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Review

John Lundstrom,

Black Shoe Carrier Admiral: Frank Jack Fletcher at Coral Sea, Midway, and Guadalcanal.

Ask a Marine who Frank Jack Fletcher was and you will probably get a long string of profane epithets. Ask a student of Samuel Eliot Morison, and you will probably get a contemptuous look. But ask John Lundstrom and you will have it explained that Admiral Fletcher was one of the commanders who held the line during the early days of the Pacific War.

John Lundstrom's new book, *Black Shoe Carrier Admiral*, is not a biography of Admiral Fletcher. It could best be described as an operational history of Fletcher's command from December 1941 through September 1942. It is also a spirited defense of an admiral who has been much maligned by historians of the Second World War in the Pacific.

Lundstrom takes to task such noted historians as Samuel Eliot Morison, Fletcher Pratt, and Robert Heinl, for their omissions and distortions of the facts in recounting the attempted relief of Wake Island, the battles of the Coral Sea and of Midway, and the invasion of Guadalcanal and its immediate aftermath.

Lundstrom has extensively researched this period for his previous books and did even more work for this one. He uses as sources the surviving staff logs of Fletcher's commands, as well as ships' logs and operational histories of commands in the Central and South Pacific. He has also uncovered new sources, including the diary of Brig. Gen. Melvin Maas (Marine Corps Reserve aviator and Republican Member of Congress from Minnesota), that provide much additional insight to communications, staff debate, and even Admiral Fletcher's thinking and mindset during the invasion of Guadalcanal.

The task facing Lundstrom is a difficult one. Today, everyone "knows" the victor of Midway was Admiral Spruance, yet he served under Fletcher's command. Equally, any Marine will tell you Admiral Fletcher "cut and ran," leaving the Marines to their fate at Guadalcanal and was the cause of their ordeal in the following weeks, as well as the Battle of Savo Island and all the difficulties Admiral Richmond Kelly Turner faced in resupplying the "Canal." If historians Morison and Heinl are to be believed, Fletcher's concerns over

fighter strength and the fuel state of his vessels in this campaign was largely imaginary. Yet Lundstrom lays the groundwork for understanding Admiral Fletcher's actions by describing the pre-invasion planning conference (where he warned all that he could not remain on station more than two days), providing reports of the fuel status of vessels in the carrier task forces, detailing vague, misleading intelligence summaries the admiral was receiving, and demonstrating that Turner's attempts to keep Admirals Fletcher and Ghormley informed left much to be desired.

Finally, Lundstrom goes into great detail on the Navy politics of the time, describing how they led to Fletcher being beached and eventually exiled to command of the 13th Naval District in the autumn of 1942. Lundstrom spares no one, including Admirals Nimitz and King, for the part they played here, as well as later, maligning Fletcher in official and unofficial histories after World War II.

Lundstrom's *Black Shoe Carrier Admiral*, like his earlier works *The First Team* and *The First Team and the Guadalcanal Campaign*, is a thoroughly researched and well-written history of this critical period in the Pacific War. It is an important new view of Admiral Fletcher and his contributions to naval actions early in World War II. This book is an essential work that should be read by every serious student of the Pacific War.

Black Shoe Carrier Admiral: Frank Jack Fletcher at Coral Sea, Midway, and Guadalcanal, by John Lundstrom. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2006. Pp. xxii, 638. Illus., maps, append, notes, biblio., index. \$39.95. ISBN: 1-59114-475-2

--Chuck Wohlrab

Review

David M. Glantz

Red Storm Over the Balkans: The Failed Soviet Invasion of Romania, Spring 1944.

David Glantz is the most significant American scholar of the Eastern Front for over a quarter century. A co-founder of the Combat Studies Institute at Fort Leavenworth, Glantz was one of the first westerners to gain access to the Soviet military archives. Since then he has turned out an impressive number of works on the Eastern Front focused on the Red Army's operations. This is the latest tome.

In this particular book, Glantz covers a little known episode of the Eastern Front, namely an attempt by the Red Army to overrun Romania in the early spring of 1944. Glantz shows clearly that the Soviet High Command regarded the conquest of the Balkans as anything but a secondary priority. The 2nd and 3rd Ukrainian Fronts made several strenuous attempts through April and May 1944 to gain bridgeheads across the Dnestr River, from which a major drive could be launched into Romania. These attacks were successfully fended off by series of armored counterstrokes mounted by the German Sixth and Eighth Armies. Glantz shows clearly that the Soviets overreached in their effort here and suffered a reverse at the hands of the German *Wehrmacht*, still a formidable and dangerous opponent even at this stage of the war.

