditions reduced in severity. Sometimes the final sentence was that the perpetrator be sent to Confederate-controlled territory with severe consequences if again captured within Union Army lines. The decision of the review authority was final -- except by appeal to, and decision by, the President of the United States. A few such cases are presented in the book.

Alongside case histories, *Confederate Heroines* provides readers an interesting premise; the American Civil War was a “breakthrough” experience for many women, especially women of the states in rebellion 1861–65. As the author notes in his preface to the book, “To be tried by a military court was to be taken seriously. Whether women were charged with spying, smuggling, carrying on illegal correspondence, or cutting Union telegraph lines, their actions were manifestations of empowerment. These women’s stories, told here for the first time, can be seen as evidence of the tectonic, if temporary, shifts in the dynamic between men and women(p. ix).”

Only a few of the Southern heroines and criminals given space in the book have names familiar to twenty-first century readers. However, several had their misadventures and misconduct vividly reported in nineteenth century newspapers. For illustration, well-known and thoroughly documented Confederate spy Rose O’Neill Greenhow garners a few lines in the book’s introduction while Hannah Martin, charged with disloyal conduct for spitting on the flag, is accorded a full page by Dr. Lowry. The author also notes sentences accorded people in the book such as, “Kate Beattie was arrested and placed in solitary confinement on bread and water. Her hands were locked in iron cuffs. A ten-pound iron ball on a ten-foot chain of inch and a half links was fastened so tightly to her ankle that her stockings were soon soaked in blood. Movement, even in her tiny cell, was close to impossible. After sixty days in her dark and airless dungeon, she was brought to trial, charged with smuggling gold lace and gray cloth, spying, and trying to help (Confederate Army) Major Wolf escape (p. 9).”

Thomas Lowry’s *Confederate Heroines* belongs in the libraries of readers interested in knowledge beyond only that concerning the Civil War’s major battles and famous generals. The book could and should also prove a catalyst for additional research concerning military justice and civilians arrested by Union and Confederate armed forces.

Fredric C. Lynch

Soldiers' Accoutrements of The British Army 1750–1900, by Pierre Turner. The Crowood Press, Ltd., Ramsbury, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 2HR. 2006. Hardcover; 93 pp., 85 full color illustrations. \$39.95US. ISBN-10 186126 883 1 ISBN-13 978 186126 883 9

When this reviewer sought to review this book, his thought was that it would be a book of text and photographs showing various pieces of equipment relative to the British soldier of the 1750–1900 era, a period of vast changes, incorporating muzzle loading flintlocks to breechloaders firing self contained ammunition. All too often, such studies are stuffy and have poor photographic depictions, which obscure the details of the objects described.

Such is not the case, with this book. While not a scholarly study; it is an artistic endeavor which will greatly aid those seeking more formal works. Famed illustrator Pierre Turner, according to the jacket notes, could not find such reference materials on the haversacks, water bottles, belts, slings and other accoutrements of the British soldier of this era.

It was, indeed, a pleasant surprise to find that it was not a textbook with indifferent illustrations, as feared. The very brief introduction sets the tone for what follows. Beginning on page 9, with, CANTEEN, TIN, c.1750, each color plate is a delight to behold, as are the next eighty four. A brief textual description is below each plate, often giving provenance, including

the museum or owner, and, as in the case of the three mess tins, names of individual soldiers and regiments, to whom the piece was issued.

Added to the value of the detailed plates, are scales, in inches, which will be of benefit to replica artisans, museum specialists, artists and others. Mr. Turner modestly states that this is, by no means, a complete study, and realizing this, asks to hear from anyone who has accouterments, documentation or further information, to contact him, in order to expand the knowledge of this less understood field of British militaria. For those who cherish the artwork of Osprey and similar publishers of historic military art, this book, from The Crowood Press, Ltd., should be of merit. While not the formal study some might desire, it certainly begins to fill in the void of an important era, one in which the British soldier campaigned from the Americas to Africa and Asia, changing forever the world, all the while carrying these tools of the soldier's trade.

Stephen B. McCartney

Finding Your Father's War: A Practical Guide to Researching and Understanding Service in the World War II U.S. Army. by Jonathan Gawne.. Casemate, 1016 Warrior Road, Drexel Hill, PA 19026. 2006. Softcover; 341 pp., color and b&w illus. \$24.95. ISBN 1-932033-14-9.

Every once in a while, there is such an obvious need for a book on a topic never covered before, that no one realized it .

Sort of a, "gee, if it had been a snake it woulda bit us" syndrome. Jonathan Gawne, fortunately, saw a need for a book on how to research the individual member of the U.S. Army in World War II and has produced this remarkable book. While at first it will appear to be a great value to the genealogist or family historian, especially as the Greatest Generation is now leaving us, the book's value goes beyond that need.

Beginning with an introduction, Gawne next gives the reader a war in a nutshell chapter, appropriately titled, "The War in a Nutshell." Here, the reader is given a briefing on such topics as how the soldier entered the Army, how he was trained, housed, and the like until shipment overseas, and hopefully, return to the U.S. and discharge. Gawne's Section One starts with an overview of the prewar Army and such topics as rank, combat branches, service branches, and the like, while working the reader through types of divisions and other units all the way down to company level. This should be useful for those unfamiliar with military organizations and rank. His listing of campaign participation is also quite useful as it gives the official names and dates for each theater.

Section 2, "Individual Records," delves into the records needed to document a G.I.'s Army life. The Army serial number system is explained and charted out. Dog tags, Military Occupation Specialties and the like are also covered.

From enlistment papers, pay documents, APOs to casualty records and discharge papers, a thorough grounding in the paper trail of a soldier can be obtained. Section 3 covers organizational records. Section 4 is devoted to actually finding the records, be they in Federal, state or other repositories. Especially helpful are the tips on National Archives research.

Section 5, "Tangible Evidence of Service" will be of value, not only to the novice family historian, but to the collector and historian. Here Gawne guides the reader on how to interpret uniforms, insignia, photographic evidence, medals, and the other clues veterans and historical evidence have left to unlock a soldier's service. His appendices are very valuable in that they show, in color, unit shoulder insignia, army air force wings, and shoulder patches. Vehicle markings are explained as part of a possible solution to unit identification. Photographs, charts and footnotes are very clear and useful.

While little is detailed on the Army Air Forces, due to its almost autonomous existence, basic information can be found in the book. A final appendix details the campaigns in more detail than the earlier remarks. All in all, this book will be of use to the military historian and the militaria collector. Jonathan Gawne and Casemate are to be congratulated for this fine guide. Its usefulness will only grow. Additionally, the author has created a website, with the same title, with errata and further information. Both book and website are highly recommended.

Stephen B. McCartney

A Collector's Guide to Military Rifle Assembly and Reassembly, by Stuart C. Mowbray & Joe Puleo. Mowbray Publishing, 54 East School Street, Woonsocket, RI 02895, 2007. Softcover; 304 pp., color and b&w illus. \$39.99. ISBN: 1-931464-32-4.

There are assembly and reassembly books. Then, there is this one. For those who are used to the standard fare of diagrams and fuzzy, dark photographs, this book will be a pleasure and a surprise. Touted as a "Step-by-step color breakdown of all your your favorite surplus and vintage rifles!", the book's simple but effective format and layout does just that.

The brief introduction states the purpose of the book. The authors state that the beauty, purpose, and design of these rifles can be appreciated by the assembly and reassembly of these international pieces of history. Mowbray and Puleo note that the arms are taken apart only so far. Often, as the point out, there is no need to remove, say, a rear sight or barrel band screw, when only armorers, and not the common soldiers in the field, were expected to do so. They also give the reasoning as to which arms (all in military configuration and not sporterized, by the way) were chosen for this endeavor.

And what an endeavor! Starting with the French M1866 Chassepot, (but why no M1866 Springfield?) the smorgasbord of military long arms continues on through familiar (and some not so familiar) rifles. Each highlighted rifle begins its step-by-step coverage with a safety warning. The reader is then taken through the steps necessary to takedown the rifle to its field stripped components. Bolt action weapons have a separate page devoted to the bolt. Each step of the disassembly is shown with a photograph and easy to follow text. As the authors point out, not every version of a rifle is shown, due to similarities. Minor changes need not concern the average person and, as the authors state, just the variations on the Model 1898 Mauser's many international versions can be quite numerous, without effecting its operations and disassembling.

As to the color photographs-superb! Each of the forty-nine rifles shown have clear close-ups of the parts and procedures. The studio close-ups of the actions, which opens each segment on the highlighted rifle are artistically laid out.

This is not a history book. It is one though that deals with historic artifacts (even if the semiautomatic AK-47 is included). One will not find historic tidbits within its covers. What one does find is a easy to use, concise book of instructions in a well thought out artistic format. Whether one is a collector, shooter, curator, or technological historian, Mowbray's and Puleo's book will stand out as a "must have" kind of book.

Stephen B. McCartney

Complete Guide to United States Military Shotguns, by Bruce N. Canfield. Mowbray Publishers, Inc., 54 East School Street. . Woonsocket, RI 02895. Hardcover; 312 pp., b&w illus. \$49.99. ISBN: 1-931464-28-6.

For years, military shotguns have been a neglected part of American martial arms collecting. Bruce Canfield has ended that desert climate of knowledge. Beginning with his pioneering, *Collector's Guide to U.S. Shotguns*, a 1992 study, Canfield states that he was not satisfied with the then current research available, at that time. Awaiting someone else to further the field of martial shotguns, he decided that he was the one to fill the void.

That he succeeded is obvious.

First, in too many books on firearms, poor photographs and illustrations hamper the understanding of the arms described, here, there is no such problem. Outstanding photographs, both in showing the weapons described, and in actual use, are clear and add greatly to the text. Indeed, so up to date are some of the photographs, from the war on terror, that the faces of America's fighting men are blacked out, for security reasons, reminiscent of WWII censors blotting out unit identifications.

The tables, charts, and sidebars, too, are outstanding and quite helpful. For those familiar with other Canfield tomes, this should not come as a surprise. His tables listing serial numbers, by maker and model, of shotguns listed in government reports, lists, and other documents are invaluable.

As for the text, it is clear and very readable. Technical data may bore some, while others will welcome it. Interspersed in the chapters, beginning with the Indian Wars use of the non-combat "forager shotgun" of 1881, through chapters devoted to the Philippine Insurrection, World War I, between the wars, World War II, etc., to the present use in the Middle East, are accounts of how and why the shotgun has remained an important arm for the American military. While most are famous names and models of American manufactures, some surprising models, even obscure ones, are shown, whether they were acquired for combat or stateside training.

Accoutrement collectors will also be pleased with Canfield's endeavors. A plethora of belts, pouches and slings, are highlighted. Bayonet collectors will also savor the information on shotgun affiliated blades. Ammunition collectors have not been let down either, with a goodly amount of text and photographs dedicated to this subject.

As Canfield states in his introduction, he has been blamed, since his 1992 softbound study, for the tremendous increase in martial shotgun prices and interest, this new book will surely fan the flames. This reviewer, while not a martial shotgun collector (having waited too long after 1992!), can only hope and dream of finding a bargain, somewhere, while using this book as a guide. Already, it should be considered a classic.

Stephen B. McCartney

Taught to Kill: An American Boy's War From The Ardennes to Berlin, by John B. Babcock, Foreword by Rick Atkinson. Potomac Books, Inc. Washington, D.C., 2007. Softcover; 249 pp., photographs. \$18.95. ISBN 1-57488-799-8 (hardcover). ISBN 978-57488-800-3 (paperback).

There are war stories and then, there are war memoirs. This account, *Taught to Kill*, falls into the latter category. In a no-holds-barred, gripping account of what it was like to be a World War II infantryman, Babcock takes the reader through his war and his survival in

the European Theater of Operations, as a member of the 78th Infantry Division. Beginning with an adequate foreword by Rick Atkinson, the author's introduction takes him from the present back to how he came to write his book, using notes, letters home, and a typescript account written on a German typewriter, at the end of the end of the war while he was a first sergeant. He freely admits to fictional names and to calling his unit, "Company A." After reading some of his experiences of cowardice, fragging, and other conduct, it will seem, to many readers, justifiable.

