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2006 Book Awards Announced

The Arthur Goodzeit Award

Ivan's War: Life and Death in the Red Army, 1939-1945,

by Catherine Merridale.

New York : Metropolitan Books, 2006. pp. xii, 462. Illus, maps, notes, biblio., index. \$30.00. ISBN: 0805074554

The NYMAS Civil War Award

The Civil War in Arizona: The California Volunteers, 1861-65,

by Andrew E. Masich

Norman, Ok: University of Oklahoma Press, 2006. Pp. 384. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$32.95. ISBN: 0806137479

Some Notable Recent Books

The Franco-Prussian War, by Quintin Barry. Solihull, West Midl: Hellion/Drexel Hill, Pa.: Casemate, 2007.

- Vol. I, *The Campaign of Sedan: Helmuth von Moltke and the Overthrow of the Second Empire*. Pp. xvi, 342. Illus., maps, append., notes, biblio., index. \$59.95. ISBN: 978-1-874622-64-2.
- Vol. II, *After Sedan: Helmuth von Moltke and the Defeat of the Government of National Defense*. Pp. xiv, 530. Illus., maps, append., notes, biblio., index. \$59.95. ISBN: 978-1-874622-69-7

With two excellent studies of the 1870-1871 Franco-German War already available, Sir Michael Howard's venerable classic *The Franco-Prussian War: the German invasion of France, 1870-1871* (New York: 1961) and Geoffrey Wawro's more recent *The Franco-Prussian War: The German Conquest of France in 1870-1871* (New York: 2003), one might be tempted to wonder is yet a third needed? No work can ever cover everything, and Barry's book is less a replacement for these two works than it is a companion and supplement.

Barry has given us a look at two areas that both earlier works cover in less detail. First, he provides more tactical detail about battles and engagements, in addition covering more of them than just the major actions. This not only gives the reader a much better idea of how battles were fought in the period, but also helps explain how small actions often had cumulative effects on the course of operations. This is particularly useful since Barry taps numerous letters and memoirs that neither previous scholar was able to use.

Barry's second contribution is that while both Howard and Wawro devote about two-thirds of their works to the collapse of the Second Empire in

August-September of 1870, Barry devotes more attention to the period from September through January, which saw the extraordinary, if ultimately unsuccessful effort of the French "Government of National Defense" to retrieve something from the disaster. And even here, he provides more coverage of operations in the provinces than to the defense of Paris, though he also covers that well.

In short, Barry's work stands alongside those of Howard and Wawro for anyone with a serious interest in the Franco-Prussian War, the two armies involved, or the development of the twentieth century's way of war.

The Last Days of Mussolini, by Ray Moseley. Stroud, Gloucester: Sutton Publishing/Lanham, Md.: National Book Network, 2006. Pp. vi, 442. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$34.95. ISBN: 0-7509-4449-8.

On one level, this very readable, detailed work is an excellent biography of Mussolini from September of 1943 through his death in April of 1945. It deals with the full range of *Il Duce's* life and activities during this period, including his relations with his family and mistress, as well as his political interactions with Hitler and his own henchmen. As necessary, the book includes occasional retrospective looks at earlier events and actions, to set the period under study into better perspective.

The author, a journalist who wrote an excellent biography of Mussolini's son-in-law and sometime foreign minister Galeazzo Ciano, draws upon *Il Duce's* letters and conversations, to probe his thoughts at various times, often with surprising results. This alone would make it a valuable book, but there's more.

Wrapped around the story of Mussolini's final 20 months, Moseley provides a solid account of the brutal partisan fighting that raged behind the lines from the surrender of Italy to the Allies to the collapse of European Axis. Thus, *The Last Days of Mussolini* is also the best account in English of the most bitter resistance movement in western Europe, in which literally tens of thousands of people died from combat, atrocities, and privation. A very good book for anyone interested in World War II in Europe, the resistance, and, of course, *Il Duce*.

War Summits: The Meetings that Shaped World War II and the Postwar World, by David Stone. Washington: Potomac Books, 2006. Pp. xiv, 304. Illus., tables, maps, notes, biblio., index. \$19.95 paper. ISBN: 978-1-57488-902-4.

War Summits is the first comprehensive survey of the dozen or so strategy-shaping meetings of the principal Allied national leaders.