Glantz lays all of these operations out with his customary detail, backed up by the kind of exhaustive research that we have come to expect from him. Most helpfully, he provides translations of a number of documents from the Soviet archives. Detailed orders of battle are also provided, as are a number of maps.

In short, Glantz has produced another high quality piece of scholarship. This is but one more part of Glantz' effort to provide a look at the Eastern Front from the Soviet perspective. *Red Storm Over the Balkans* is a must read for any serious student of the Eastern Front.

David M. Glantz, *Red Storm Over the Balkans: The Failed Soviet Invasion of Romania, Spring 1944*. Lawrence, Ks.: University Press of Kansas, 2006. Pp. xiv, 448. Illus., maps, append., notes, biblio., index. \$39.95. ISBN: 0-7006-1465-6.

--Richard DiNardo,

USMC C&S College, Quantico

Reminder
Annual dues are \$35.00,
payable in September

Ancient

Memorable Doings and Sayings, by Valerius Maximus, edited and translated by D. R. Shackleton Bailey. Cambridge, Ma.: Harvard University Press Loeb Library, 20006. Two volumes. Gloss., biblio., index. \$21.50 each. ISBN: 0-674-99541-4; 0-674-99542-2.

Compiled during the reign of Tiberius (A.D. 14-39), Valerius Maximus' *Memorable Doings and Sayings* is a collection of literally hundreds of anecdotes about the words and deeds of many notable—and not so notable—people. The work is divided into nine “books,” each devoted to a

particular broad area, such as religion, amity and enmity, personality, behavior, and character, leadership, and so forth. A major portion of the anecdotes involve military leaders or events, and are often similar in nature to the *Stratagems* of Frontinus or Polyaeus. As many of the anecdotes are not known from any other source, the work adds to our understanding of a number of important commanders, battles, or campaigns, albeit often in small ways. A useful book for anyone interested in ancient warfare, and particularly the Roman military experience.

Xenophon's Retreat; Greece, Persia, and the End of the Golden Age, by Robin Waterfield. Cambridge, Ma.: Harvard University Press, 2006. Pp. xiii, 248. Maps, append., notes, biblio., index. \$27.95. ISBN: 0-674-02356-0.

In *Xenophon's Retreat*, the author, Robin Waterfield, does not attempt to retell the story of the long march of the ten thousand Greeks from the heart of Persia to the safety of the sea. As he observes, Xenophon did this wonderfully in his *Anabasis*, which Waterfield himself recently translated. What Waterfield attempts to do in this work is use Xenophon's story to tell us about life, politics, society, and, above all, war in the generation or so between the end of the Greek “Golden Age” and the rise of Macedon. He succeeds quite commendably. Waterfield passes easily back-and-forth between the hard marching Greeks (whom he follows on the ground, with some useful commentary), and the ideas that he wants to get across, from the inner workings of Greek family, political, and cultural life to the intrigues of Persian royalty. Along the way we get a good look at military life in the period, and a thoughtful biography of Xenophon. A good book about one of history's greatest adventures.

Rome's Gothic Wars, by Michael Kulikowski. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006. Pp. xi, 225. Maps, append., notes, biblio., index. \$25.00. ISBN: 0-521-84633-1.

Rome's Gothic Wars is part of a new series called “Key Conflicts of Classical Antiquity.” Designed for university students and serious scholars, each volume is intended to provide an introductory treatment of a particular crisis or conflict, summarizing the circumstances, events, personalities, and implications, as well as giving some idea of how historical interpretations have evolved. In the case of this volume, the reader is treated to a survey of Romano-[Visi]Gothic relations from the mid-third century through Alaric's “sack” of Rome in the early fifth century.

It provides a look at Gothic culture, the geopolitics of the “Barbarian Invasions” and the Roman response, a survey of sources, and, of course, a solid narrative of events. Despite being a text book of sorts, *Rome’s Gothic Wars* is likely to surprise even experienced students of the period with its fresh perspective.