As a mortarman, Babcock joins the ranks of other combatants who have left accounts of their experiences with that weapon, notably E.B. Sledge's *With the Old Breed at Pelelieu and Okinawa*, and John Bond's, *Return to Cassino*. His assessment of the 60mm mortar and how close the crews were to the so-called frontline is, to use an understatement, enlightening. very close, too often too close, as direct fire casualties amongst his comrades continued throughout combat. Called up in 1943, from the Voluntary Enlisted Reserve and sent to basic training (not described in the book), Babcock was assigned to the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP), until that program was cancelled in 1944, due to the overwhelming need for infantry replacements in all war zones. Along with Babcock and other ASTP members, disgruntled aviation cadets, whose training ended due to the need for infantrymen, misfits and whoever else the army could dredge up, were thrown together to fill the ranks. This little known "blending" of American youth created a flammable training period, well described by

by the author. Babcock, however, does call the .3Q-06 Model 1917 Enfield, used in stateside training, the "Model 1911 Enfield", a pardonable lapse in an otherwise well written book.

Many of the chapters are often vignettes built around a theme. As Babcock mentioned, dates and sequence of events grow misty due to the repetition of combat and time. A word of warning is due. A brief chapter is devoted to that most nasty of words and it is used in dialogue throughout the book. Babcock uses that word to show how GIs spoke and how commonplace it was used, almost without thought; indeed, without thought. Also, in several places, that meanest and most vile of racial epithets is used, but again, to show how some common soldiers of that racist world thought and spoke and is not used to denigrate the outstanding contributions of African Americans, then or now.

This reviewer cannot help comparing his account to that of John D. Billings' 1888 Civil War classic, *Hardtack and Coffee*. Babcock's assessment of infantry small arms, uniforms, how equipment, and gear was carried and his opinions of food, shelter, and other factors all echo that of Billings. For instance, nitro-starch, especially useful for blowing holes in the frozen ground of the Huerten Forest and during the Bulge, was frequently carried strapped to the handles of the men's entrenching tools. The newly issued poncho was more practical to soldiers than the traditional bulky overcoat.

Surprisingly, Babcock greatly admired the cooks. These intrepid individuals in his unit made frequent forays into danger to deliver hot meals, a great morale booster. At other times, K-rations were the norm, but for Babcock, the cooks earned his respect. One comrade, captured and forced to broadcast pro-German propaganda over the front lines, let his comrades know that he was being fed his "favorite," stewed meat and gravy on bread, a way of telling the truth, as he truly hated the GI standard, creamed beef on toast. This way of passing on the truth was humorously appreciated and admired by the GIs who heard the loudspeaker rendition.

The gore of battle, both deaths and woundings, are graphic, as the author does not hold back. He wants the reader to try to comprehend what war is. Wounded by friendly fire, he refused evacuation, partly to conceal his injury from his parents: his mother having lost a brother in WWI.

This book is destined to be a classic of World War II memoirs. It is gritty, down to earth and full of details about the weapons, equipment, uniforms and attitudes found in one 1944–1945 American infantryman in Europe.

Stephen B. McCartney

The Officer Corps of Custer's Seventh Cavalry 1866–1876, by James B. Klokner. Schiffer Publishing, 4880 Lower Valley Road, Atglen, PA 19310. Hardcover; 128 pp., illus. \$59.95. ISBN: 978-0-7643-2660-8.

The Seventh U.S. Cavalry is without doubt the most exhaustively researched regiment active during the western Indian campaigns. Rather than being credited with its victories, paradoxically, the Seventh is best known for its singular defeat at the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Proof of that is reflected in James B. Klokner's new reference book detailing the biographies of the officers appointed to the regiment during the first decade after its formation.

Klokner has consulted a wide array of sources to construct his biographical sketches. Building upon earlier treatments, notably John Carroll's pioneer work, *They Rode With Custer* (1987), followed by Ron Nichols' *Men With Custer* (2000), Klokner has gone considerably further by delving into primary sources including the Appointment, Commission, and Personal Files, and the Pension records housed at the National Archives. Additionally, he has rolled in information from other published sources such as Francis B. Heitman's *Historical Register and Dictionary* and George W. Cullum's *Biographical Register of the Officers and Graduates of the U.S. Military Academy*. The author has also tapped numerous other resources including personal memoirs, Civil War unit histories, obituaries, census records, periodicals, and secondary historical works making this the premier reference of its type. Moreover, the book is superbly illustrated with dozens of photographs, including portraits of nearly all of the officers, many of them rare images from private collections.

This work also offers several other bonuses, including a well-written operational history of the Seventh Cavalry during the years 1866–1876 to provide a useful context for the service of the various officers. That section is further enhanced with several excellent maps showing the regiment's stations and tracing its movements during the Hancock, Sully, and 1876 Sioux Campaigns. Not to be overlooked are the appendixes at the back of the book which contain much supplementary information, including brief sketches of the various frontier forts that were home to the Seventh during its early frontier service.

Some readers will lament that the author treated only the officers assigned to the regiment up to 25 June 1876, rather than including all of those who served with the Seventh Cavalry through the Battle of Wounded Knee (1890), the recognized termination of the Indian Wars. Nevertheless, buffs and military historians alike will find this a valuable research tool combining a wealth of information on Seventh Cavalry officers in a single well-presented source. Klokner's work is a significant contribution that should be on the shelf of anyone interested in the army on the western frontier.

Douglas C. McChristian

The Great War, by Field Marshal von Hindenburg, edited by Charles Messenger. Greenhill Books, 1 Russell Gardens, London NW11 9NN. 2006. Hardcover, 236 pages, 5 maps. ISBN-13: 978-185367-704-5.

Field Marshal Paul von Hindenburg's memoirs were first published in 1920. Completed less than a year after the defeat and destruction of his country and his army, they have a "first impression" freshness. Chances are if you have read much about the First World War your view of the conflict is Anglo-centric. The war was generally in the Somme, Paschendaele, Belleau Wood and the Argonne. Titanic battles against the Germans. All else was a sideshow. The British held out, the Americans arrived and won it. The French were along for the ride especially after the army mutinies of 1917.

Hindenburg gives us the other, generally missing, viewpoint. He rated the French as the German's most formidable enemy. The "English" (he means British and Commonwealth forces) were "stubborn" but clumsy. The French have "skillful artillery" while the Americans are strong but clumsy and "unskillful". He seemed to still be unaware of the large scale mutiny of the French Army or their vulnerability after mid-1917. We also get von Hindenburg's rationale for opening unrestricted submarine warfare, a decision that threw the "strong but unskillful" American Army in the balance. He touches on, but gives us little understanding, of the strategic calculus in his and particularly Ludendorff's assumption of greater and greater power even in domestic affairs. There are some unexpected twists as well. The "Allies" are Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria and the Ottomans.

What is missing is von Hindenburg's understanding of the desperate and irrevocable implication of allowing an untested theory, unrestricted submarine warfare, to decide the war. In the tactically successful spring 1918 offensives, von Hindenburg apparently allowed Ludendorff to select the location of this last gasp roll of the dice. The sector chosen, while attractive from an operational perspective, was not a sector that could lead to decisive, war-winning results. In short, von Hindenburg may have been an excellent operational commander, but made, or permitted Ludendorff to make, a series of strategic blunders that cost Germany the war. Von Hindenburg seems to have little appreciation of intelligence, relying on his Chief of Staff's intuition to drive events. The weakness of the French, the strength of the Americans, the vulnerability of the Russians and Italians, the fragile and every-weakening nature of his own allies seem never to have been adequately understood.

Charles Messenger has done an excellent job editing the memoirs and giving us a superb introduction. This is a "must read" for any serious student of warfare or of World War I.

Charles D. McFetridge, COL, USA (R)

Pantheon de la Guerre: Reconfiguring a Panorama of the Great War by Mark Levitch. University of Missouri Press, Columbia, MO. 2006. 2008 pp., photos, notes, biblio., index. \$49.95. ISBN 978-0-8262-1678-6.

Mark Levitch has produced a truly fascinating study of what was, for many years the world's largest painting. The Pantheon de la Guerre, was conceived in the first months of World War One, and completed just prior to the Armistice of 11 November 1918. It was at once a piece of propaganda, commemoration, and art, and Levitch examines each of its many intentions and meanings at length. It was in its time considered to be, or at least advertised as, one of the newest wonders of the world. Housed in its own building in Paris, it was an amazing 402 feet on circumference, and 45 feet high. It contained somewhere on the order of 5,000 individual portraits; soldiers, generals, statesmen, politicians, allegorical figures and even some of the artists themselves. And if the many souvenir brochures, postcards and ephemera concerning the Pantheon which have survived are a guide, it was a "must see" attraction for veterans of all the Allied nations.

Levitch examines the history and meaning of The Pantheon de la Guerre in chronological order. His first three chapters are devoted to The Pantheon's time in France from 1914–1927.

The opening chapter deals with the realization, the actual production, construction and creation of the painting proper. This is followed by a critical look at the actual content and composition of the work, and this is among the longest and most fascinating chapters in the book. The third chapter, entitled French Reception, examines the popular and critical reaction to The Pantheon in France.

The remaining three chapters in the book deal with the history of The Pantheon in America, a story no less intriguing than the paintings initial creation. These chapters cover its road trip as an attraction between 1927-1940, donation to the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri after languishing in storage for years, and its fragmentation and reincorporation in murals in the Liberty Memorial by Daniel MacMorris. A final chapter examines the painting in its presumably final form, fragmented, cut and pasted, and incorporated in MacMorris' work. Levitch at once contends that MacMorris both "saved destroyed" the Pantheon, and "made it a modernist document" in that fragmentation is in his view, an essentially modern "trope". This final chapter is deeply philosophical, and aimed at the academic audience of art critics and aesthetes. For the more general reader much of this may seem a bit overblown.

Pantheon de la Guerre will undoubtedly stand as the definitive study of this most unusual painting, and its equally unusual history for years to come. Anyone who has seen the painting in its current state, or has wondered about it in its original form, having examined the period postcards and brochures of its earlier iterations, will appreciate Mark Levitch's methodical research and wonderfully illustrated examination.

Stephen C. McGeorge, Major, US Army (Ret)

Portrait of War: the U.S. Army's First Combat Artists and the Doughboys' Experience in WWI, by Peter Krass. John Wiley and Sons Inc., Hoboken, N.J. 2007. 342 pp., Photos, notes, biblio., index. \$30.00. ISBN 0-471-67023-5.

While there are already some very good studies in print on the U.S. Army's combat artists in the AEF, Krass' work is the first to deal with all eight of the artists, as a group. As such it is a noteworthy addition to the history of the first official Army artists.

Portrait of War draws on the letters, diaries, memoirs, official Army correspondence, and the actual art produced by "the AEF eight" to examine both their own reaction to their mission, and the Army's view and aims for its art program. All the artists were accomplished illustrators and craftsmen, and while of varying temperament, were men with sensitive creative natures. All were equally aware of how special their mission as official artists was. Commissioned as Captains of Engineers they were fish out of water, as none, but J. Andre Smith, had any military training or experience. They were as a group, far more at ease in the studio than skirting the edge of active battlefields to sketch and gain impressions needed to produce their art.

Krass' work is especially good in examining the artist's reactions to criticism of their work. The Army General Staff in Washington seems to have envisioned them producing "inspirational" work which could be of use in supporting the war effort. The artists themselves, and the majority of GHQ AEF staff in Chaumont, France, in particular section G2 (Intelligence) which de facto managed their efforts, supported the realistic and documentary nature of their work. Krass also brings out the strong egos and personalities of the eight, which lead to a fair degree of competition amongst them, and not, as one might assume, any easy going collegiality.

The complete works of these eight artists totaled 507 pieces. *Portrait of War* reproduces, a number of these, but most unfortunately only in small scale and only in black and white. The only color reproduction of any of the art in this body of work is the book dust jacket which

prominently uses Harvey Dunn's "The Engineer" on the front cover and another Dunn work, much smaller, on the back. This is unfortunate as there has yet to be a book which comes close to reproducing anything near the complete collective output of the AEF's artists.

Author Krass is neither an historian nor an art critic, but his work does a fairly credible job of melding these two disciplines. His discussion of the work of the artists is held together in the greater framework of the history AEF combat operations, and is supported by selected maps. His insight into the artists themselves, and their reactions, both personal and artistic, to what they observed is exceptional. Krass argues that Harvey Dunn, probably the best known and most popular of the eight, produced only some 30 completed works, and seems to have been drained in the process. Over time his works became more and more somber, though still emotional. In his subsequent career Dunn became far more an art teacher and mentor, than a working illustrator, fixated on the process of transforming and capturing experience in art.

For those with an interest in "official" war art, and in particular America's first experience with an "official" Army Art program in 1918, *Portrait of War* belongs on the shelf.

