

# *The NYMAS REVIEW*

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## **The 2007 Arthur Goodzeit Award Harold R. Winton's *Corps Commanders in the Bulge***

Harold R. Winton, *Corps Commanders in the Bulge: Six American Generals and Victory in the Ardennes*. Lawrence, Ks.: Kansas State University Press, 2007. Pp. 506. Illus, maps, notes, biblio., index. \$39.95. ISBN 978-0-7006-1508-7

### **Featured Reviews**

#### ***Operation Albion: The German Conquest of the Baltic Islands***

**by Michael B. Barrett**

While considerable interest in World War I has been evident over the past decade, much of this attention has remained devoted to the traditional realm of study about the war, the Western Front, with some little attention to other theaters, most notably the Middle East. The Eastern Front, however, has received scant consideration. One Eastern Front operation that has garnered some attention lately is the joint operation mounted by the Germans to take the Baltic islands, to include an article by this reviewer. Now Michael Barrett gives us a book length account of this most interesting operation.

Barrett suggests that the operation is worth close scrutiny because of so many unusual aspects attached to it. The invasion of the Baltic islands of Oesel, Moon, and Dagö, critical to the control of the Gulf of Riga, featured the creation of a joint planning staff by the Germans, an amphibious landing, extensive use of all manner of aircraft, including zeppelins, the employment of bicycle troops, and naval combat.

Barrett begins with an extensive discussion of the Baltic and its strategic importance in World War I. Initially considered an area of minor importance, the value of the Baltic had increased considerably by the middle of 1917. Both the German Army and Navy had reasons for undertaking the operation in the autumn of 1917. The Army, after the collapse of the Kerensky offensive, was seeking a decisive success that could finally knock Russia out of the war.

One such alternative, as envisioned by the German high command, was the capture of Petrograd. The taking of Riga and the islands that controlled Gulf of Riga were essential to taking Petrograd, as Riga would serve as the

major supply base from which the advance could be launched.

The Navy also had a variety of reasons for undertaking the operation. One area of uncertainty is the naval mutinies that occurred in July and August of 1917. Barrett overlooks the fact that all of the heavy ships of the High Seas Fleet committed to the Baltic operation had suffered serious disturbances in the summer of 1917. Barrett endorses the idea that the Navy desired to undertake the operation to show that it was capable of some major activity. He also portrays the High Seas Fleet and the Admiralty Staff as being in full agreement, an interpretation not universally accepted by other students of the campaign.

Given the go ahead by Erich Ludendorff, and "official" sanction by the Kaiser, both Army and Navy planning got underway. Barrett provides a detailed account of this, and of the material preparations for the operation.

Barrett covers the conduct of both land and sea operations in extensive detail. Access to Russian records also allowed Barrett to cover the Russian side of the operation in some detail as well.

Although the Russians had erected formidable defenses around the islands, and had some able commanders, the Russian effort was undone by sagging morale and mutinous behavior endemic in both the army and navy. Low Russian morale was something German planners had counted on, and one of the things that allowed the Germans to take some long chances once ashore, especially when a light force composed of bicycle troops was sent to take the causeway between Oesel and Moon. Although in some cases both the Russian Army and Navy fought well, resistance collapsed rather quickly.

Barrett has supplemented his very well-researched account with several useful maps and a number of very interesting photographs. This book will remain the definitive account of this most unusual operation in World War I for sometime to come.

*Operation Albion: The German Conquest of the Baltic Islands*, by Michael B. Barrett. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2008. Pp. x, 298. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$29.95. ISBN: 978-0-253-34969-9.

--Richard L. DiNardo, USMC Command and Staff College, Quantico, Virginia

***Lost Battles: Reconstructing the Great Clashes of the Ancient World,*  
by Philip Sabin**

What actually happened when ancient armies clashed? Among numerous unknowns, for example, how did Roman legionaries armed with heavy shields and 18-inch swords overcome Macedonian phalangites armed with 16-foot pikes? For centuries, military historians, classical scholars, and famous generals have been trying to puzzle out the answers. John Keegan's *The Face of Battle: A Study of Agincourt, Waterloo and the Somme* (1983) pointed the way toward a deeper behavioral understanding of pre-modern combat, and Victor Davis Hanson's *The Western Way of War: Infantry Battle in Classical Greece* (1989) and subsequent works, applied first-hand experience of modern soldiers (and historical reenactors) to provide some important clues.

For many years, wargamers have argued that the best way to understand a battle is to play it – or even better, to design a game about it. A professor in the Department of War Studies at King's College, London, Philip Sabin is one of the few who has actually practiced what so many of us have preached. He developed a simple, but very deep, chess-like wargame to help his students understand the dynamics of ancient battles. The result became a book, *Lost Battles*, perhaps the most comprehensive and elaborate "Designer's Notes" ever written for a wargame.