Roman Imperial Policy from Julian to Theodosius, by R. Malcolm Errington. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006. Pp. xii, 336. Chron., notes, biblio., index. \$45.00. ISBN 0-8078-3038-0.

The author takes for his basic premise the idea that the nature of the Roman state was changed profoundly between the death of Julian (A.D. 363) and that of Theodosius (395). These 32 years saw the empire teeter on the brink of destruction following a series of military disasters and civil wars, only to be revived by Theodosius. In restoring the empire, the author argues, Theodosius helped firmly establish Christianity as its official religion, a strong unifying factor. But Theodosius also planted the seeds of future disaster, allowing extensive barbarian settlement in the Empire, in itself useful to offset population losses, but leading to the “barbarization” of the army. And he confirmed the practical division of the Empire that had evolved during the period into a permanent one, when, on his death, he willed each of his inept sons half, which would have dire consequences over the following few decades. The author makes an excellent case that none of the emperors in this period—Theodosius included—had a clear vision or coherent policy; they all made decisions primarily in reaction to events, rather with some definitive geopolitical objective in mind. A good book, with a great cast, much war, and some tricky machinations.

~~~~~ World War I

The Great War in History: Debates and Controversies, 1914 to the Present, by Jay Winter & Antione Prost. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006. Pp. viii, 250. Biblio., index. \$28.99 paper ISBN: 0-521-61633-6.

A summary look at the ways in which the Great War has been explained and interpreted, literally since it began in 1914. The book opens with some thoughtful discussion of national “takes” on the war, with, for example, the British tending to view it as fruitless, the French as vital to national survival, and the Germans, for a long time, as a victory betrayed. It goes on to review the seemingly endless arguments over who was responsible for the war’s outbreak, and, of course, the claims and counter-claims over which generals

did what and how much credit they deserve. They also take a look at how the “popularity” of historical writing on the war has ebbed and flowed, due in part to changes in public memory and in part to the unfolding of events in subsequent decades. Of particular interest are a series of chapters on how the perspective of historians and other writers on the war has changed, from an early “top down” view of diplomatic, military, and economic events, to examining how the respective societies fought the war, the common soldier’s experiences, and other forms of the “new” military history. There are occasionally some dated views, such as British and French troops “saving” Italy after Caporetto, and a highly biased plug for the “comprehensiveness” of the Anglocentric BBC/PBS “documentary” *The Great War and the Making of the Twentieth Century*, which hardly ever left the Western Front. Nevertheless, an important read for anyone interested in the history of the Great War.

Fighting the Great War, A Global History, by Michael S. Neiberg. Cambridge, Ma.: Harvard University Press, 2005. Pp. xx, 395. Illus., maps, append., notes, biblio., index. \$27.95. ISBN: 0-674-01696-3.

This is an excellent survey history of World War I. It provides a comprehensive treatment, across all theaters, of the principal diplomatic, political, and military developments, incorporating the most recent scholarship. While experts in particular areas will certainly find details about which they might quibble or events which they might consider overlooked, the book provides a very good introduction to the war for the non-specialist or the tyro. Indeed, it could easily serve as the basic text to guide a student through a survey course in the subject.

Duffy’s War: Fr. Francis Duffy, Wild Bill Donovan, and the Irish Fighting 69th in World War I, by Stephen L. Harris. Washington: Potomac Books, 2006. Pp. xxvi, 434. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$29.95 ISBN: 1-57488-651-7.

With *Duffy’s War*, Harris adds the “Fighting 69th” (165th Infantry) to his earlier treatments of New York City’s National Guard regiments in the First World War, having already produced fine accounts of the 7th “Silk Stocking” (107th Infantry) and the 15th “Harlem Hell Fighters” (369th Infantry). And *Duffy’s War* is a good shelf-mate for the earlier books. As is his custom, Harris seeks material widely, drawing upon all sorts of evidence, from official documents and reports, to personal accounts, diaries, news stories, and more, to tell the story of the regiment and its men and their role in the war. The regiment’s operations are clearly