Stephen C. McGeorge, Major, US Army (Ret)

In the Service of the Kaiser: Uniforms and Equipment of the World War I German Soldier as Painted by Soldier-Artist Friedrich Ludwig Scharf_ by Charles Woolley Schiffer Military History, Atglen, PA 2004. Hardcover, illustrations, photos. \$49.95. ISBN 0-7643-1981-7.

The German Army in the First World War 1914-1918 by Jurgen Kraus, Verlag Militaria, Edition Stefan Rest, Vienna, Austria 2004. 630pp profusely illustrated in color and B/W photos. 99Euros. ISBN 3-9501642-6X.

While both these works certainly stand alone well enough, in tandem they offer an incomparable view of German Army uniforms and equipment in WWI.

In the Service of The Kaiser... offers selected artwork of Friedrich Ludwig Scharf which portrays the German soldier in WWI. Scharf himself served in the German army during the period and continued throughout his life to create uniform studies of German soldiers. Author Woolley selected all of Scharf's known works on the WWI period for inclusion in the book and they are reproduced beautifully. Also included are reproductions from one of Scharf's sketchbooks, mostly studies of cavalry soldiers rendered in pen and ink and watercolors.

Ninety two plates from Scharf's "Zweierlei Tuch" ("Two kinds of Cloth") series are reproduced. These were done in the linoleum block print medium, giving them a caricature quality overall, while still retaining details of cut, and color, as well as uniform and equipment styles. Scharf chose throughout his body of work, to portray his subjects as they would have appeared in daily life in garrison or the trenches. In common with other soldier-artists it is clear he knew soldier life as it really was, and portrayed neither parade ground splendor nor desperate combat scenes. Seven water colors from his "Buntes Tuch" ("Colorful Cloth") series are also reproduced; the water color medium clearly allowed for greater detail and realism in his illustrations, but still permitted realistic and living color portrayals of his subjects.

While Scarf served on the Eastern front, he portrays in his drawings the broad variety of German uniforms of the period including the "tropical" uniforms worn in China and Africa. He also displays the amazing variety of German Army uniforms encountered in Europe. In a war we are familiar viewing through black and white photography the splendor of full color

renderings both amazes and refreshes. Charles Woolley has added brief explanatory notes to each plate identifying the unit, locations and details in each plate.

Finally it must be noted this book owes a tremendous debt to Founder Anne S. K. Brown and the collection of military art which bears her name. The Brown Collection took years to amass a complete collection of Scharf's work at considerable effort and expense, and they are shared with readers here.

In his *The German Army in the First World War 1914-1918* Jurgen Kraus offers a comprehensive look at the uniforms of the German Army of 1914-1918. The book is illustrated with gorgeous color photographs of German uniforms of this period, drawn predominantly from the collections of the Bayerisches Armeemuseum in Ingolstadt and the Wehrgechichliches Museum in Rastatt. Many of the illustrated pieces are in fact "sealed samples" of the items in question preserved initially by the Prussian and Bavarian War Ministries. Interspersed with color images of these museum pieces are period photographs of the items in actual use. Excerpts from period uniform plates, catalogs, and pattern books further illustrate a myriad variety of uniform pieces. Brief sections succinctly discuss adoption of the field grey uniform and its production and inspection.

The body of this work remains a magnificent view of the sheer variety of uniforms used by the Kaiser's army. Headgear, helmets, uniforms, and basic field equipment such as belts, ammunition pouches, haversacks, gas masks, and the like are all beautifully illustrated in color photos, many with close up detail shots showing markings and construction details, and again period images are often included. From railway troops to chevaulegers, to chaplains to aviators there is a seemingly endless cascade of often comic opera looking uniform variations. All are wonderfully illustrated. Each topical section opens with a brief essay on the particular arm or service and its associated uniform. Brief captions then accompany the illustrations.

This is a work of incredible breadth, and will no doubt remain the standard comprehensive work on the topic for decades to come. If there is any room for criticism it must be that the broad scope of the work prevented in depth study of certain uniform and equipment elements. Specifically the chapter entitled Equipment and Accessories is rather brief and basic. Similarly the section dealing with the distinctive "Coal Scuttle" *stahlhelm* barely scratches the surface. The one real omission noted is failure to illustrate any example of the woolen puttees; while the text clearly states they were ever more commonly used as the war progressed, no actual examples are shown. Considering the magisterial scope of Kraus' book such criticism is barely mentionable. For collectors and students of German uniforms (used in its broadest sense)) in their near infinite variety in the period 1914–1918 this book is the indispensable reference.

Maj. Stephen C. McGeorge USA (Ret)

Meuse-Argonne Diary: a Division Commander in World War I by William M. Wright, edited with an Introduction by Robert H. Ferrell. University of Missouri Press, Columbia, Mo. 2004. hardcover 174pp, photos, maps, \$29.95 ISBN: 0-8262-1527-0

Professor Ferrell, a noted Harry S Truman and AEF scholar has done a great service to students of the AEF in editing the wartime diary of Maj. Gen. William M. Wright. Wright commanded the 89th Division in its two major engagements, the battles of St. Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne, in which the division garnered an outstanding record of combat accomplishments. Ferrell asserts the 89th should be counted as one of the four best divisions

in the AEF, (which is in itself an endlessly arguable assertion) and implicitly attributes this in some degree to Wright's leadership.

While many division commanders in the AEF produced memoirs after the war, it seems General Wright's is the only detailed personal diary known to exist. For this reason alone its publication is a real milestone, as it offers a unique insight into the day to day business of running an American division in World War I. Professor Ferrell's editorial talents flesh out this record with copious footnotes which add context and detail as to what operations were under way and who General Wright dealt with in the course of his duties. The notes also serve as a cross reference of Wrights account with other memoirs and reminiscences, particularly the extensive memoir of Colonel Babcock who commanded the 354th Infantry Regiment. In addition Ferrell has divided Wrights diary entries into logical chapters, opening each with his own succinct précis of the situation and the ongoing operations being undertaken by the AEF. This is helpful especially for general readers without a deep background in the big picture of the progress of American arms in World War I.

The photos selected for the book are excellent, a very nice mix of images of 89th Division troops in action, its key staff and commanders. The maps however are next to useless. Neither the road net or relief appear on them, nor do all of the many "Bois" or patches of woods which were often key terrain as objectives or points of orientation for commanders depicted. These map features are essential to understanding the division's operations, and the shame is greater in that really good maps which show these elements are readily available. This remains a major shortcoming of this book, especially for more casual readers unfamiliar with AEF actions at St. Mihiel and in the Meuse-Argonne.

A final, and perhaps minor quibble is the lack of more biographical information on Wright and his key staff. While this may be an editorial and stylistic call, I believe more background on the key players could only have added to usefulness of this work.

Despite poor maps, Professor Ferrell has provided an excellent, in fact unique look at divisional level command in the AEF. No serious student of the AEF can afford to let this book go unread.

Maj. Stephen C. McGeorge USA (Ret)

The Day it Rained Militia: Huck's Defeat and the Revolution in the South Carolina Backcountry, May–July 1780, by Michael C. Scoggins. The History Press, 18 Percy St., Charleston, S.C., 29403. 2005. Softbound; 317 pp., 12 maps, illus., 6 appendices, and index. \$34.99. ISBN: 1-59629-015-3.

Review by

I love a good quote, and the title of Michael Scoggins' new work paraphrases another in a long line of soon regretted statements by military men: "We have driven the [Continental] Regulars out of the country, and I swear that even if it rained militia from the Heavens, I would not value them." Capt. Christian Huck, British Legion dragoons, uttered these words on the morning of the Battle of Williamson's Plantation, 12 July 1780, also the day of his death. But Mr. Scoggins' new work is not merely a vehicle for nicely turned, though unfortunate, phrases; in fact there is something for anyone with an interest in American history, be it military or otherwise.

At the center of *The Day it Rained Militia* is the author's contention that the action at Williamson's Plantation, popularly known as Huck's Defeat, was a major catalyst in rousing the Carolinas' Whig militia to action, giving lie to the invincibility of British light cavalry, and setting the stage for later victories at King's Mountain and Cowpens. The brief battle was fought between a force of approximately 135 Whig militia, and about 115 troops under

Captain Huck, comprising detachments from the British Legion dragoons, New York Volunteers, and Loyalist militia. In the overall scheme of the War for American Independence Williamson's Plantation was a minor affair, but as students of that war well know, some of the smallest actions disproportionately influenced larger events.

Mr. Scoggins begins his narrative with an excellent explanation of the geographical setting and the socio-political background of South Carolina backcountry settlement. Revolutionary events are also set in context with prewar occurrences such as the North/South Carolina border dispute, 1760–61 Cherokee war, and the 1771 Regulator-Moderator conflict. The role of political, business, military, and religious leaders is set out, and the influence of various religious sects and congregations emphasized. Early on in the book the formation of militia regiments, their leaders' and members' local connections and previous military experience, followed by the arrangement of South Carolina's Continental regiments, gives a solid footing for understanding the participants and events of 1780. Along the way the reader is introduced to many who later took part in Huck's Defeat, commanders and common soldiers, women and African-Americans, with many insights into individual characters and experiences. To my mind, one of the added benefits of the book is the author's solid, sufficiently detailed, overview of military and political events in South Carolina from 1775 to spring 1780. For those whose specific interest and knowledge revolves around the war in the north, the explanation of these occurrences, including many minor ones, adds immeasurably to the value of the work.

The narrative gains intensity with the second chapter, where events begin to be recounted on an almost daily basis, each day's happenings being grouped under a date heading. The period from 12 May to 30 July 1780 are dealt with in this manner, and it is here that *The Day it Rained Militia* moves further into the realm of micro-history, a form more often used for the American Civil War and other modern conflicts; it is quite satisfying to see this applied to an incident in our founding war.

Throughout the narrative, and particularly in the events leading up to and immediately following the Williamson's Plantation action, the author nicely interweaves primary accounts, memoirs, veterans' pension depositions, nineteenth century participant interviews, and even incorporates family and community oral history in an effort to resolve conflicting accounts or fill informational gaps.

Along the way the author tells of military decisions and troop movements, constantly reminding the reader of the importance influence logistics had on any and all considerations and actions, at the base of which was simply finding food enough for both men and animals, while denying the same to the enemy. And there are little gems scattered throughout the narrative, giving insights on many aspects of campaigning and soldier life. Here are two: (page 92), "Joseph McJunkin recalled the men referred to the camp at Clem's Branch as 'Poor Hill' or 'Starved Valley' ... Sumpter's men depended greatly on the generosity of the North Carolinians during these lean times: 'When we went over into North Carolina to half buy & half beg provisions ... We got some barley meal, & made batter – we put it into a kind of crock – dug a hole in the ground, set the crock in it, and covered it over with hot ashes and embers – cooked it without salt, beef or bacon, and it tasted mighty sweet.'"; and (p. 132) a pithy aphorism by Lt. Gen. Charles, Earl Cornwallis to Lt. Col. Francis, Lord Rawdon, 15 July 1780, "Cavalry acts chiefly upon the Nerves, & if ever it loses its terror it loses its greatest force," followed by advice: "let me conjure you to take care of the Cavalry & to give the most positive orders against small Detachments; they are always dangerous, especially under ignorant & careless officers ..."

Six appendices present transcriptions of participants' nineteenth century pension applications, British commanders' correspondence for June and July 1780, a discussion of the battlefield's location as well as numbers involved in the action, Christian Huck's biography, and a list of men known to have been present at Huck's Defeat. The text is supplemented by four printed maps

and seven mid to late nineteenth century localized area sketches drawn by inhabitants who knew participants, and, in one case, copied from a veteran's hand-drawn map. The work also contains portraits of commanders of both sides, several photographic reproductions of original letters and newspaper articles, plus a full color section with twenty-eight photographs from a reenactment at Historic Brattonsville. The latter are a bit uneven in their worth, but do give an idea of how Crown and Whig forces were clothed in the summer of 1780, and add some immediacy to the subject.