As such it gives the reader a good grounding in the strategic situation at the time of each of the conferences. It then explains the issues that had to be resolved by the participants, of whom the most important was Winston Churchill, a real globe trotter when it came to keeping in touch with his partners, FDR and Joseph Stalin: the “the Big Three” actually met only three times. The coverage also includes meetings with what might be termed the “supporting” cast, leaders of the other Allied powers who occasionally took part at least peripherally, among them Charles DeGaulle and Chaing Kai-shek, as well as Harry S. Truman and Clement Atlee, who took part in the final summit, at Potsdam, in succession to FDR and Churchill.

The choice of venue is often discussed, which sometimes reveals interesting political subtleties (*i.e.*, Stalin’s unwillingness to go anywhere not controlled by the Red Army). Then the book gets into the meat of each summit, explaining the differing perspectives of the participants, the various proposals under discussion, and the reasoning behind the final decisions, as well as providing an overview of the consequences.

Although *War Summits* cannot provide a highly detailed look at each conference, it does give even the serious student of the war an excellent overview, often with very valuable analysis.

~~~~~ Ancient

The Peloponnesian War: Athens, Sparta, and the Struggle for Greece, by Nigel Bagnal. New York: St. Martin’s, 2004. Pp. xviii, 318. Illus., maps, notes, index. \$29.95. ISBN: 0-312-34215-2.

Like many another old soldier, after he retired as the British Army’s Chief of the General Staff, Field Marshal Sir Nigel Bagnal turned to the writing of military history. At this, he proved rather able. His *The Punic Wars* (1990), was widely viewed as a serious general survey for readers lacking familiarity with the historical, political, cultural, geographic, and military background which framed the long struggle. In the posthumously published *The Peloponnesian War*, Sir Nigel, who died in 2002, matches his earlier success. The book is a solid account of the war, often with unique insights, which also provides an excellent look at the historical and political circumstances that led to the outbreak of the war and the military, social, and cultural forces that shaped it. Despite the existence of several other excellent recent treatments of the

war by notable scholars, Sir Nigel’s is of particular value for anyone who lacks a good background in the “Golden Age of Greece.”

Caesar’s Legacy: Civil War and the Emergence of the Roman Empire, by Josiah Osgood. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006. Pp. xii, 440. Illus., notes, biblio., index. \$29.99 paper. ISBN: 0-521-67177-9.

The causes and course of Caesar’s civil war have been covered in considerable detail by a number of scholars, but the even more complex mix of politics and personalities that sparked over a decade of civil war that followed his death have tended to be overlooked. *Caesar’s Legacy* seeks to fill this niche, and it does a very good job. This book works on several levels. The almost Machiavellian political intricacies are well elucidated, the principal characters—among them Cicero, Antony, Octavian, Brutus, Cassius, Lepidus—and many minor ones are brought to life, and the campaigns are clearly treated in some detail. But the book does much more. Through careful sifting of evidence, from poetry and literature to inscriptions and archaeology, Prof. Osgood, a classicist at Georgetown, also illuminates the effects of the war on the peoples of Italy and the rest of Roman world. They suffered the horrors of war, burdensome taxation, confiscation of property, and the loss of their sons as the elites of Roman society worked out a new dispensation, that ultimately proved more stable than the old. *Caesar’s Legacy* is a seriously scholarly work, but is very well written and likely to prove quite enjoyable for anyone with an interest in the Roman world.

The Army in the Roman Revolution, by Arthur Keaveney. New York: Routledge, 2007. Pp. x, 150. Append., notes, biblio., index. \$31.95 paper. ISBN: 978-0-415-39487-1

Ronald Syme’s seminal work, *The Roman Revolution* (1939) established the now generally accepted thesis that the collapse of the Republic and the establishment of the Empire constituted a revolutionary upheaval. This work, *The Army in the Roman Revolution*, takes a look at the ways in which changes in the Roman military system fitted into that revolution and how the army itself became both a part of the problem and a player. The book is broken into four broad themes: “The Leader and the Led,” discussing the ways in which military leaders changed from being mere commanders to essentially patrons of their armies; “Politics and Profit,” how men such as Sulla, Pompey, Crassus, Caesar, the Assassins (or Liberators), and the Triumvirs, began using their armies for personal political and financial advantage; “Land and Land Hunger,” how the need to provide for the retirement of the growing number of men under arms affected political developments; and finally “Obedience and Disobedience,” the ways in which the troops

themselves became a political force separate, to some extent, from their commanders. *The Army in the Roman Revolution* will be valuable for students of the late Republic and Early Empire as well as of the Roman military system.