explained, within the context of the “Big Picture,” thus fitting its experiences into the overall experience of the war. In addition to telling a rattling good tale about a fine regiment, the book also provides some insights into the experience of the National Guard from its first real test, on the Mexican Border in 1916-1917, and during the hasty mobilization and complex reorganizations, that took place upon activation for the Great War. There is, of course, a great cast, with Fr. Duffy and Bill Donovan in the lead, and a wealth of interesting New York characters in support.

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**WW II**

*Churchill's Navy: The Ships, the Men and Organization, 1939-1945*, by Brian Lavery. London: Conway Maritime Press/Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2006. Pp. 287. Illus., maps, diagr., tables, append., notes, biblio., index. \$59.95. ISBN: 1-8448-6035-3.

Not a history, *Churchill's Navy* provides a comprehensive look at the Royal Navy during World War II as an institution. Chapters deal with the organization and administration of RN, the nature of its enemies and its allies, its technologies, its ships (lots of chapters about ships) and aircraft, personnel, naval culture and society, and its ways of war. Although this could have been a formula for a very dry, dull work, in fact Brian Lavery, author of a number of other works of naval history, manages to make it readable, clearly discussing often arcane technical issues. The work is profusely illustrated, including many color images and diagrams, and is certainly an indispensable work for any student of naval warfare.

*From Mahan to Pearl Harbor: The Imperial Japanese Navy and the United States*, by Sadao Asada. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2006. Pp. xii, 385. Tables, notes, biblio., index. \$36.95. ISBN: 1-55750-042-8.

The last work of Sadao Asada, the noted Japanese diplomatic historian, *From Mahan to Pearl Harbor* is essentially the story of Japanese-American relations through Pearl Harbor, with a strong emphasis on the perspective of the IJN on that relationship. In this work, Asada tries to give the American reader the Japanese take on developments, often very successfully. Thus it is, in a sense, an account of missteps, misunderstandings, and misinterpretations as much as one of overt actions as each country pursued what it perceived to be its national interests, against a background of racial stereotyping, national ideology, and cultural bias, on both sides.

*Japan's Blitzkrieg: The Allied Collapse in the East, 1941-1942*, by Bernard Edwards. Barnesley, S.

Yorks./Dulles: Casemate, 2006. Pp. xi, 194. Illus., maps, biblio., index. \$39.95. ISBN:1-84415-442-4.

For Americans, *Japan's Blitzkrieg* will be a rather different look at the opening months of the Pacific War. The book is focused primarily on operations in British and Dutch territories, where there was little or no American involvement. So it provides extensive coverage of the defense of Hong Kong, the Malaya Campaign and the fall of Singapore, which are particularly well done, the collapse of Dutch power in the East Indies, operations in Burma, and the Japanese naval sweep through the eastern Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal. Although there is an occasional howler (the U.S.N. did *not* have “Long Lance” torpedoes), the treatment is good, even-handed and well written, offering an unusual perspective and with occasionally very valuable insights. *Japan's Blitzkrieg* would make a useful read for anyone with any interest in the Pacific War.

*Fascism's European Empire: Italian Occupation during the Second World War*, by Davide Rodogno, translated by Adrian Belron. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006. Pp. xxi, 504. Illus., maps, append., notes, biblio., index. \$99.00. ISBN: 0-521-84515-7.

Despite being one of the three principal Axis powers, Italy emerged from the Second World War with a rather positive image, almost as if she were a victim rather than a perpetrator. For those who hold this view, *Fascism's European Empire* may come as something of a surprise. It takes a hard look at Italian occupation policies and practices in the areas of France, Yugoslavia, and Greece that came under Italian control. To be sure, the experience of those under occupation by Italian forces was not quite as horrendous as those under German or Japanese, it was certainly not pleasant, and sometimes did match the evils inflicted by the other Axis partners. The book examines efforts to “Italianize” the local peoples, racial attitudes, economic and development projects, and Italian policies toward resistance. The treatment is balanced, pointing out situations in which Italian policies or forces dealt “fairly” with the locals peoples, notably in trying to curb the actions of some of Italy's local allies, such as the Croats, and discusses Italian ambivalence toward anti-Semitism. An important read for those with an interest in Italy in the war or the history of occupation.