Given their value in supplementing the narrative it is unfortunate the work contains no listing of maps and illustrations. Here then is a paginated list to rectify that omission:

18 Carolina backcountry from 1787 William Faden map.
22 1772 survey South Carolina district map
24 1775–76 SC election district map
24 1778 SC election district map
28 (same as page 18)
42 Lord Cornwallis
47 Lord Rawdon
48 British fort at Rocky Mount (hand-drawn map, 1871)
53 Lower Rocky Creek area (hand-drawn map, 1873)
60 Richard Winn
80 Thomas Sumter
94 Catawba Indian land (hand-drawn map, 1872)
106 British dragoon threatening Martha Bratton
Following page 159 (color plates):
Uniforms of Third South Carolina Regiment
Banastre Tarleton
John Adair
Reenactment photos
210–212 Four Huck's Defeat battlefield maps (hand-drawn, 1857, 1876)

Knowing the reputation and worth of the modern day Historic Brattonsville site, I was interested to see that the location of the Huck's Defeat/Williamson's Plantation battlefield has been a point of contention, and has yet to be accurately identified. Site Director Charles LeCount notes that in 2001 the battlefield was thought to be about three quarters of a mile north of the current visitor center, an historic marker having been erected that year to commemorate the site (near the 1905 DAR battle monument). Further research by Mr. Scoggins solidly indicates the battle site is actually positioned about 150 yards directly behind the Brattonsville visitor center, but funds have yet to be found for archaeological verification

All in all, I cannot support or deny Michael Scoggins' thesis that Huck's Defeat played a seminal role in later military actions, leaving that decision to other readers. I can assert that the book's major contributions lay in recounting little known but crucial events in the Revolutionary South and bringing our forbears, Whig and Loyalist alike, to life. Anyone with an interest in our founding war, or wishing to learn more of events leading up to our Revolution's culminating campaign, will be well rewarded with this book.

For those wishing to visit, Historic Brattonsville is located at 1444 Brattonsville Rd., McConnells, SC 29726.

John U. Rees

Seizing Destiny, The Relentless Expansion of American Territory. Richard Kluger. Vintage Books, NY. 2007. Softcover; 649 pp., maps, bibliographic notes, index. \$17.95. ISBN: 978-0-375-71298-2.

During the nineteenth century the United States drove five foreign powers from what would become its soil, pushed indigenous people out of its way of expansion, linked the oceans with roads, canals, rails and wires, and suppressed a rebellion. It also acquired overseas territory to protect commerce and thwart the covetousness of other powers. What the Americans could not buy, they took.

Richard Kluger tells this story, but begins well in advance of the founding of the Great Republic. He describes how from the beginning, those who conquered what is now the United States were possessed with a desire to own the land. He contrasts the differences between the competing colonial powers in North America and demonstrates why the spawn of perfidious Albion and the degenerate sons of Washington would spread their domain from the Atlantic to the Pacific. This is not a chronicle of military campaigns or stories of the travails of the pioneers, however. The core of the narrative is built up around the philosophic, diplomatic and financial motives that impelled the acquisition of American territory. Rest assured the now obligatory bromides about grasping, racist white men are in this book as is the mandatory comparison between then and now. Notwithstanding, *Seizing Destiny* is an illuminating account of our expansion and the efforts of the Old World powers to stop it.

Richard Kluger is a recipient of the Pulitzer Prize and the author of three histories and author and coauthor of eight novels.

This work is highly recommended for the student of military affairs who seeks background and general readers of American history.

James B. Ronan II

Empires of the Sea, The Siege of Malta, the Battle of Lepanto and the Contest for the Center of the World. Roger Crowley. Random House, NY, 2008. Hardcover; 336 pp., illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$30.00. ISBN:978-1-4000-6624-7.

Cervantes on his galley sets the sword back in the sheath

(Don John of Austria rides homeward with a wreath.)

And he sees across a weary land a straggling road in Spain,

Up which a lean and foolish knight for ever rides in vain,

And he smiles, but not as Sultans smile, and settles back the blade....

(But Don John of Austria rides home from the Crusade.)

G.K. Chesterton, *Lepanto*, 140

The Muslim lands around the Mediterranean were once Christian. Their conquest by Islam, starting in the seventh century set off a series of confrontations between Christian Europe and the Muslim world that has lasted to this day. Islam penetrated France in the eighth Century, extinguished the Byzantine Empire in the fifteenth and as the sons of the Prophet penetrated Europe, Vienna was besieged in the seventeenth century. In the 1500s Mediterranean Sea became of sea of death, inhabited by corsairs and seemed destined to fall into the hands of the Sultan. Europe held Malta against their advance in 1565 and, having had united briefly during the Crusades, it did again in 1571 at the Battle of Lepanto. ...the victory at Lepanto stopped dead the Ottoman expansion in the center of the sea. The events of 1565–1571 fixed the frontiers of the modern Mediterranean world [p. 286].

Empires of the Sea is a very readable account of the conditions in the Mediterranean basin in the sixteenth century. Imperial and religious considerations, naval architecture, diplomacy and the contest between sea and land forces verging on modernity are all covered. Characters from emperors to sultans to corsairs to galley slaves are all introduced and the sublimity and depravity of the age are all covered. Very interesting are the descriptions of diplomatic

maneuverings, preparation for battle and combat itself, all based on numerous contemporaries sources.

Roger Crowley has a long standing interest in the history of the Mediterranean Sea and is the author of *1453: The Holy War for Constantinople and the Clash of Islam and the West*.

This book is highly recommended for those who wish to understand the titanic, ongoing clash between East and West, the late Renaissance and the last of the Crusades.

James B. Ronan II

The Art of War, Baron Antoine Henri De Jomini, Introduction by Charles Messenger. Greenhill Books/Lionel Leventhal Ltd., London. 2006. Soft cover; 410 pp., maps and diagrams. \$19.95. ISBN 13 978-1-85367-719-9.

A classic of the Western military canon, *The Art of War* outlines the theory of war in the Age of Napoleon by describing twenty great campaigns. It has embodied the principles of war ever since it was first published in 1838. This edition is a reprint first published in Philadelphia in 1862 by two U.S. Army officers. The work is still a staple of military professional study. Jomini divides conflict into six major subdivisions and examines four of them in their relationship to one another. He uses his own experience, both in service to Napoleon and to one of the emperor's adversaries, Russia, to show how generals may operate armies. In the narrative the campaigns of Napoleon and others are discussed and Jomini repeatedly distills these events into principles and shows, "that with few exceptions, the most brilliant successes and the greatest reverses resulted from adherence to this principle in one case and neglect of it in another." (p. 71). Gen. Baron Antoine Henri de Jomini (1779–1869) was a Swiss who entered French service in 1798. He entered Russian service in 1814 and stayed until the defeat of Napoleon in 1815. Highly recommended for the serious student, a campaign atlas of eighteenth century European war and the Napoleonic Wars should be at hand.

James B. Ronan II

Colonel Richard I. Dodge, The Life and Times of a Career Army Officer, by Wayne R. Kime. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman. 2006. Hardcover; Ixia, 646 pp., illus., maps, biblio, notes, and index. . \$45.00 ISBN: 0-8061-3709-6

Indian fights and fighters, titanic battles giving lasting fame to crossroads towns, dusty, blue wool uniforms and colorful characters; these are the images that are conjured by the 19th century U. S. Army. But it was also a period of stagnation and change, tedium and excitement, professionalism and bureauism. Richard Irving Dodge (1827–1895), USMA 1848 and colonel of the 11th Infantry saw much of this period. Missing the Mexican War, he chased Indians in 1850s Texas, fought at Bull Run, and participated directly in raising the mass armies that fought the Civil War. Following the war he again chased Indians in some of the finest indirect campaigns ever waged by the army, protected the Indians from rapacious whites and fostered the growing professionalism that brought the army out of its dark ages and prepared it to be an army of empire.

Dodge, a North Carolinian, enjoyed so much renown in the pre-war army that he was offered a brigadier generalship in the Confederate Army, but he chose to remain with the Old Flag (p. 501). Commanding or establishing several posts in the post-war west, he was also a published expert on the Plains area and its inhabitants and a noted *raconteur*. He participated in operations against several tribes and in protecting these tribes from land hungry whites. Dodge was also a critic of the Indian Bureau and desired the army to preside over native welfare. Again, his renown was such that he was selected to be an aide-de-camp to General William T. Sherman.

The author, Wayne R. Kime, is a retired professor of English who has edited the works of Washington Irving and his descendant, Richard Irving Dodge.

This book is recommended for anyone interested in the U. S. Army in the last half of the 19th century.

James B. Ronan II

U.S. Military Flintlock Muskets and Their Bayonets, the Early Years, 1790–1815. Peter A. Schmidt. Andrew Mowbray Incorporated-Publishers, Woonsocket, RI. 2006. Hardcover; 432 pp., illus., appendices, notes, index.. \$69.99. ISBN: 1-931464-21-9.

This very interesting work describes not only the types of muskets made by and for the United States from 1790–1815 but also the system that was created to make them. Also described are the accessories issued with the arms and the conflicts involved with their manufacture. From captured British muskets and imported French arms to the standard musket of 1815, a series of highly detailed photographs describes the various types, their parts and the system designed to refurbish and maintain them. Equal attention is given to imported arms, those made under contract and those manufactured by the United States.

Further, correspondence regarding the manufacturing of the various models, the establishment of the Springfield and Harper's Ferry Arsenals and the pay of the workers involved gives a complete picture of the American System of Manufacture. Revealed are the twin problems of permanently attached bayonets and the failure to insure adequate barrel proofing prior to the War of 1812, both disastrous mistakes. The author also uses the records available to assemble a photographic archive of inspection and acceptance marks that will allow collectors to identify where and when their acquisitions were made.

The author, a diligent researcher, is a member of the American Society of Arms Collectors, the Society of American Bayonet Collectors, the Grand Collectors Association and the National Rifle Association. He has also the author of *Hall's Military Breechloaders*.

This book, the first half of a study that will carry the story of the American System of Manufacture to 1863, is recommended for collectors and historians.

James B. Ronan II

Fort Bowie, Combat Post of the Southwest, 1858–1894, Douglas G. McChristian. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman. 2005. Soft cover; 357 pp., illus., maps, app., biblio. \$19.95. ISBN: 0-8061-3781-9. Joining the current spate of biographies, campaign studies and histories based on geographical locations regarding the Indian wars, this work assumes first place. “Fort Bowie represents the quintessential frontier army post” (p. 270). *Fort Bowie* covers and analyzes geography, history and personalities in an exciting, readable prose. The tentative explorations into Arizona in the 1850’s, the advent of the volunteers in Indian warfare during the Civil War, the return of the regulars to the west, the army’s use of Indian scouts and the final conquest of Apacheria are all covered. Revealed are well known and less well known figures of the conflicts in the southwest, sometimes in blown up pictures rather than fuzzy groups. The reader is introduced this way to such redoubtable figures as Reuben F. Bernard and Gerald Russell; Naiche and the Apache Kid. Included also are pictures of the evolution of the post (including its execrable early conditions) and a narrative that makes it clear how important the area was to the United States and how tentative the nation’s hold was on it until the late in the nineteenth century. The author is a retired research historian for the National Park Service and a former field historian at Fort Davis and Fort Laramie. He has written two other books. *Fort Bowie* is highly recommended for students of the Indian Wars and the 19th century army.

James B. Ronan II

For the Glory of Rome, Ross Cowan. Greenhill Books/Lionel Leventhal Ltd., London, 2007. Hard cover; 287 pp., illus., maps, notes, biblio. \$39.95. ISBN 978-85367-733-5

The thoughts of a classicist are often a revelation to a generalist. Mr. Cowan’s book is no exception. Although there is fact behind modern perceptions of the Roman army; disciplined, well-armed troops whose invincible formations conquered the world, Cowan reveals soldiers who fought outside the group, sought glory and the admiration of their comrades and were devout in their religious views. (One of this reviewer’s most vivid memories is of the Mithradaic chapel outside the reconstructed Roman fort at Saalburg, Germany.)

Cowan also describes the fighting methods of the legionaries and provides a different look at their equipment from his research in existing records and accounts. Individual Romans come to life in the same way other authors have brought to life soldiers of the American Civil War. Cowan’s narrative is supported by fine illustrations of ancient memorials and modern drawings.

Ross Cowan studied Classics at the University of Glasgow and is a specialist on both the Roman Imperial Army and warfare in the Ancient World.

This book is recommended for any reader interested in the Roman army. It should also be noted that the typesetting and construction of the book make it a joy to read.

James B. Ronan II

William Harding Carter and the American Army, A Soldier’s Story. Ronald G. Machoian. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, OK, 2006. Hardcover, 388 pp., illus., biblio. \$39.95. ISBN: 0-8061-3746-0.