~~~~~ Napoleonic

Charge! Great Cavalry Charges of the Napo-leanic Wars, by Digy Smith. London: Greenhill Books/St. Paul: MBI Publishing, 2003. Pp. 304. Illus., maps, append., biblio., index. \$24.95. ISBN: 978-1-85367-722-9

A look at more than a score of cavalry charges, from 1800 through 1815. The book opens with a short, but useful chapter on they types of cavalry and their niches within the military system of the time. Then, each of over a dozen chapters are devoted to a particular battle or campaign in which a cavalry charge – or charges – played an important role. All the more famous charges are here, including Marengo, Austerlitz, Eylau, so forth, through Waterloo. But there are also many less well-known, including an entire chapter devoted to “Allied Cavalry Raids of 1813.” This last is but one of several chapters that discuss operations *other than* those by French or British troops, remedying a common failing of works in English on the Napoleonic wars. *Charge!* is likely to be of considerable interest to any student of the Napoleonic era or the history of cavalry

From Corunna to Waterloo, The Letters and Journals of Two Napoleonic Hussars, edited by Gareth Glover. London: Greenhill Books/St. Paul, MBI Publishing, 2007. Pp. 287. Map, notes, biblio., index. \$39.95. ISBN: 1-85367-709-4.

Life as a cavalryman during the Napoleonic Wars, drawn from the letters and journals of two officers of the 15th Hussars: Edwin Griffith, who joined the army at age 14, in 1800, and rose to major, and his nephew, Frederick Charles Philips, who joined in 1808, rising to captain. The pair served in garrison and in the field, during the Corunna Campaign in 1808, in the Peninsula in 1813 and 1814, and in the Waterloo Campaign in 1815. By lightly editing their journal entries and letters, and providing an occasional “bridge” as background or fill in details not covered by Griffith or Philips, the editor leaves us with a more or less continuous narrative of events. In the process we get a unique soldier’s eye-view of many notable – and some not so-notable – battles and skirmishes, along with a lot of insights on the routine of a cavalry officer’s life, including the often overlooked tedious but vital daily routine that took up most of a man’s career, but is usually omitted from most accounts of wars and campaigns. A good book for anyone with an interest in the Napoleonic Wars or the cavalry.

Resisting Napoleon: The British Response to the Threat of Invasion, 1797-1815, edited by Mark Philp. Burlington, Ct.: Ashgate Publishing, 2006. Pp. xiv, 248. Illus., tables, notes, index. \$99.95. ISBN: 0-75465-313-7.