*Through Mobility We Conquer: The Mechanization of U.S. Cavalry*, by George F. Hofmann. Lexington, Ky.: University Press of Kentucky,

2006. Pp. xv, 578. Illus., maps, tables, notes, biblio., index. \$45.00. ISBN: 0-8131-2403-4.

A very comprehensive look at the long and complex process by which the U.S. Cavalry evolved from a mounted to a mechanized force. The book begins in World War I and does not end until the late 1940s. Along the way, it deals with the problems presented by horse-loving traditionalists, “tread-head” extremists, budget cutters, intra-service rivalry, bureaucratic infighting and inertia, personalities, among them the famous J. Walter Christie, the opportunities and limitations of technology, as well as the influence of isolationist and pacifist political trends. Along the way, *Through Mobility We Conquer* takes a look at foreign trends, notably in Germany and Russia, how the rising tide of conflict in the 1930s helped shape American developments, and the influence of German success in the opening rounds of World War II. The book then carries the story of the U.S. Cavalry into the war, in which mechanized cavalry reconnaissance units played an important role, and then into the post-war period, with a brief reappearance of the during the occupation of Germany, and the final emergence of “Armor-Cavalry” as a new branch of the service. A fine account of evolution of the U.S. Cavalry in the twentieth century, this work is, however, not for the fainthearted.

*Ship of Ghosts: The Story of the USS Houston, FDR's Legendary Lost Cruiser and the Epic Saga of Her Survivors*, by James D. Hornfischer. New York: Bantam Dell/Random House, 2006. Pp. viii, 530. Illus., maps, append., notes, biblio., index. \$26.00. ISBN: 0-553-80390-5.

A powerful account of one of the most notable American warships ever, though one with little presence in the national memory. *Houston*, FDR's “favorite” ship, had a short, but extra-ordinary wartime career, fighting in Southeast Asian waters from the outbreak of the Pacific War until she was sunk early on the morning of March 1, 1942, in a fight described by Samuel Eliot Morison as “one of the most gallant” in the history of the navy, though one about which no details were known until after the war. *Ship of Ghosts* tells a gripping story of the ship's life and death, drawing upon memoirs, memories, and documents, including FDR's four trips in her, her routine in the prewar fleet, and the desperate days and weeks until, heavily best, she went down off Sunda Strait in company with HMAS *Perth*. But the book doesn't stop there. It follows her crew into captivity, during which many of the men, and other Americans captured by the Japanese in Southeast Asia worked and too often died to build the infamous Siam-Burma railroad. There's actually, a surprising amount more,

including OSS rescue efforts, the tragic deaths of some men when prison-ships were torpedoed by American submarines, the liberation of the survivors, and their lives – and reunions – after the war. A very good account of a stout ship and her brave crew, worth reading for anyone with an interest in war at sea.

### ~~~~~ The American Military Experience

*A Guide to the Battles of the American Revolution*, by Theodore P. Savas & J. David Dameron. El Dorado Hills, Ca./New York: Savas Beattie, 2006. Pp. lxxix, 366. Illus., maps, tables, diagr., append, references, index. \$34.95. ISBN: 1-982714-12-X.

This is considerably more than “just” a guide to the battles in the War of Independence. The nearly 60 pages of front matter include a survey of the principal campaigns of the war, a concise treatment of the Revolutionary Navy, and an outline look at the armies, British, Hessian, American, French, and Spanish, including a surprisingly complete order-of-battle. The body of the work, of course, is devoted the battles, nearly 70 actions, some of them a mite obscure, but all of considerable interest (naturally, not everyone will be satisfied by the selection in the case of some of the smaller actions). Each battle is treated in a standard format, including commanders, forces, weather conditions, the situation from each side's perspective, terrain, the course of the action, casualties, its outcome and consequences. Entries usually have a map, and notes for anyone interested in visiting the site. Although intended as a reference, the book could be read through, as it provides a good overview of the military side of the Revolution.

*Chasing Ghosts: Unconventional Warfare in American History*, by John J. Tierney, Jr. Washington: Potomac Books, 2006. Pp. xvii, 288. Illus., notes, biblio., index. \$26.95. ISBN: 1-59797-015-8