The period in United States military history following the Civil war is best known for the Indian Wars and the nation's entrance on the world stage via the War with Spain. However, in the U.S. Army it was also a time of percolating ideas and a changing of the guard. Rifle marksmanship became pre-eminent. Sergeants and lieutenants ceased being file closers in the line of battle and became leaders of small units on the battlefield. As the Old Army passed, the venerable office of Commanding General of the Army passed with it and more modern ideas about reserve forces surfaced. A hero of the Old Army and architect of the New was Maj. Gen. William Harding Carter (1851–1925), a graduate of the United States Military Academy, Class of 1873. Carter served with the 6th Cavalry and won the Medal of Honor at Cicibu Creek, Arizona, in 1881. He then became an advocate for professional officer training, the school at Leavenworth, a federal reserve force and creation of the office of Chief of Staff of the Army. As a prolific author, he not only prepared legislation supporting modernization of the army's organization, but influenced public opinion on military subjects in the journals and magazines of the day. At home in the line or on the staff, Carter retired in 1915 but was recalled for service in World War I. The author, Lieut. Col. Ronald G. Machoian, United States Air Force, deftly tells Carter's story from frontier to the centers of powers. He vividly portrays Carter's ideas, his adventures and his meetings with powerful politicians and military figures. He also conveys Carter's love of his country and his institution, the U.S. Army. The author holds a Ph.D. in history from the University of Missouri, Kansas City, and is an instructor of history at the University of Nebraska. This book is a must for anyone interested in the transition of the U.S. Army from a frontier force to the army of a world power and is highly recommended.

James B. Ronan II

The Irish Brigades, 1685–2006, David Murphy. Four Courts Press, Dublin, 2007. Hardcover; 310 pp., illus., biblio. 45 Euros. ISBN 978-1-84682-9.

One of a series from the Military Heritage of Ireland Trust, this work briefly describes the formations of Irish soldiers who, in many countries, provided so many regiments of soldiers from 1685 to the present day. Arranged in gazette fashion by global region, regiment after regiment is listed. Much additional information on service, colors and colonels is presented where it was available.

Exceedingly interesting is the information on Irish regiments serving in the countries of Central and South Americas well as the armies of the British East India Company. A good deal of information is also presented on the Irish regiments that served the United States. The very long list of Irish regiments in the British Establishment makes up the bulk of the book and there is an illuminating section on the current Irish Defense Force and their admirable record as peacekeepers around the world. Fifty-eight black and white photos supplement the entries, many from the Anne S. K. Browne Collection.

David Murphy is a graduate of University College, Dublin and Trinity College, Dublin. He was a major contributor to the Royal Irish Academy's *Dictionary of Irish Biography* and is the author of *Ireland and the Crimean War*.

This work is a highly recommended reference for the historian and the genealogist.

James B. Ronan II

I Wish I'd Been There, Twenty Historians Bring to Life Dramatic Events That Changed America, Byron Hollinshead, ed., Doubleday, NY, 2006, hard cover, 333 pp., illus, \$26.95. ISBN: 0-385-51619-3.

This volume, a series of essays on “dramatic events that changed America” leaves a lot to be desired. First, only 15 of the events chronicled could be classified as “dramatic events that changed America”. It is hard to believe that an Indian city that once existed in Illinois, the witch trials in Salem, Massachusetts, or the meeting of a mixed race drunkard and the President of the United States changed America. Similarly, the alleged apotheosis of an American explorer, the anti-war ravings of a socialist and the imagined conversations of two brothers who caused so much trouble in American politics were not “dramatic events that changed America”.

Cahokia was an Indian town that existed about 1000 years ago. Hardly a Cuzco or City of Mexico, the society that built it left no written records and eventually vanished. It is transformed by the essayist into a North American Rome. The author of the piece on the Salem Witch Trials never says why this dramatic event changed America. Perhaps the story of the *Mayflower* Compact or the New Englanders' bold stand against the French and Indians are events that changed America. Full of portent indeed was the meeting between Creek Chief Alexander McGillivray and George Washington but it changed nothing. Did Meriwether Lewis go native or did he not? And, whether he did or not, how did it change America? Robert LaFollette was a great man who had the courage of his convictions. He was, however, wrong in his opposition to American entry into World War I. Perhaps the tragedy of World War II would have been averted if the United States stayed out of the war as the essayist suggests. But what of the tragedy of a world dominated by Imperial Germany? The essay describing how the Kennedy brothers handled incipient U.S. involvement in the Viet Nam War are the jottings of one of their notorious apologists.

Many other essays describe events that changed America and they range from the Jenny Lind tour of the 1850's to Lyndon Johnson's confrontation with George Wallace in the 1960's. But they lean heavily to why the essayist wishes they were there, not necessarily how the event changed America.

It maybe that the title of the book was adapted to sell it, not to tell the reader what the book is about. Members are advised to look elsewhere for historical reading.

James B. Ronan II

Military Cartridge Headstamps Collector's Guide. Charles Conklin (comp.). Heritage Books, Westminster, MD. 2006. Soft Cover; 149 pp., illus., indices, biblio. \$35.00. ISBN: 0-7884-4117-5.

The product of ten years of collecting, observing, and noting, this work is a great reference on an obscure subject. What exactly do those letters and numbers stamped on a cartridge case indicate? The author has broken it down. Sections of this work describe the stamps applied to rifle and pistol cartridge cases. It provides examples of cartridge marking from various countries and compares, by dimension, world cartridges. Also provided are a headstamp alphabetical index and a list of codes used on cartridges by Germany in World War II. Illustrations show the markings in clear fashion. Further, lucid text defines the various types of cartridges used since the advent of the twentieth century, the various ways cartridges were identified by color and the markings on the boxes that contained the ammunition.

To his credit the author has also provided foreign language keys which enable the collector to translate words and numbers on cartridges and their containers from around the world.

The author, Charles Conklin, is also the co-author of a work on .58 caliber cartridges. Spellings problems (linnen for linen. calvary for cavalry and Finish for the Finnish language) occur in this work as do lay out problems. In the translation section the language for Denmark is labeled Dutch. Other technical problem include the appearance of lighter type in some sections and a World War I map of France, Germany, and the Benelux countries for no apparent reason (p. 105).

Notwithstanding, this work is an excellent reference for the cartridge collector or those who seek to understand the development of rifle and pistol cartridges.

James B. Ronan II

The National Guard, An Illustrated History of America's Citizen Soldiers, Michael D. Doubler and John W. Listman. Potomac Books, Dulles, VA. 2007. Soft cover; 200 pp., illus., biblio., index, app. \$19.95. ISBN 978-1-57488-703-7.

This work is a primer for those interested in the exploits of the organizations that make up the Army and Air National Guard. This second edition covers the Guard from its origins in Colonial America to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Great efforts have been made to portray as many units from as many states as possible with good results. However, as the book is a primer, legislative, operational, and organizational details are sparse. So are the many controversies regarding the purpose and performance of those organizations that make up the modern Guard. Notwithstanding, the reader unacquainted with the Guard's long and storied service to the United States will be surprised by the Guard's record of transition from peace time citizen-soldiers to war fighters from 1636–2003. The authors state in the Introduction that, "...American militiamen have transformed themselves from a loose collection of local defense forces to a modern and ready U.S. National Guard..."

The quality of the illustrations leaves much to be desired but the captions are detailed and combined with the bibliography will facilitate more detailed research.

The authors are long serving and experienced Guardsmen and well equipped to produce this work.

This book is recommended for those interested in a preliminary exploration of the National Guard's service.

James B. Ronan II

Organization and Insignia of the American Expeditionary Force, 1917–1923, Robert J. Dalessandro and Michael G. Knapp. Schiffer, Atglen, PA, 2008. Hard cover; 325 pp., illus., appendices. biblio. \$69.95. ISBN 978-0-7643-2937-1.

United States Army organization did not enter the twentieth century until 1916 with the organization of the 1st Expeditionary Division. During World War I, most of the famous U.S. Divisions came into being and many remain in the regular army or the reserve components of the army. Also during the Great War, these divisions adopted embroidered shoulder patches as did many non-divisional units and higher headquarters. These insignia have also transitioned into modern usage.

Throughout *Organization and Insignia of the American Expeditionary Force, 1917–1923*, the authors use illustrations and descriptions of the myriad patches adopted by the Doughboys of the AEF. Infantry divisions (Regular including U. S. Marine assignments, National Guard and National Army), tank units, aviation formations, and the assorted support units are all presented. In addition, organizational data and battle histories are included as are appendices showing the assignment of units to the divisions and divisional Army Post Office numbers.

The authors, both graduates of Virginia Military Institute, have a lifelong interest in the material culture of the American soldier. Colonel Robert Dalessandro, U. S. A. is the current Director of the U. S. Army Heritage and Information Center. Michael G. Knapp, a member of Pennsylvania National Guard, is a military historian at the U. S. Army Military History Institute.

This is a lavishly illustrated, well put together work full of useful information. It is highly recommended for anyone interested in shoulder sleeve insignia, World War I or the U. S. Army.

James B. Ronan II

Soldiering, Henry G. Gole, forward by Russell F. Weigley. Potomac Books, Dulles, VA, 2005. Soft cover; 254 pp., illus., and maps. \$17.95. ISBN 1-57488-853-6.

Lt. Col. Henry G. Gole served in the Korean War as an enlisted man and re-entered service in 1961 as a regular army officer serving another twenty-seven years. Although a memoir, his book is really a reverie. The author recounts his early life during the Depression and World War II, vignettes of soldiers he served with and against, and provides observations that can only come from foreign service and devotion to duty. There is no chest-thumping, explanations of battles or even a list of the author's decorations. Gole's witty style and clear prose bring to life what is in fact a by gone era.

Gole grew old in the service of his country, soldiered with some fine men, and as a history instructor passed his experience to younger soldiers. He is an old soldier in the best meaning of the term and personifies the motto of one the regular regiments; Without Fear, Favor, or in Hope of Reward.

Henry G. Gole holds a doctorate from Temple University and taught at West Point, the U.S. Army War College, the University of Maryland, and Dickinson College. He served with the 27th Infantry in Korea and alternated assignments with the 5th and 10th Special Forces Groups in Germany and Vietnam. He was also a military attaché in Germany and served in the Pentagon.

This excellent work is highly recommended for students of the U.S. Army during the era of the War in Vietnam or for anybody that soldiered in Gole's army.

James B. Ronan II

The Line of Forts, Historical Archeology on the Colonial Frontier of Massachusetts, Michael D. Coe. University Press of New England, Lebanon, NH. 2006. Soft cover; 234 pp., illus., maps, app., biblio. \$19.95. ISBN: 1-58465-542-9.

The Line of Forts is not military history. It is an archeological study that illuminates military history. During the conflict between France and England for domination of North America, the many rivers flowing through New England provided avenues of approach for parties of French and their Indian allies to raid what is now the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. To

provide early warning of these raids, the colonial authorities established and manned a line of forts in northwestern Massachusetts, along what is now the Vermont line. Michael D. Cole has conducted archeological digs at the sites of two of these forts and provides much information on what went on inside the walls. He also provides background on the history of the conflicts, the families and personalities involved. His narrative is aided by colonial records and the records of a merchant family who provided both commanders and quartermasters of the forts. He analyses geography, flora and fauna as well as the artifacts unearthed in his digs. The author is the Charles J. MacCurdy Professor of Archeology, Emeritus, at Yale and an expert on Mesoamerican anthropology and archeology. Cole is the author of over a dozen books. This book is highly recommended for students of the colonial conflicts between France and England and gives new insight into the observation of Francis Parkman the New England...”was regarded as the most military among the British colonies.”

James B. Ronan II

War Dance at Fort Marion, Plains Indian Prisoners of War. Brad D. Lookingbill. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 2006. Hardcover, 290 pp., illus., biblio., index. \$29.95. ISBN: 0-8061-3739-8.

This is a well crafted, well researched work describing the incarceration of seventy-two Indians taken prisoner by the U. S. Army in 1874, during the plains wars. Held at Florida’s Fort Marion (today the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument), the Cheyenne, Arapaho, Kiowa, Comanche, and Caddo prisoners were drilled, educated, and proselytized. They were allowed not only to practice their ceremonies and sell their crafts, but to travel locally and around the United States for schooling. Theirs was a failed “great escape “ and much record keeping in Indian pictography. The incarceration of the Indians was designed to deprive tribes of their leaders but evolved into an experiment to turn the prisoners into farmers and tradesmen who would return to the plains and imbue their people with the values and skills of nineteenth century Americans. Returned to the plains some years later, the former prisoners met with indifferent success. The narrative reveals the dichotomy of U.S. Indian policy, coercion, and paternalism, as well as the unwillingness of the natives to successfully adapt to American civilization. The author, Brad D. Lookingbill, is an associate professor of history at Columbia College, Missouri. He uses archival sources, manuscripts, and a variety of published material to tell this story. Despite his lack of research into the organization of the U.S. Army in the 1870’s (William T. Sherman was not a “General of the Army”) and his failure to develop the career of the central white antagonist, this book will interest student of the Indian Wars period.