The subtitle, *The British Response to the Threat of Invasion*, quite nicely summarizes the subject of this book, which is explored in an introduction and a dozen essays. Since French efforts during the Republic and Napoleonic periods to stage an invasion of Britain never got to the point where landings were imminent, the subject of British preparations to meet it is largely overlooked in the literature, but no longer. The essays here cover a very wide range of topics within the broader theme, from the use of art, music, and pamphlets to hearten the nation, to the raising of troops in amazing numbers, whether regulars, volunteers, militiamen, or others, and a valuable essay that compares preparations against the threat of invasion by the Republic with those against Napoleon. An important book for anyone interested in Britain and the wars.

~~~~~ The Great Republic

Don't Give Up the Ship: Myths of the War of 1812, by Donald R. Hickey. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2006. Pp. xxix, 430. Illus., maps, append., notes, index. \$34.95. ISBN: 0-252-03179-2.

Although the bicentenary of the War of 1812 is almost upon us, there seems little interest by anyone to commemorate the conflict. Since it seems likely that *Don't Give Up the Ship* will *not* signal a flood of new books on the subject, we are lucky to have this useful work. Having dealt with the war in chronological history (*The War of 1812: A Forgotten Conflict*) some years ago, Hickey takes a thematic approach in this work. Following a concise survey of Anglo-American relations from the end of the Revolutionary War, he devotes a chapter each to the causes, war aims (and yes, seamen’s rights really *was* important), the outbreak of the war, the battles and campaigns, maritime and lacustrine operations, people, and what he terms “the mechanics of war.” A final chapter deals with the last phase of the war and the “peace process,” followed by a short discussion of the results, and several valuable appendices. Hickey actually doesn’t refute all that many “myths,” but he does cast fresh light on many obscure events and matters often overlooked (though he oddly omits any direct treatment of the U.S. Regulars or the late-war efforts by several states to institute standing conscripted state forces). A good book, particularly for those who know little about the 1812 war.

The Black Hawk War of 1832, by Patrick J. Jung. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2007. Pp. xii, 275. Illus., maps, append., notes, biblio., index. \$29.95. ISBN: 978-0-8061-3811-4.

Surprisingly, this is the first attempt at a serious scholarly treatment of the Black Hawk War despite the fact that it was of considerable importance in the development of the Mid-West, and produced no less than three presidents – Zachary Taylor, Abraham Lincoln, and Jefferson Davis. And it is an excellent effort. Jung, a professor of History at the Milwaukee School of Engineering, spends the first third of the book with a background into the cultural, political, diplomatic, personal, and military origins of the war, which was actually an attempt by Chief Black Hawk to lead the Sauk and Fox nations on a peaceful migration back to their ancestral lands in Illinois. A very nuanced account of events follows, discussing how things quickly spun out of control, leading to a strong military reaction by the United States, with bloody consequences for the Indians. Along the way he includes a biography of Black Hawk and shorter looks at the lives and character of many other notables, plus some very good battle pieces, and a much insightful commentary on frontier society in the first third of the nineteenth century.

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Bob Rowen, Webmaster

World War I

The Shamrock Battalion in the Great War, by Martin J. Hogan, edited ad with an introduction by James J. Cooke. Columbia, Mo.: University of Missouri Press, 2007. Pp. viii, 132. Illus., maps, biblio., index. \$24.95. ISBN: 978-0-8262-1710-3.

Martin J. Hogan served in Company K, 3rd Battalion, 165th Infantry – the “Fighting 69th” – and wrote this short memoir not long after the war. While it may not be great history (there are a lot of little errors), the book provides a Doughboy’s look at his service in the war, from basic training in an empty lot in Manhattan to the trenches in France. Along the way Hogan gives the reader his take on some of the men who served in the regiment, from Col. William “Wild Bill” Donovan and Chaplain Francis Duffy down to many lesser-known characters. There’s a lot about training, and marches in chilling rain, as well as , combat.

Architect of Victory: Douglas Haig, by Walter Reid. Edinburgh: Birlinn/Drexel Hill, Pa.: Casemate, 2006. Pp. xvii, 555. Illus., map, notes, biblio., index. \$50.00. ISBN: 1-84158-517-3.

Reid, author of an earlier work on the Battle of Arras in 1917, here sets out to restore the reputation of Douglas Haig, whom he believes is wrongly

maligned as a “butcher and bungler” rather than as the true “architect of victory.” This is a tall order, given Haig’s generally accepted reputation. As the old saw has it, “extreme claims require extreme proof.” Reid’s attempts falter, with too much space devoted to the life of Douglas Haig; nearly half the book deals with events prior to World War I, including much about his upbringing, family, and social background, soldiering at the height of British imperium, and so forth. Most of this seems irrelevant to his role as the commander of the BEF. Was Haig an inept, insensitive commander, or should he be numbered among the military “greats”? Reid touches upon some important points. He very rightly notes that in only about two years, Haig supervised the transformation of the BEF from an essentially nineteenth century force into a twentieth century one. Such a transition was bound to be painful, especially while the army was heavily engaged under conditions in which both sides were developing and using new tactics, weapons, and doctrines with startling rapidity. This certainly suggests that Haig was more able than is generally considered, but as to whether we should consider Haig the “Architect of Victory,” at best the case is still open.