An exploration of America's rich history of unconventional warfare. The author, a national security expert, argues quite effectively that unconventional warfare is more common than conventional warfare in the American military experience. Nevertheless, it is one with which the American armed forces have never been completely comfortable, and almost always forget the lessons learned in favor of more conventional military operations, only to be caught short the next time they encountered irregular warfare. Although the extensive unconventional military experience of the colonial period is rather neglected, and there are some technical and terminological bloopers (*e.g.*, the use of “division” when “unit” would be more appropriate, *etc.*), the book is well researched and

otherwise quite complete. It touches upon numerous small wars, most largely forgotten, and the problems the Army and the Marines encountered in coping with them. *Chasing Ghosts* is an important read given current world military conditions.

*Finding Your Father's War: A Practical Guide to Researching and Understanding Service in the World War II U.S. Army*, by Jonathan Gawne. Philadelphia: Casemate, 2006. Pp. x, 341. Illus., tables, diagr., append, references, biblio., index. \$24.95 paper. ISBN: 1-932033-14-9.

*Finding Your Father's War* is a thoroughly comprehensive guide to the U.S. Army in the World War II period. Although focused on helping the researcher track down information on individual members of the service, it covers an enormous range of subjects, including army organization, insignia, record keeping, rank, insignia, unit organization and history (though some of the division profiles reflect excessive unit claims as to days in combat), and more. A particularly useful aspect of the book is tips on how to proceed from information you know to uncover more information. This book is by no means just for the novice. A surprising amount of the material in it may not be familiar to even serious students of the army and the war, who are more likely to be focused on equipment, tactics, and operations.

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Bob Rowen, Webmaster

### Biographies & Personal Accounts

*Pogue's War: Diaries of a World War II Combat Historian*, by Forrest C. Pogue, with a Foreword by Stephen E. Ambrose. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2006. Pp. xviii, 411. Illus., gloss., notes, index. \$19.95 paper. ISBN: 0-8131-9160-2.

In his early 20s, and, despite a Ph.D., an enlisted man, Forrest Pogue was recruited by the army's historical service and trained to be a combat historian. He followed the war from D-Day (of which he was privy to the innermost secrets) until V-E Day, usually close to or even right on the front, interviewing troops, recording impressions, collecting information. All of this would later help him write several notable works on the war. But in addition to his official reports and notebooks, Pogue kept a diary, by war's end filling "an armload of little gray books." These form the basis of this volume, transcribed and edited by Franklin D. Anderson, Pogue's nephew. About a third of the book deals with events before D-Day, and the

reader can gain insights into a somewhat privileged enlisted man's life in England. But from D+1 on, the book is mostly about getting the story first-hand from the combat troops, punctuated by the occasional stay in Paris or a quiet village, and, toward the end, a not-quite sober encounter with the Red Army. An excellent read for anyone interested in World War II and the craft of the historian.

*The Life of Yellowstone Kelly*, by Jerry Keenan. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2006. Pp. xxi, 377. Illus., maps, notes, index. \$29.95. ISBN: 0-8293-4035-0.

Luther S. Kelly (1849-1928), originally from rural upstate New York, was at turns soldier, farmer, businessman, frontiersman, Indian agent, government clerk, and more, switching back-and-forth from role to role as it suited him, while becoming an acquaintance of some of the notables of his day, such as Teddy Roosevelt, Nelson A. Miles, "Buffalo Bill" Cody, and more. In short, he was much like many other nineteenth century American characters. But unlike most of those who led similar lives, Kelly was also a tireless diarist and letter writer. Drawing upon Kelly's mass of writings, Jerry Keenan, author of a number of works on late-nineteenth century America, has produced a readable, interesting, informative, and often entertaining biography. *The Life of Yellowstone Kelly* provides useful insights into America in the latter nineteenth century, from life on the frontier to the corridors of power in Washington, as well as the Great Sioux War and the Philippine-American War. A good book.

*Commodore John Rodgers: Paragon of the Early American Navy*, by John H. Schroeder. Gainesville, Fla.: University Press of Florida, 2006. Pp. xvi, 255. Illus., maps, Chron, notes, biblio., index. \$59.95. ISBN: 0-8130-2963-5.