James B. Ronan II

Winter Lightning, A Guide to the Battle of Stones River, Matt and Lee Spruill. University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville, 2007. Soft cover; 310 pp., illus., maps, appendices. 45 Euros. ISBN 1-57233-9.

One of a series of four works that combine battle narratives, official reports and modern maps, this book guides a visitor over the Tennessee Battlefield of Stones River (31 December 1862–2 January 1863). The Spruills have divided the terrain into twenty-one stops that are the scenes of important action during the battle. Concise driving directions are provided, as are warnings about private property. Each stop is described in a narrative and accompanied by reports of United States and rebel commanders. Maps and photos are also included. Your reviewer has used them and they are invaluable navigation tools.

However, the narratives are concise. A user who is not acquainted with the general and special situation of the battle should read one or more accounts of the events before using the guide. It is also advisable to supplement the guide with a topographical map to keep the big picture in mind.

The first three volumes in this series were published as United States Army War College Guides to Civil War Battlefields. Matt Spruill is a retired U.S. Army colonel, a licensed battlefield guide, and the author of several works

on the Civil War. His brother is a major in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Winter Lightning is highly recommended for anyone visiting the Stones River Battlefield.

James B. Ronan II

Yellowstone Command, Colonel Nelson A. Miles and the Great Sioux War, 1876–1877. Jerome A. Greene. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman. 2005. Paperback, 352 pp., illus., maps, biblio. \$19.95 ISBN: 0-8061-3755-X.

Riveting is a fitting word to describe this work. In the wilds of Montana and Wyoming, the Fifth U.S. Infantry and elements of other regiments defeated the Sioux in a war that lasted from February 1876 to July 1877. Led by their redoubtable colonel, Nelson A. Miles, they also overcame extremely bad weather, unforgiving terrain, and impossible logistic problems in addition to their wily and determined enemy. The Fifth Infantry was part of a U. S. Army that despite its victory over the Confederacy eleven years prior had not the manpower, doctrine or infrastructure to use overwhelming force. Never the less, by improvising winter clothing, mounting infantry, using what artillery was available and keeping unremitting pressure on the Sioux in all seasons, they accomplished the mission. When the Sioux gave battle, they were defeated by the infantry; despite conventional thought the cavalry was the ideal arm for plains warfare. Much of the narrative revolves around the actions of Miles and his relationship with his superiors, subordinates and adversaries. Very interested in his career and jealous of his peers, he also overcame tactical, logistical and bureaucratic obstacles to success. Despite his human frailties, Miles was a superb Indian fighter and is largely responsible for the successful outcome of the war. He had excellent subordinates and was revered by his soldiers. The coat of arms of the 5th Infantry, in part contains the arms of Miles family. Ironically, later in his career, Miles became a fierce foe of reforms designed to prevent the hardships suffered by his troops in the

Great Sioux War. Originally published in 1991, the author used manuscript, government, and printed sources. In this second edition, new material has been added which amplifies the story. Jerome a Greene is a research historian for the National Park Service in Denver and has authored other works on the Indian Wars. This book is for those interested in the Indian Wars or the U. S. Army in the nineteenth century.

James B. Ronan II

They Called Us Devil Dogs By: Byron Scarbrough. Published by the author: P.O. Box 392, Lodi, Ohio 44254-0392 or www.theycalledusdevildogs.com 2005. Soft cover; 200 pp., black & white photographs. \$16.50 postage paid. Copies inscribed by author on request.

Join Jim Scarbrough and his grandson Byron over a cup of coffee while he recounts his experiences as a Marine private, 83d Co., 3d Bn., 6th Marine Regiment during World War I. Jim has his personal photos and he, son Don, and grandson Byron have accumulated many other photos from a variety of sources which illuminate his story. That's what reading **They Call Us Devil Dogs** is like.

From the day in May 1917 when Jim decided that his country would soon be going to war and joined the Marines, to the battered tangle of Belleau Wood, the trenches and foxholes of St. Mihiel, Mont Blanc, and other bloody fields, his story unfolds in the plain spoken, even blunt, feelings of his days.

His reflections are not encumbered by grand strategy, political "filtering" or the "Big Picture" seldom felt or seen by front line troops. They are about the men in the next foxhole and the men and obstacles they faced across no man's land in the basic terms of men at war.

It is a good read for anyone with an abiding interest in World War I and/or Marines at war. Thanks Jun and Byron, Semper Fi!

John A. Stacey

U. S. Navy Uniforms and Insignia 1940–1942, by Jeff Warner. Schiffer Publishing Ltd., 4880 Lower Valley Rd., Atglen, PA 19310. Hard cover; 246 pp., over 700 illustrations, Uniform Regulations CD, \$79.95. ISBN 978-0-7643-2583-0.
and

U. S. Navy Uniforms and Insignia 1943–1946, by Jeff Warner. Schiffer Publishing Ltd. 4880 Lower Valley Rd., Atglen, PA 19310. Hard cover; 347 pp., over 900 illustrations, 11 official documents, Uniform Regulations CD, \$79.95. ISBN 978-0-7643-2584-7

Both of these volumes are introduced by the same statement, "The goal of this book is to provide the reader with an authentic, in depth study of the uniforms and insignia used by the U. S Navy during World War II." The titles and the stated goal of each indicate coverage of uniforms and insignia "in depth" for the stated years. In fact, the first focuses primarily on insignia with minimal detail regarding the uniforms on which they were worn. The second concentrates on the uniforms with only passing commentary on the insignia being worn. As companion volumes, they do cover the combined information indicated by their titles, though divided into a volume on insignia and a volume on uniforms.

Both volumes are prolifically illustrated in color and black and white using period photographs and ephemera, and preserved samples of the uniforms and insignia, some modeled for display and others as individual pieces laid out for display.

The first of the two volumes (1940–1942), concentrated on insignia of the period, does not, unfortunately, meet Mr. Warner's stated goal of "...an authentic, in depth study...." in my opinion. The material presented is certainly authentic aside from several insignia included that are clearly of the World War I–1920s design and a few that are of postwar origin. The greater concern is that there are errors and statements in the descriptions that can lead to misunderstandings or misinterpretations of the items. A few examples follow. One insignia is identified as "...believed to be 'quarter gunner'" a designation that was dropped from Navy ratings tables in the late nineteenth century. In several descriptions related to apprentice petty officers in recruit training, it is stated that those appointed to these recruit positions were entitled, upon graduation, to wear the distinguishing mark of Ex-apprentice, a mark actually designated for graduates of the Naval Apprentice Program or those who had "passed through the rating of apprentice in the Navy," neither of which existed at the time of World War II. The warrant insignia for Ship's Clerk (crossed quills) is referred to as that of Yeoman, actually the rating title of those enlisted men supervised by the Ship's Clerk. As one last example, the designation of Aviation General Utility (a distinguishing mark) is presented as a petty officer rating which it never was, even though rating badges were erroneously manufactured using the mark in place of a specialty mark.

These misleading elements are compounded by the absence of footnotes, text references, or bibliography. These would provide readers with specific publications, dates, authors, and publishers that would support the information and guide them to sources for further research.

The real plus for the publication, in addition to excellent photographs, is the inclusion of a CD that contains the Navy uniform regulations of 1941 and many documents of change issued during the war and up to 1947, many of which are not readily available. This is certainly an excellent research tool.

I would hesitate to recommend this volume to potential readers who have limited familiarity with the subject. The price itself seems prohibitive, especially when the information gained would be flawed and could lead the novice to form erroneous conclusions in the absence of a basis of knowledge on which to interpret the information. As for the more knowledgeable reader, the product may simply prove to be a disappointment.

As noted above, the second of these two volumes (1943–1946) is primarily focused on the uniforms of the World War II period. The coverage of uniforms is thorough and in good detail. All of the standard uniforms for male officers, chief petty officers, and lower grades are presented with very good period color and black and white photographs as well as detailed photographs of period examples. In addition, similar coverage is provided for the uniforms of WAVE officers and enlisted personnel, members of the Navy Nurse Corps, and special winter, foul weather and protective clothing, accessories and materials. On the latter two subjects, there are also reproduced official documents providing excellent support for the text and photographs.

There are unexpected inclusions: an interesting examination of tailor made jumpers and trousers done with fancy embroidery on the inner parts and shown with a wide variety of liberty cuff decorations; an interesting look at some of the uniform changes contemplated by the Navy following the war, and a couple of "souvenir" garments of a style purchased during the occupation period.

The quality of this volume was a surprise after reading the 1940–1942 volume. The presentation is much more complete, with errors at a minimum as will occur in most publications, and those generally not of significant impact on the overall product. The CD of 1941 Navy uniform regulations and change documents is also included in this volume. This is a plus, especially if a reader elects to purchase only this second of the two books. The absence of footnotes and/or bibliography to provide detailed support for the text is, as with the 1940–1942 volume, a disappointment. It is recognized that the basic text derives directly from the

1941 uniform regulations, but clearly, other documents and reference sources were used in compiling this work.

The fact that the majority of insignia was included in detail in the 1940–1942 volume could prove to be a handicap to the reader unless either other references on Navy insignia are readily available or the reader elects to purchase both volumes. The price of the two books will certainly influence this latter decision.

John A. Stacey

Weapons, Equipment and Insignia: Submarine Service, PT Boats, Coast Guard, Other Sea Services by Jeff Warner. Schiffer Publishing Ltd., 4880 Lower Valley Rd., Atglen, PA 19310. 2008. Hard cover; 341 pp., over 1,000 illustrations. \$79.95. ISBN 978-0-7643-2922-7 This volume appears to be the last in Mr. Warner's series on the U. S. Navy in World War II. The assortment of subjects included is more diverse than the title indicates. Many of these subjects would not have fit neatly into any of the earlier volumes. They provide a look at a wide range of elements of the naval service not frequently covered. Over a thousand illustrations of equipment, artifacts, documents, personal articles, and period personnel photographs present a broad review of activities surrounding the lives of our sailors. Similarly, sections on the Navy's Samoan Fita Fita Guard, the Coast Guard, Merchant Marine, Public Health Service, and Coast and Geodetic Survey provide a look at services which get very little exposure. Some readers will be pleased by their inclusion, though others may wish that their coverage was more extensive.

While all of the sections introduce new material, those on the Submarine Service, PT Boats, Mine Warfare, the Deck Division, Cooks, Bakers and Stewards, the Navy Band, Chaplains, and Ship's Services include numerous elements of uniforms and insignia previously covered in the earlier volumes dedicated to uniforms and insignia.

All new publications include some issues and this one is no exception. Some of these are errors, some statements which can be misleading. Some are of minor significance, others of greater concern. A few of these latter are the following. Cutlasses, identified as M-1917, displayed in an armory appear to be mid-late nineteenth century models. An image of the submarine *Clamagore* (SS-343) is identified as the "Claymore" in spite of the boat's name being on the photograph. No Navy vessel bore that name, one which was certainly not appropriate for a submarine. Members of the 1st Samoan Battalion, U.S.M.C.R. are identified as "...Fita Fita assigned to the Marine Corps...." These men were actually separately recruited as members of the Marine Corps Reserve, though they did receive some training from members of the Fita Fita Guard. A section on civilians recruited into Specialist ratings based on specific occupational experience covers Firefighters (Specialist F), Mail Clerks (Specialist M), and Shore Patrol (Specialist S). These were only three of the seventeen wartime Specialist ratings, not including Specialist X (Not elsewhere classified) which included another thirty occupations, either highly specialized or employed in limited numbers. It is unclear why these three ratings were selected over all the others to be included with no indication that they were samples of the various types of occupations represented by the Specialists.'

As with the two volumes on uniforms and insignia, there are no footnotes or bibliographic citations to guide readers to other related sources. Such guides would enable readers to refer to other sources to clarify points in question or to seek additional information on specific subjects. Such access could mitigate misunderstandings or misinterpretations which might arise.

These concerns aside, the overall product is well presented. The many illustrations are nicely reproduced, presented and captioned. Many potential readers will find the inclusion of seldom seen material and the smaller services a useful addition to their library. Others may feel that the compilation of these less common aspects of the service are insufficient to command the list price of the book.