Argonne Days in World War I, by Horace L. Baker, edited with an introduction by Robert H. Ferrell. Columbia, Mo.: University of Missouri Press, 2007. Pp. xiii, 157. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$29.95. ISBN: 978-08262-1708-0.

Horace L. Baker was 23 and teaching in a high school when the U.S. entered World War I. His highly readable memoir, drawn from his war diary, some letters, and reminiscences are an excellent soldier’s-eye view of the war, marred only by the almost total absence of any mention of events prior to the Spring of 1918. It opens with him already in France, riding a “40 and 8” toward the Front as a soldier in the 32nd Division, and aside from an occasional reference to earlier events, it carries him through to the Armistice. Nevertheless, *Argonne Days* gives the reader an excellent look at life, service, and death in the A.E.F. during its toughest fight, the Battle of the Argonne, still the longest, largest, and bloodiest battle ever fought by American troops. The editor’s introduction and notes add valuable background material. Useful for anyone interested in the A.E.F. or the common soldier at war.

World War II: Europe

Dunkirk: Fight to the Last Man, by Hugh Sebag-Montefiore. Cambridge, Ma: Harvard, 2006. Pp. xxviii, 701. Illus., maps, append., notes, biblio., index. \$35.00. ISBN: 978-0-674-02439-7

The story of the “Miracle of Dunkirk” has been told often, but, as the author points out, the focus has always been on the maritime side of the

massive operation. This work examines the events on the land, opening with an overview of the strategic situation and respective plans of the opposing sides in the Spring of 1940. The great battles in central Belgium and eastern France are discussed in some detail, followed by the German drive to the sea, which, despite Allied efforts to halt it, isolated substantial Allied forces in northwestern France and Belgium. The book then goes into often very great detail about the situation in what might be termed the “Dunkirk Pocket” as Allied troops held off repeated German assaults in often desperate rear guard actions, which permitted the “miracle.” This is the best part of the book, a series of excellent battle pieces that describe a few of the many “last stands” in which small units of British and French troops held the line against seemingly hopeless odds, often literally fighting to the last man. Meanwhile, of course, the amazing tale of the evacuation of nearly a third-of-a-million troops is told with equal verve. The author thoughtfully fills us in on a number of other less famous evacuations further along the coast in the same period that extracted nearly 200,000 more troops). While the focus is naturally on Allied operations, the treatment of the German side is solid, and includes some hitherto largely overlooked instances of war crimes perpetrated on civilians and Allied prisoners. Anyone interested in the Second World War, and particularly its early campaigns, should not neglect this excellent work, including the immensely valuable footnotes.

Alamo in the Ardennes: The Untold Story of the American Soldiers who Made the Defense of Bastogne Possible, by John C. McManus. Hoboken: John Wiley, 2007. Pp. xxxv, 296. Illus., maps, notes, index. \$24.95. ISBN: 978-0-471-73905-0.

As the subtitle indicates, the theme of *Alamo in the Ardennes* is the many small rear guard actions by often severely outnumbered groups of American troops that slowed the initial German advance during the Battle of the Bulge long enough for the 101st Airborne Division to reach Bastogne, where its defense broke the back of Hitler’s final offensive in the west. However, this story is by no means “untold”, as any serious student of the campaign is well aware, but it is certainly true that the stand of the 101st Airborne at Bastogne is about only thing that the average person knows about the battle. So *Alamo in the Ardennes*, with considerable success, tells the story of the other Americans who stood their ground, often to the death, in order to blunt the German drive. The particular focus is the fight of the 28th Infantry Division, which lost several of its battalions in desperate rear guard actions, as well as the contributions of other units, including tankers, field artillerymen, engineers, and so on,, many of whom

helped hold the line or stood with the 101st in the Bastogne Pocket, but never managed to get much credit. A good read.

World War II: Asia & the Pacific

A Gathering Darkness: The Coming of War in the Far East and the Pacific, 1921-1942, by Haruo Tohmatsu and H. P. Willmott. New York: SR Books/Rowman & Littlefield, 2004. Pp. xxvi, 169. Maps, tables, notes, biblio. \$19.95 paper. ISBN: 0-8420-5153-8.

This valuable work looks at the origins of the Asiatic-Pacific war in the diplomatic, economic, and military developments from the perspective of both Japan and the Western powers, primarily the United States. It explores the cultural nuances at work which often, caused seemingly logical and reasonable actions by each side to be perceived as threatening or uncooperative. In addition the work examines the flowering and then deterioration of Japanese democratic institutions during the 1920s, naval arms limitation and national image, military planning, conflicting U.S. and Japanese policy objectives regarding China, and more. A series of side-bars provides a look at several unusual aspects of relations between the two countries, such as Japan’s long-term naval aspirations, including a rather serious critique of Isoroku Yamamoto as a strategist and commander.