John Rodgers (1772-1838) joined the Navy in 1798 as a junior officer on the USS *Constitution* and rose rapidly thereafter, becoming a captain within a year and a titular commodore soon after, while taking part in numerous actions during the Quasi-War with France, operations against the Barbary States and miscellaneous pirates, and in the War of 1812, and becoming quite prosperous on prize money. His story is the story of the early American Navy, and it is well told in this work. The book also gives the reader a look at the intricacies of life and service in the early navy, the maritime policy of the Republic during the first third of the nineteenth century, the role of the navy in international relations, and, not incidentally, the origins of a noted American military family. A good read.

## Other

*The Tao of Deception: Unorthodox Warfare in Historic and Modern China*, by Ralph D. Sawyer, with the collaboration of Mei-châeun Lee Sawyer. New York: Basic/Perseus, 2006. Pp. xv, 475+. Notes, biblio., index. \$29.95. ISBN: 0-46507-205-4.

Ralph D. Sawyer has translated many Chinese military classics into English, and is probably the principal American specialist on the subject. In *The Tao of Deception*, he attempts to provide an overview of the uses of unorthodox approaches in war and diplomacy in China from the earliest times to the present. The book is replete with ruses, deceptions, and stratagems, and will undoubtedly be of great interest to all serious students of unconventional warfare. Of particular value is a short digression in which Sawyer points out that there exists comparable Western classics that also deal with unorthodox approaches in warfare, a point often overlooked in treatments of the subject. But *The Tao of Deception* is not for the amateur. It presupposes considerable knowledge of Chinese history; the uninitiated may have trouble understanding the difference between the “Spring and Autumn” period and “Warring States” era, and so forth. In addition, the book could use some maps, as understanding some of the campaigns is impossible without a notion of the geography..

*Fighting for the Fatherland: The Story of the German Soldier from 1648 to the Present Day*, by David Stone. Washington: Potomac Books, 2006. Pp. 464. Illus., maps, append., gloss., notes, biblio., index. \$29.95. ISBN: 1-59797-069-7.

*Fighting for the Fatherland* takes a look at German military history from the Thirty Years’ War to the present, using as its primary focus the background, motivation, training, and combat experience of the common soldier. This is a tall order. Nevertheless, Stone handles it quite well. Because the period covered saw Germany develop from the more than 350 sovereign or quasi-sovereign entities of the Holy Roman Empire into to a single state (and then, briefly into two, 1945-1991), the book tends to deal primarily with the Prussian experience, but this is legitimate, given that Prussia was the kernel around which a unified Germany was formed. Roughly 100 pages are devoted to the period up to the mid-nineteenth century, and the next 130 to “The Golden Age,” from then to the outbreak of the First World War. There follow some 120 pages on the period of the world wars and the German military complicity in the Nazi horror, which left Germany, and its army, shattered. The book concludes with 40 pages on the post-war revival of the German nation and its

army, a particularly interesting section. A valuable read for anyone interested in military history.



*Power at Sea*, by Lisle A. Rose. Columbia, Mo.: University of Missouri Press, 2007.

- Vol. I, *The Age of Navalism, 1890-1918*. Pp. xxiii, 355. \$19.95 paper. ISBN: 0-8262-1701-1.
- Vol. II, *The Breaking Storm, 1919-1945*. Pp. xvi, 514. \$19.95 paper. ISBN: 0-8262-1702-8.
- Vol. III, *A Violent Peace, 1946-2006*. Pp. xviii, 371. \$19.95 paper. ISBN: 0-8262-1703-6.

Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index.

*Power at Sea* is a survey of the evolution and role of navies from the onset of what might be termed the “Mahanian Age” to the present. It is quite well done for a survey impressively comprehensive. Rose, author of a number of other works of military and naval history, manages to integrate technology, politics and policies, and operations, at times in considerable detail, into a well written, readable package. At times, he offers some unusual insights and interpretations. For example, he demonstrates that by the outbreak of World War I the U.S. Navy had accumulated more experience with large scale transoceanic deployments than any other nation. He also does a very fine job of discussing the intricacies and implications of the much misunderstood naval arms limitation treaties. One criticism that could be offered is that *Power at Sea* virtually ignores smaller navies, even the French and Italian, although some of them developed quite sophisticated solutions to their maritime problems, but this is a failing shared by most surveys of naval affairs. A very good book for anyone interested in naval history.

*Medieval Mercenaries: The Business of War*, by William Urban. London: Greenhill/St. Paul: MBI, 2006. Pp. 304. Illus., maps, biblio., index. \$39.95. ISBN: 1-8536-7697-7.