John A. Stacey

One Minute to Midnight by Michael Dobbs. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 2008. Hardcover; 428 pp., illus. \$28.95. ISBN 978-1-4000-4358-3.

If you were alive in October 1962 and of an age to recall the dread you felt when you watched the televised message of President John F. Kennedy announcing the naval blockade of Cuba or read it in the next day's newspaper and think you know what went on at that period of history, or if you are of a younger generation, but think you have read enough to know what was going on, think again.

No matter how much you have read, or saw on television during the forty-six years since the tense thirteen days of October 1962, you will be startled to learn that the world was not only on the brink of nuclear war, but dangerously teetering on the edge of the abyss.

One Minute to Midnight is a book that once started, cannot be put down. Fast-paced, it reads like a fictional political thriller, but it isn't fiction. The author has superbly constructed an almost hour by hour account of those dark days based upon previously unpublished information from Soviet and Cuban sources. Myths perpetuated by television productions such as *13 Days in October*, newspaper accounts at the time and the immediate aftermath, not to mention retrospectives that have appeared on the anniversaries of the October crisis, and previously published works are exploded. In the course of the nuclear stand off between Kennedy and Khrushchev, who actually blinked first? Who among the president's military and civilian advisors pushed for an air strike to take out the Russian missile bases on Cuban soil? Who opposed a military solution? Who flip-flopped during the course of the thirteen days? Just what was television commentator John Scali's role? Was Robert F. Kennedy actually the author of the letter to Khrushchev that resolved the crisis? Was the U.S. naval quarantine of Cuba as effective as was portrayed in the aftermath of the crisis? Was Fidel Castro merely a firebrand nationalist who wanted only to defend his country? Was the CIA aware of not only the long term threat posed by the missile bases in Cuba, but to the immediate danger of the missiles to the East and Gulf coasts of the United States and the potential military disaster that awaited an invasion of Cuba by the U.S. military? And just how close was the U.S. to launching that invasion? Most importantly, who advocated for a first strike nuclear attack? The reader will be shocked at what he or she thought they knew, but didn't.

If you read only one book this year, make it *One Minute to Midnight*.

David M. Sullivan

New York's Historic Armories; An Illustrated History, by Nancy L. Todd. State University of New York Press, 194 Washington Avenue, Suite 305, Albany, New York, 12210-2384, 2006. Hardcover; 322 pages, illus., notes, bibliog., index. \$50.00. ISBN 13: 978-0-7914-6911-8.

New York's Historic Armories, an Illustrated History, is much more than a pictorial listing of armories buildings. Author Nancy L. Todd has combined her extensive study of the architecture of approximately 120 arsenals and armories in New York built in the eighteenth,

nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, with a discussion of the militia and national guard systems and a number of period photographs to produce a volume of interest to students of architecture, military history and material culture alike.

Following an introduction with capsule histories of the development of the National Guard in New York State, the construction and functions of arsenals and armories, and a section on architectural terminology, Chapter One covers the formation of the National Guard from Colonial militia units to the period after World War II.

Chapter Two deals with arsenals and armories built in New York State between the 1790s and the end of the Civil War. Although detailed information about many of the earliest arsenals is sadly lacking, the author describes and illustrates as many as she could, using period pictures whenever possible. Location, architect (if known), and brief histories are provided for each structure. Chapter Three continues with a similar format for armories built during the 1870s and 1880s in New York City as well as Upstate New York.

Chapter Four is devoted to the Seventh Regiment and its various buildings, especially the new armory formally opened in December, 1880 and still in use today. While the story of the Seventh Regiment is familiar to most member of The Company, the history of the armory as shown in the numerous pictures provides a new look at this famous structure. The remaining five chapters cover armories built in Brooklyn and Manhattan in the 1880s and 1890s; buildings designed by Isaac G. Perry; armories built in New York City from 1900 to World War I; armories built Upstate in the same period, and conclude with armories built in the state between World Wars I and II.

Appendices chart arsenals and armories by location, and provide notes on the different architects and architectural firms involved in their construction. All in all, the book offers information which can be appreciated by those interested in preservation and architectural history as well as military history. There are a number of interesting photographs of National Guard units in their drill sheds including a mounted Gatling gun battery and field artillery practice firing at a painted landscape. The result of a ten year collaboration between the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs, Nancy Todd's *New York State Armories* is a detailed and thorough study of the buildings which were such an important part of the military history of New York State and the communities which supported them.

Joseph. M. Thatcher

Utah Beach: The Amphibious Landing and Airborne Operations on D-Day, by Joseph Balkoski. Stackpole Books, 5067 Ritter Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-6921. 2005. Hardcover; 400 pp., illus., maps, notes, biblio., appendices, \$26.96. ISBN 0-8117-0144-1.

The COSSAC team that planned Operation OVERLORD originally intended the Anglo-American landings in Normandy to occur on three beaches along a comparatively narrow front of twenty-five miles. Gen. Sir Bernard Law Montgomery, the newly appointed commander of the 21st Army Group, which would spearhead the Allied invasion, reviewed these plans in Marrakech on 31 December 1943. The following morning, "Monty" submitted a blunt memo to British Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill: "The initial landing is on too narrow a front and confined to too small an area. . . . My first impression is that the initial plan is impracticable. . . . The initial landings must be made on the widest possible front."

Montgomery doubled the length of the Allied landing zone to fifty miles by adding two additional beaches. Recognizing the vital need to secure a working harbor as soon as possible, Montgomery placed one of these beaches at the base of the Contentin Peninsula

south of Cherbourg. Allied planners code-named this beach "Utah," and its capture became the responsibility of the U.S. VII Corps under Maj. Gen. Joseph Lawton "Lightning Joe" Collins. The seaborne assault would be executed by the U.S. 4th Division, while the U.S. 82d and 101st Airborne Divisions attempted a daring "vertical envelopment." The 101st Airborne would secure the causeways over which the 4th Division would break out of the Utah bottleneck and penetrate the interior. The 82d Airborne would seal off the base of the Contentin Peninsula and seize key river crossings.

According to Joseph Balkoski, the assault on Utah Beach and points beyond on D-Day, 6 June 1944, constituted "one of the most successful American military operations of World War II." Balkoski presents a strong case for that thesis in *Utah Beach: The Amphibious Landing and Airborne Operations on D-Day*. This well-written and solidly researched book follows the same winning formula that Balkoski devised for his acclaimed 2004 title, *Omaha Beach: June 6, 1944*. In this second volume on the D-Day saga, Balkoski traces the American invasion of the Contentin Peninsula from its inception through its planning and training phases, and then through the fighting that began well before dawn on June 6 and raged until after sunset.

Balkoski's command of the sources allows him to cover generals and ordinary GIs with equal grace and clarity. One of his favorite characters is Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., the ailing and partially disabled son of President Theodore Roosevelt, who insisted on accompanying the 4th Division's first wave and played a crucial role in the "Ivy Men's" achievements that day. Balkoski especially shines at providing word portraits that convey the character of the disparate units that fought for both sides on D-Day.

Most general histories of D-Day written for the American market focus on the landing on Omaha Beach, which came close to failing. Balkoski's *Utah Beach* demonstrates that there is also much to be learned from an operation where so much went right for the American invaders. At the same time, he dispels the myth that Utah was a comparative cakewalk. The 4th Division suffered significant losses from German mines as it came ashore. German artillery batteries located inland visited sudden death and wounds on the landing troops as they struggled across the beach. American paratroopers and glider troops ran even greater risks and sustained commensurate casualties. The fight for Utah Beach cost 75 percent as many American dead and wounded as "Bloody Omaha."

Utah Beach: The Amphibious Landing and Airborne Operations on D-Day is an important contribution to the historical literature on World War II in the European Theater of Operations, and it deserves a wide readership.

Gregory J. W. Urwin

1776 by David McCullough. Penguin Books, New York and London. 2005. Hardcover; 186 pp., index, illus., notes, biblio. \$32.00. ISBN: 0-713-99863-6

There is no shortage of very good books on the American War for Independence, and one of them, by the eminent historian Allen French in 1934, is *The First Year of the American Revolutions*.

So, do we now need another book, particularly one focusing only on that first year? The answer is a resounding "Yes!" There will always be a place for new works as thoroughly researched, as carefully structured, and as beautifully written as John McCullough's *1776*.

My first acquaintance with McCullough's work was his *John Adams*, which a friend urged me to read, and which I started to do with some reluctance. Until then I hadn't been much of an Adams fan: I thought him arrogant, vain, stuffy, humorless, pedestrian, colorless. But by the end of the first chapter I was riveted. McCullough, by that book, made me over into a strong

admirer of John Adams, and with that experience, I am not one whit, one jot, surprised at the brilliance of McCullough's *1776*. Today I live in England, where I am pleased to report that it is selling like hot-cakes.

As with virtually every other field of study, the explosive growth of information technology in recent years has enabled researchers to dig deep and wide in the mines of the archives, records offices, universities, public libraries, regimental history files, and public and private correspondence of eighteenth century records. As a result, McCullough had enormous amounts of information available to him that French, and the others, never dreamed of. And heaven only knows how much is still out there waiting to be dug up, refined, and fashioned into gems for our edification and enjoyment.

1776 is the work of a distinguished historian who knows the American Revolution well. He could never have written his biographical masterpiece on John Adams if he didn't, But he is more than that; he is a master storyteller, one of whom we now refer to as "narrative historians." When you read McCullough about that war you are there. Not only does he give you the "whats," the "wheres," the "whens," and the "whos," he also gives you the "whys" and the "hows." You sense it, feel it, suffer it, smell it, are scared by it, are hungry, cold, and exhausted with it He weaves these important considerations into every event of that fateful year, and he makes it all come to life for us by careful selection of the words of those who actually lived and fought during that year.

Throughout this book you not only get to understand, but you get to share the thoughts and the feelings of the participants in those terrible times. McCullough brings them alive and you are with the participants every painful, every glorious, step of the way.

Not only does McCullough cover every important event in 1776, but he views for us each of them from every level, and from both sides of the struggle. He takes you from the top level of polity, from the disorganized and bickering Continental Congress, across the Atlantic to the blinkered sight of King George III, his Ministers, and Parliament. He then carries you right "down the

tape," from his fumbling generals, his inexperienced field grade officers, his elected, untrained and incompetent company officers, and finally down to the poor, suffering soldiers.

This book presents a surprise to many today: that many American colonials wanted to remain firmly in the British Empire, while many British political leaders and people had serious doubts as to the efficiency of a military solution.

In the ranks today we have "GIs" or "Grunts"; in those days they had "Brother Jonathan" or "Johnny Appleseed". We in the Company have a primary interest in the individual fighting man; that is how it's been ever since Col. Fred Todd first cranked us up. We are interested in how Johnny lived (miserably); how he was uniformed (like the poor farmer and "mechanic" he was, except for the occasional colored sash or ribbon to denote rank); how he was provisioned (minimally, and then, foully); how he was trained (he wasn't, save by "on the job" combat); how he was led (popularly – elected and therefore generally incompetently); how his wounds and illnesses were treated (primitively, basically, painfully, and ail-too-often fatally); how he was paid (generally not, and then meanly when, as, and if he ever did get his pittance); how he was rewarded (with neglect in the ranks and often with scorn at home); how he was treated as a POW (brutally beyond all reason and sense of human decency: today their treatment would be war crimes). It is a miracle that Washington ever kept the Continental Army together.

What might pass as a regular army was virtually non-existent during that first year. Washington and his generals largely had to make do with local militias. Military historians and Regular officers throughout history have generally treated these units with scorn, and, I believe, with little understanding. Washington's soldiers were generally farmers and craftsmen, men who worked with their hands in their own little businesses. When their homes and communities were threatened, they fought and often died. But the fight over: home. With or without orders, they

left, because they had crops to tend, families to feed and protect, homes to save, bankruptcies to avoid. They longed for family and the homes where they were needed. In their letters home their pain and homesickness were palpable. The Commander-in-Chief himself sent to Mount Vernon a steady stream of letters that exposed both his own homesickness and his desire and intention of getting back home just as soon as he could complete his temporary job of soldiering.

McCullough's mention of letters home from the soldiers casts an interesting little sidelight in his history. There apparently were no military censors. All correspondence, military and civil, traveled by lonely courier on horseback or coach, with letters chock full of vital military information, particularly about plans, about poor living conditions and low troop morale. The letters all-too-often fell into the hands of the enemy where they were invaluable to intelligence officers hungry for information. The Commander-in-Chief himself was guilty of this fault, possibly more than any man in his entire army.