Tales from a Tin Can: The USS Dale from Pearl Harbor to Tokyo Bay, by Michael Keith Olson. St. Paul: Zenith Press, 2007. Pp. 336. Illus, maps, append., notes, biblio., index. \$24.95. ISBN: 0-7603-2770-X.

Tales from a Tin Can tells the ship’s story in the words of her crew. The author, son of a *Dale* sailor, followed his father from reunion-to-reunion, interviewing her crewmen. From these interviews he has put together an often gripping account of what the men saw and thought and felt. And it’s quite a story. The USS *Dale* (DD-353) had a busy war, barely hinted at in this book’s subtitle. Just in the year following Pearl Harbor, she supported carrier task forces on raids against Japanese bases in New Britain and New Guinea, fought in the Battles of the Coral Sea and Midway, and took part in the Guadalcanal Campaign. The next couple of years were perhaps less hectic, but the ship remained busy, ending the war in Tokyo Bay. A good book for anyone interested in the U.S. sailor’s view of the Pacific War.

Mission Raise Hell: The U.S. Marines on Choiseul, October-November 1943, by James F. Christ. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2006. Pp. xv, 255. Illus., maps, append., notes, biblio. \$34.95. ISBN: 1-59114-113-3.

The raid by the 2nd Marine Parachute Battalion on Japanese-held Choiseul Island, in the upper

Solomons, was part of a series of diversions that drew enemy attention from the real objective, Bougainville. *Mission Raise Hell* recounts the adventures of the relatively small band (c. 600) of Marines who ranged across part of Choiseul for some two weeks, operating in small columns in order to spread as much confusion as possible, to help create the impression that the island was being assaulted by a full division. The author bases his tale on documents and interviews with veterans of the operation. This narrative ranges from the highest levels of command decision down to a handful of Marines making their way through the jungle. It doesn't hurt that the story involves some notable characters, such as then Lt. Col. Victor "Beast" Krulak or a very young John F. Kennedy.

The USS Ward: An Operational History of the Ship that Fired the First American Shot of World War II, by Richard P. Klobuchar. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland & Co., 2006. Pp. xi, 268. Illus., maps, diagr., append., notes, biblio., index. \$45.00. ISBN: 0-7864-2384-6.

This well-written work manages to tell several intertwined stories at once. To begin with, it provides a narrative of the life and war of the USS *Ward* (DD-139/APD-16). *Ward*, a Wickes Class destroyer completed in 1918, which spent more than 20 years in "moth balls" before being recommissioned in 1941 and sent to the Pacific, where, early on Dec. 7, 1941, while on routine patrol off Oahu, she sank a Japanese mini-submarine attempting to enter Pearl Harbor. The author gives us a fresh look at the devastating Japanese attack on the fleet that ensued, through the eyes of some of the ship's company and other people who were present. Then there's a look at the tense, but tedious months that the ship spent during the first year of the Pacific War, on routine patrol off Oahu. There follows an account of the *Ward's* conversion into a "destroyer transport," which reveals some aspects of amphibious operations, as the ship takes part in campaigns in New Britain, New Guineas, and the Philippines, where the ship succumbed to damage from air attack, on Dec. 7, 1944 precisely three years after firing the first shot. But the story doesn't end there, for the author includes the undersea expedition in 2002 that located and the mini-sub that *Ward* had sunk so long ago. This work will be of considerable value for those interested in Pearl Harbor, small boys, amphibious operations, and war at the sea.

The US Navy Against the Axis: Surface Combat, 1941-1945, by Vincent P. O'Hara. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2007. Pp. xvi, 364. Illus., maps, diagr., tables, appends., notes, biblio., index. \$36.95. ISBN: 978-1-59114-650-6.

Noting that most histories of World War II at sea tend to overlook the importance of surface combat, the author, who has written extensively on the naval

war, here describes 49 occasions on which American warships took on enemy vessels, mostly Japanese, but also some German, and Vichy French (the largest U.S. surface action in the Atlantic was against Vichyite forces off Casablanca in November of 1942. O'Hara confines his analysis to actions involving vessels of 500 tons or more, which leaves out scores – possibly hundreds of smaller fights involving torpedo boats and the like. Nevertheless, all the famous actions are here, from the desperate fighting in the Dutch East Indies through that off Guadalcanal and up the chain of the Solomons, and, of course, the surface aspects of Leyte Gulf. But the book also includes a number of actions that are usually overlooked in treatments of the war, among them some interesting fighting off Truk, during the famous carrier raids there in early 1944, and the Battle of Biak in June that year. Although much of this has been covered before, O'Hara incorporates a lot of new material and often draws some surprising conclusions, including that Japan's so-called "Long Lance" torpedo was rather over-rated. The main flaw in the work is that it presupposed a good deal of knowledge of naval and maritime terminology, and thus some passages may be difficult to understand for the uninitiated. An important contribution to the study of the war at sea.