There’s a lot about mercenaries and the “business of war” in here. Ranging from Italy to France to the Baltic region, Urban tells the story of the professional military company with considerable zest and often in some detail. A medievalist with a penchant for military history, the author makes an excellent case that in the European middle ages, mercenaries were necessary because few states or princes could afford standing armies. The non-state (though not necessarily stateless) mercenary company represented the only really professional

standing military forces. To support itself, it hired out to the highest bidder (albeit usually with some reservations), and, at times, by a little free-lance plunder. But Urban goes further, taking a look at the image of the mercenary as it was formed by writers from Machiavelli to Arthur Conan Doyle, neither of whom necessarily got it right. A good book for anyone interested in war and peace in medieval times, and in adventure literature.



## Membership News

*Neil Graham*, one of NYMAS' most faithful members, passed away on Saturday, April 21. Born in 1940, Neil was a Navy veteran and graduate of Pace University. He had recently delivered several talks on Islamic history to NYMAS. Board Member *Frank Radford* said of him, "Neil's death has been so sudden some of us, including me, have yet to grasp what we've truly lost. Neil was a good man and a wise one - a very rare phenomenon."

Board Member *Al Nofi* was interviewed by Prof. Gerry Prokopowicz of Civil War Talk Radio on Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. The chat, which ran about an hour, is available from the CWTR website.

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## NYMAS Fall 2007 Schedule

- Sep. 7 - "American Interpretation of the 'Asian Military Mind': Jun, 1944 - Jan, 1945," Frank Radford, NYMAS
- Sep. 14 - "The U.S. and the Colonial Wars: Indochina, Korea, Algeria, Vietnam, and Their Influence on the Two Wars in Iraq," Robert Miller, Enigma Books
- Sep. 21 - "Scorching Iroquoia: The Sullivan-Clinton Campaign of 1779 as New York's Missing Link," Bob Spiegelman, Independent Scholar
- Sep. 28 - "Brutal Justice: Decimation and the Roman Legion," Mark Wilson, CUNY Graduate Center
- Oct. 5 - "Failures and Facades in Iraq: A Soldier's Perspective," Paul Rieckhoff, Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America
- Oct. 12/13 (Fri/Sat) - NYMAS Fall Conference, "The Surge in Iraq" Speakers to be announced
- Oct. 19 - "Battle of Hondschoote, 1793," Alex Stavropoulos, CUNY Graduate Center
- Oct. 26 - "Military Discipline in the Greek World," Jennifer Roberts, CUNY Graduate Center
- Nov. 2 - "Frank Luke, Jr.: Maverick of the Skies. New Perspectives and Details of this WWI Ace's Life and Career," Blaine Pardoe, Author
- Nov. 9 - "The Madero Revolution: Mexico, 1910-1911" (Note change), Jim Dingeman, NYMAS / INN
- Nov. 16 - "The German Naval Mutiny and Revolution: November 1918," Edmund Clingan, Queens Community College

- Nov. 23 - No meeting - Thanksgiving Weekend
- Nov. 30 - "Was the Nineteenth-Century Army Isolated from American Society?," Samuel Watson, USMA
- Dec. 7 - "Japan under the Bombs: The Air War from Target Level," Theodore F. Cook, Jr., William Paterson University of New Jersey
- Dec. 14 - "Command in the Continental Army," Maj. Jason "Dutch" Palmer, USMA
- Dec. 21 - "Al Qaeda's Doctrine for an Insurgency," Norman Cigar, Marine Corps University

NYMAS talks are open to the public and free. They are normally held on Friday evenings at the City University of New York Graduate Center, at 365 Fifth Avenue between 34th and 35th Streets from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Friday lectures are usually held on the 6th floor in Room 6-495, but confirmation of the room number should be obtained from the guard at the street-level entrance.

These talks are sponsored by the New York Military Affairs Symposium in conjunction with CUNY's Conference on History and Politics, Dr. George D. Schwab, Director. NYMAS is associated with the Society for Military History, Region 2.

Speakers and subjects may be subject to change without notice. A current schedule is available at the NYMAS website at <http://nymas.org>.

**The New York Military Affairs Symposium**  
**CUNY Graduate Center**  
**c/o History Department, Room 5114**  
**365 Fifth Avenue**  
**New York, N.Y., 10016**

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NYMAS is a tax exempt, not-for-profit membership corporation chartered under the laws of the State of New York. Donations are deductible from both Federal and New York State taxes. Membership dues are \$35.00 a year, payable in September. Checks should be made out to "NYMAS" and mailed to the CUNY address. Items for *The Review* should be sent to the Editor, Albert A. Nofi, via email at [anofi@nymas.org](mailto:anofi@nymas.org).