Central to this work, as he was central to the very war, is George Washington. Not the romantic leader, a towering, majestic figure astride a white horse, but a human being, a man with many of the faults shared by all men. But he possessed a God-given inner strength which enabled him to prevail. His education as a soldier was sketchy, his military experience brief and low-level, and his record as a general nil. He was a rich, fox-hunting aristocrat, distant and aloof, who had little or nothing in common with his men and the lives they lived. No popularly called "Johnny's General" he. But he was absolutely dedicated to the cause and he willingly risked his fortune, his reputation, and his life in that cause. He was not a man of any great intellect, but he was a man of inexhaustible energy and towering integrity. He never failed in his duty of loyalty to his squabbling

and indecisive masters in Congress, and he was equally loyal and devoted to the men he led. Actually, viewed from today, as a leader he was more a MacArthur than an Eisenhower. He was generally cool and steady under pressure, although, on occasion, when things were going badly at the front, he rashly galloped forward to rally his confused and frightened troops. At Westchester, New York, the Commander-in-Chief actually had to be physically stopped and turned back by a courageous staff officer as he galloped into enemy fire. In his innate sense of modesty he probably never realized just how valuable was his own life to the cause.

Upon receiving his commission Washington proceeded to Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he found not an "army" but a disorganized and undisciplined rabble. A pretty-cocky rabble at that, because they had "won" a great battle at Bunker's (Breed's) Hill. They didn't; it wasn't. They lost the Hill, but they did bloody the noses, and much else, of crack British regular troops. The latter took the Hill and won the battle, but a Pyrrhic victory it was. The British were penned up in Boston while the Colonials ringed them on the hills of Dorchester. More than once the impetuous new Commander-in-Chief wanted to attack, but was argued out of it by his more cautious generals. Then the guns were trekked through the snows from Fort Ticonderoga, in one of the great exploits of American military history. (That operation led by Henry Knox has, in my opinion, never, even here, been given full and proper treatment by military historians). In a genius strategic and tactical stroke, Washington at night placed the guns so that they looked right down the throats of the surprised Redcoats, who shortly afterwards evacuated Boston, without the cost of even one Patriot's life.

1776 was a year for learning at all levels of soldiering in that rag-tag army. Washington too had to learn, and he did learn, albeit slowly and steadily. We can thank God that he was a man who could and would learn, because in his early days as a general he was inclined towards aggressive, and sometimes foolish, battle plans that could have spelled disaster. However, he listened to the counsel of his generals (often as inexperienced as he), and bowed to their collective judgments. Their cautious counsel saved their Commander-in-Chief and his Army from disaster on more than one occasion. God only

knows, and we only shudder at what would have happened had his desires to attack the British forces in Boston ever borne fruit!

Not long after victory at Boston came disastrous and inexcusable defeats at Long Island, Brooklyn, and New York. Within just one year the British were arguably dominant in the field. But the old fox-hunter was himself a clever old fox, and surprisingly, the year ended with important Patriot victories at Trenton and Princeton.

It had been a long, brutal, costly, and tragic year, but Washington and his generals -- and his officers and men -- had learnt a lot. Washington had become a real general, his officers real troop leaders, and his men real soldiers. America finally had an Army, tired and hurt, but still full of fight, and, although the future looked anything but bright, that ragged, beat-up Army was ready and able to struggle on.

At year's end McCullough leaves us, having fully and handsomely accomplished what he started out to do: to tell us about 1776. But can we let him go? In writing such a fine book, is he hoist by his own petard? Well, I think that he has done so well with the year 1776, has given us so much, that he now virtually owes it to us and to posterity to move ahead and finish the job. Maybe not a book for each year of the war, but certainly one on the prelude to war and one or more from 1777 to Yorktown (or even to the Evacuation of New York). He thereby could provide us with the military history of the Revolutionary War. Douglas Southall Freeman did it with his volumes on Washington the man, and McCullough could well do it with Washington the warrior.

Reviewers seldom mention the selection of pictures in a book, but here I must, as McCullough's choices in *1776* provide us with very fine selection, many of which I don't find elsewhere in my own fairly extensive collection of books on the Revolution. By the same token, I must mention his very extensive and useful bibliography, which should prove invaluable to all students of that war.

I cannot say that David McCullough's *1776* is a good book. I cannot say that it is a very good book. I can only say that it is a superb book, and I highly recommend it to anyone who wants to learn, in a painless and very exciting way, about the history of the beginnings of operations in the Revolution and of the difficult and painful birth of the U.S. Army.

Charles West

Heydrich: The Face of Evil, Mario R. Dederichs, Greenhill Books, Park House, 1 Russell Gardens, London NW11 9NN, 2006. Hardcover; 240 pp., illus. \$29.95. ISBN 1-8536-7686-1.

Heydrich: The Face of Evil is a well researched biography of SS-Obergruppenführer Reinhard Tristan Eugen Heydrich who was the head of the Nazi Secret Service and the Military Governor of occupied Czechoslovakia until his death by assassination in 1942. The book details Heydrich's background and youth growing up in a family of cultured musicians in the old city of Halle in Saxony. It recounts his naval career during the time of the Weimar Republic and delves into the controversy over his dismissal from the service by a Naval Court of Honor in 1931. These events lead him to join the Nazi Party and serve SS and Police Chief Heinrich Himmler as head of the Sicherheitsdienst, which Heydrich formed. Heydrich rose to become the SS head of the domestic and foreign Secret Service as well as head of the Security Police apparatus throughout Germany and occupied Europe. Heydrich was assassinated by Czech military operatives who were parachuted into the vicinity of Prague from England for the express purpose of killing the Military Governor. Subsequent German retaliations for this assassination took the lives of Czechs and European Jews in great numbers.

The book works well as a biography and tells the reader much about the *who, what, where, when, and how* of Reinhard Heydrich's life and career. It does seem to suffer a bit when it

comes to an explanation of the *why* for Heydrich's actions. This may well be due to the fact that the author, Mario Dederichs, died before the manuscript was completed. The uncompleted draft was then finished by his colleagues Teja Fiedler and Dr. Angelika Franz and was published in German and then translated into this English edition. The book seems to never adequately complete the psychological analysis of Heydrich that it attempts and the author(s) properly acknowledge the lack of veracity for some of the sources for this analysis in text and footnotes. For instance, Heydrich's widow Lina's reporting is noted as being particularly suspect because of bias. This same skepticism applies to many of Heydrich's contemporaries and colleagues. For now, this is probably the best that can be done with Heydrich's psychological analysis as many records from the period have not yet been opened to historians.

The author has woven a narrative that is well researched and heavily footnoted. This is exactly what we, as historians, like to see in such a book. Dederichs interviewed other authors and individuals who knew Heydrich and was able to flesh out this biography with good detail of the man from those who knew him. The historical reporting is excellent and paints an accurate picture of the events as they occurred. The information on the assassination attempt in Prague on 27 May 1942 is well documented with some new information on his medical treatment in Bulovka Hospital where he subsequently died on 4 June 1942. I have stood on the corner at the Klein-Holeschowitz Street tram stop where a hand grenade doomed Heydrich to a lingering death and Dederichs' narrative conveys the scene well. Having also been to the St. Cyril and Methodus Orthodox Church, where the Prague Operation Anthropoid assassins were cornered and killed, I can also state the events are accurately described by Dederichs.

This book is a good biography of SS-Obergruppenführer Reinhard Heydrich that sheds new light on Heydrich as well as his establishment of the Sicherheitsdienst, the Sicherheitspolizei, and his use of the existing Gestapo to establish a virtual police state in Germany and occupied Europe during World War II.

George T. Wheeler

North American Indians in the Great War by Susan Applegate Krouse. University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, NE 68588-0630, www.nebraskapress.unl.edu. Hard cover; 248 pp., and photographs. \$45.00 plus shipping, ISBN 978-0-8032-2778-1.

This 2007 book utilizes unpublished original research that was compiled by Joseph K. Dixon immediately after the end of World War I (WWI) that had languished in university archives since his death in 1926. Dixon was a photographer, writer, lecturer, and Indian rights advocate who collected original data from North American Indians who had served in WWI. Dixon used this data in various writings and lectures to advocate for basic civil rights for American Indians, principally the right of U.S. Citizenship. His intent was to write a book, utilizing this information, that would help Indians gain U.S. Citizenship, but two events overtook his efforts. First was legislation passed in 1924 granting limited U.S. Citizenship to Indian Veterans and, second, was Dixon's death on 24 August 1926.

Susan Krouse is an Associate Professor of Anthropology and Director of the American Indian Studies program at Michigan State University who re-discovered Dixon's original research. Krouse has taken the information and organized it into chapters that represent the American Indian experience in the Great War. This approach has allowed the reader to hear these first hand experiences in the words of the Indian Soldiers themselves while they were fresh in their memories. Indeed, many of these accounts were obtained at stateside disembarkation ports and hospitals where these soldiers were returning from overseas and recovering from wounds.

One drawback to this approach has been a lack of in depth analysis of Dixon's data and a somewhat disjointed narrative.

Krouse does an excellent job in the final chapters of putting all this information into context and she discusses the shortcomings of the information that Dixon collected. She also analyses Dixon's motives and gives us opposing views of the man and his intentions as related to the reliability of his data and photographs. Dixon believed in the "vanishing Indian" theory and his efforts were to document tribal life before it was extinguished by the socialization of Indian peoples into the dominant modern American culture. His approach brings to light the fascinating fact that while most Indian soldiers were not American citizens, they volunteered to go to war in large numbers and were also drafted, even though they should have been exempt from the military draft. The strength of this book comes from the original research done by Dixon that allows American Indian Soldiers to speak for themselves and tell of their own experiences and hardships in the Great War.

George T. Wheeler

Lewis and Clark Through Indian Eyes; Nine Indian Writers on the Legacy of the Expedition. Edited by Alvin M. Josephy, Jr. Vintage Books, a division of Random House, New York, www.vintagebooks.com. First Vintage Books Edition, June 2007. Softcover, 296 pages, 10 illustrations. \$14.00 plus shipping. ISBN 978-1-4000-7749-6

The editor, Alvin Josephy, was a well known historian of the American West. He conceived this work as a counterpoint to the well established written histories of the Lewis and Clark expedition for the 200 year anniversary events of the journey of the military Corps of Discovery that took place in 1804-1806. This book turned out to be his final work and he died after completion of the project in 2005. Josephy sought to give Indian peoples a voice in the discussion of what this event meant to America and its inhabitants. He succeeded in this goal and this book is revisionist history at its best.

Josephy presents the unfiltered views of nine Indian writers on what the Lewis and Clark expedition meant to history when seen through their eyes.

Each writer presents a slightly different viewpoint. Vine Deloria, Jr. (Standing Rock Sioux) was a professor of history, author, and Executive Director of the National Congress of American Indians. Deloria puts the journey into context in "Frenchmen, Bears, and Sandbars" and makes the judgment that it may have been but a footnote in the long run of history. Debra Magpie Earling (Salish & Kootenai) is a well established author who points out in "What We See" that points of view are quite different and goes on to describe the event from the point of view of the Indians who greeted Lewis and Clark. Mark M. Trahant (Shoshone-Bannock) is a newspaper editor who writes "Who's Your Daddy?" and discusses the concept that "winners write history." He correctly points out that the winners' versions outline the written historical drafts that follow and that these then become the master narratives, told as part of a nation's mythology.

Other essays complete the sensitively edited text and give a very rounded view of the Lewis and Clark expedition as seen through Indian eyes. The authors present their points of view and it is clear that those points of view are as colored by the experiences of the over 500 sovereign Indian Nations that came into contact with white explorers and settlers as were the views of the nation building immigrants from the Old World who sought to settle the country from sea to sea and create the United States of America. The wonderful narrative language style of the American Indian comes through in these writings and history comes alive. Indian history is told as interconnected events over a long period of time rather than as a single event that is disconnected from the whole. History and the world are viewed as one might construct

a web rather than a timeline. Indians are connected to their past in an integral way and take the long view of history through their relationship to family and tribe and nature. This insightful book is truly a different way to tell a story and to write and read history. It is well worth the read.

George T. Wheeler

“Lewis and Clark Through Indian Eyes; Nine Indian Writers on the Legacy of the Expedition.” Edited by Alvin M. Josephy, Jr. Vintage Books, a division of Random House, New York, www.vintagebooks.com. First Vintage Books Edition, June 2007. Softcover, 296 pages, 10 illustrations. \$14.00 plus shipping. ISBN 978-1-4000-7749-6

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George T. Wheeler