~~~~~ Other

The Past as Prologue: The Importance of History to the Military Profession, edited by Williamson Murray and Richard Hart Simmerich. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006. Pp. ix, 287. Notes, index. \$23.99 paper. ISBN: 0-521-61963-7.

The book's subtitle, "The Importance of History to the Military Profession," would seem self-evident. Yet the role of military history in the education of military – and political – leaders is at best erratic. The U.S. Armed Forces, for example, neglected history in the post-World War II era, leading to the quagmire of Vietnam. That resulted in a return to history as a source of ideas, inspiration, and guidance which produced the most effective American forces in decades, as manifest in the 1990s in Iraq and numerous peacemaking operations. But in a new age of "Fourth Generation Warfare" the deniers of history were abandoned once again, on the grounds that it could provide no guidance and such, leading to our present problems. Fourteen essays take direct aim at those who would deny history's value, ranging from the continuing relevance of Thucydides and the Romans to the experience of coalition warfare, with a good deal of thoughtful material on innovation in periods of peace, and a look at the intellectual short-comings of American military education. One essay is themed, "The greater the disregard of History, the greater the illusions regarding the future."

Wars of Latin America, 1899-1941, by Rene de I Pedraja. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland & Co., 2006. Pp. xii, 496. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$49.95 paper. ISBN: 978-0-7964-2579-2.

Although there have been few international wars in Latin America, civil wars, insurgencies, coups, border clashes, and so forth have been so common that this volume actually doesn't try to devote specific entries to each individual event, but rather deals with them in a series of broad themes. It begins with an insightful prologue on Columbia's "War of a Thousand Days" (1899-1902), as a way of illustrating how internal wars in Latin American changed with the onset of the twentieth century. The work is then divided into three parts, "Border Conflicts," "Domestic Insurrections," and "The Great Depression," each of which is composed of chapters that deal with a particular conflict or related series of conflicts. The Mexican Revolution, however, requires six chapters, each dealing with what is arguably a distinctly different "war" within the framework of the overall upheaval there during the first quarter of the century. Although some events are likely to have been overlooked, or may not be treated to the degree a specialist might prefer, this is likely to remain the standard reference on wars in Latin American in this period for some time.

Arming Slaves: From Classical Times to the Modern Age, edited by Christopher Leslie Brown and Philip D. Morgan. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2006. Pp. xii, 368. Maps, notes, index. \$35.00 paper. ISBN: 0-300-10900-8.

Nothing could be as counter-intuitive as arming slaves. Yet, as this collection of more than a dozen essays on that very subject makes quite plain, the practice was by no means rare across the ages. The work opens with an essay discussing the very question of why would anyone deliberately arm his slaves, and, indeed, why would a slave feel obligated to serve. Each of the next dozen essays deals with that very action in a particular historical context, from ancient times through the nineteenth century. Essays range from Classical Greece to medieval Islam, the colonial experience in Africa and the Americas, wars of national liberation, including the American Revolution and Haiti, as well as a chapter on both sides in the American Civil War (oddly, the Romans lack a chapter,

though they also occasionally armed slaves). Within the framework of each example, the motivations of both slaveholders and slaves are explored, which gives the reader a look at the complex social, cultural, political, economic, and personal issues.

Reminder
Annual dues are \$35.00,
payable in September

Membership News

In September Board member *Kathy Williams* presented a paper entitled "A War Orphan's View of a Marine in the Pacific" at the Naval History Symposium in Annapolis. While there she saw several friends of NYMAS including perennial favorite Don Bittner. Kathy also chaired a session at the Northern Great Plains History Conference at the beginning of October. She assures the editor, however, that nothing compares to the luxury of attending top notch lectures at NYMAS every Friday night and she really misses us.

Ops Director *Bob Rowen* was selected to do the official photo portrait of NYC Comptroller and probable NYC mayoral candidate Bill Thompson. Bob has done the portraits of numerous NYMAS people including Kathy Williams, Ted Cook, Eugene Feit and Al Nofi. He will shortly be doing photo shoots with Tom Wisker and David Kahn.

Board member *C. Kay Larson's* review of William J. Christen's, *Pauline Cushman, Spy of the Cumberland*, is online at www.h-net.org. On October 26th, Kay spoke to the Ulster County (N. Y.) Civil War Roundtable on Anna Ella Carroll, the subject of her recent book *Great Necessities: The Life, Times, and Writings of Anna Ella Carroll, 1815-1894*. Kay was recently awarded the Coast Guard Presidential Unit Citation, given to members of the CG and Auxiliary for their efforts following Hurricanes Katrina & Rita in 2005.

Veteran NYMAS member *Richard Hom* (1949-2007) died in September. Rick served Army tours in the Panama Canal Zone and in Germany. An avid reader of military history and a wargamer, Rick had once worked as a game tester at SPI. A very active NYMAS member, his observations and comments helped liven many discussions. Blessed with a strong work ethic, Rick approached life with determination and an independent spirit. He is survived by a sister, numerous aunts and uncles, and a host of friends. A group of NYMAS members attended a memorial service for Rick.

NYMAS Winter-Spring 2008 Schedule

- Jan 4, “Radical Designs: Pre-War USAAF Interceptor Projects,” Tom Wisker, NYMAS /WBAI Radio
- Jan 11 “The Greatest Battle: Stalin, Hitler, and the Desperate Struggle for Moscow that Changed the Course of World War II,” Andrew Nagorski, *Newsweek*
- Jan 18 “Rarely Told Stories from May-June 1940,” Jonathan Epstein, NYMAS/John Jay College
- Jan 25, “The Soldier’s Experience of Battle in the Middle Ages,” Cliff Rogers, USMA
- Feb 1, “The Gorlice-Tarnow Offensive, May 1915,” Richard DiNardo, USMC Command & Staff College
- Feb 8, “Daniel Harvey Hill and the Shaping of Civil War Memory,” Maj. Brit Erslev, USMA
- Feb 15, “Triumph Forsaken: The Vietnam War, 1954-1965,” Mark Moyar, USMC University
- Feb 22, “The 2nd Massachusetts Infantry, 1861-1865: Who Fought and Why,” Maj. Matt Hardman, USMA
- Feb 29, “Line in the Wilderness: The Adaptation of European Military Theory to British North America,” Maj. Mark Olsen, USMA
- Mar 7, “Where Have All the Wars Gone?,” Jim Dunnigan, Author
- Mar 14-15, Spring NYMAS Friday Evening/All-day Saturday Conference, “Focus on Turkey”
- Mar 21, “The War on Film,” Roger Spiller, Combat Studies Institute
- Mar 28, “Kandahar Tour: The Royal Canadian Regiment in Afghanistan, 2007,” Lee Windsor, Gregg Centre for the Study of War and Society, University of New Brunswick
- Apr 4, “French Military Expertise and the U.S. Army, 1801-1830,” Maj. Mike Bonura, USMA
- Apr 11-12, Special Friday Evening/All-day Saturday Conference, “On Military History and Current Events”
- Apr 18, “Rebellion in the Ranks: Mutinies of the American Revolution,” John A. Nagy, Author
- Apr 25, “The British Commonwealth Campaign for Vichy Madagascar, 1942,” Paul Walsh, Author
- May 2, “The Influence of the Russo-Japanese War on U.S. Army Doctrine,” Maj. J.P. Clark, USMA
- May 9, “The Perils of Peace: America’s Struggle for Survival After Yorktown,” Thomas Fleming, Author
- May 16, “Gouverneur Kemble Warren: The Final Casualty of the Civil War,” Frank Varney, William Paterson University of New Jersey
- May 23, “The Frontier Army and the Indian Wars - The Hollywood View of an Era,” Donald F. Bittner, USMC Command & Staff College
- May 30, “The Forgotten Cavalier, George Goring: The English Civil War (1642 - 1646),” Florene Memegalos, Hunter College
- June 6, “Omar Bradley’s D-Day,” John Prados, National Security Archive
- June 13, “How Lee Lost & Grant Won the Civil War,” Ed H. Bonekemper, III, Author
- June 20, “Recruiting Churchill’s Army - What Went Wrong?” Dan David, NYMAS

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 should be obtained from the security desk in the lobby.

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

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, Al Nofi, via email to anofi@nymas.org.