The book is supported by extensive game boards and counter sets for 35 ancient battles using the popular Windows freeware wargame utility, *Cyberboard*, available online at [www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/sspp/ws/staff/ps-lostbattles.html](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/sspp/ws/staff/ps-lostbattles.html).

*Lost Battles* is a rather difficult, rambling book, full of brilliant insights and ground-breaking analysis. The book is lavishly illustrated with color diagrams, which must have given Sabin's editors massive heart attacks. Publishers hate to spend that kind of money!

Modern scholarship has often been harsh toward the Greek and Roman authors whose work has survived, such as Diodorus, Plutarch, Polybius, Suetonius, and Herodotus. They exaggerate the numbers, describing impossibly huge armies. They put artificial speeches into the mouths of their characters, for dramatic effect. They are infuriatingly uninterested in technical details that we would love to know more about. Sabin starts from the idea that we are never going to know more about these battles than we can eke out of the ancient sources, and in a few cases from study of the modern terrain, although in many cases, we don't even know exactly where an ancient battle was fought. When we do, the topography has often changed

dramatically after 2000 years of farming, deforestation, erosion, and bulldozing.

Hard-core wargamers will probably want to start by reading Appendix 1, the game rules for Sabin's quasi-miniatures based system. The period covered by the book extends from Greek and Persian War of the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC to the Roman Civil War (Pharsalus, 48 BC). There are famous battles like Marathon (490 BC), Gaugamela (331 BC), Cannae (216 BC), and Zama (202 BC) here, along with obscure fights like Nemea (394 BC), Paraitacene (317 BC), and Bibracte (58 BC).

*Lost Battles* is an important contribution to our understanding of ancient land combat. Any wargamer with an interest in ancients will want to own a copy.

*Lost Battles: Reconstructing the Great Clashes of the Ancient World*, by Philip Sabin. London/New York: Hambledon Continuum, 2007. Pp. xxi, 298. Illus., append., notes, biblio. \$36.95. ISBN: 978-1-84725-187-9

--Mike Markowitz

Jonathan R. Adelman, ed., *Hitler and His Allies in World War II*. New York: Routledge, 2007. Pp. ix, 253. Tables, notes, index. \$34.95. ISBN: 978-0-415-32168-6.

Over the past few years, scholars of World War II have paid increasing attention to the subject of Germany and coalition warfare. In addition, thanks to the efforts of MacGregor Knox, Brian Sullivan, Mark Axworthy, Richard Bessel, and others, more scholarship has been devoted to the minor Axis powers, particularly Italy and Romania, and the respective roles they played in the war. Jonathan Adelman, Professor of International Studies, University of Denver, has brought forth a book of essays on this subject. The result, to be frank, is disappointing.

The book is structured logically enough. The first three essays, by Adelman, are a lengthy introductory essay, followed by pieces on German-Soviet relations from 1939-1941 and German-Japanese relations from 1941-1945, respectively. The rest of the essays deal with Vichy France, Italy, Hungary, Romania and Spain. Adelman closes the work with a short conclusion. The only criticism here would be the absence of an article on Finland, a serious omission. Also the article on Spain is so short that it seems to have been included almost as an afterthought.

As is normally the case with a book of this nature, the quality of the articles tends to be rather uneven. Easily the best of the group is Brian Sullivan's look at the German-Italian alliance from 1939-1943. Rather than simply examining the German-Italian alliance from

the perspective of the personal relationship between Hitler and Mussolini, Sullivan provides a broader view of German-Italian relations, to include those between individual services. This is well supported by both documentary and secondary sources, typical of the kind of meticulous work we have come to expect from Sullivan.

The article on Vichy France's foreign policy by Peter Jackson and Simon Kitson was also interesting, careful and nuanced. The authors clearly lay out the severely limited options available to the Petain government in the aftermath of the French collapse, especially in regard to the defense of the empire. Ultimately, Vichy France was pulled in two directions, neither of which completely meshed with the other.

Articles by Attila Pok and Dennis Deletant on Hungary and Romania, respectively, deal more with personalities than politics. These articles focus on the figures of Miklos Horthy and Ion Antonescu, thus limiting both the scope of the articles, and their utility. The article by Christian Leitz on German-Spanish relations is too short to be of great value. On the issue of Gibraltar, Leitz does not address the work of Norman Goda, a serious omission.

The weakest articles are by Adelman. His introduction makes the claim that there is "not a single book" on the subject of Germany and coalition warfare, overlooking this reviewer's work, which came out two years before Adelman's book appeared. The articles on German-Soviet and German-Japanese relations seemed to be based on a handful of secondary sources. The article on Japan in particular is marred by poorly thought out assertions. Adelman states that Germany could have done more for Japan than sending a meager amount of materiel by submarine, and that Japan sent far more people to Germany than vice versa. This completely ignores the fact that Japanese submarines had far greater range and carrying capacity than German ones. Germany had only a handful of submarines capable of making the trip, and even those required re-provisioning at some point in the voyage. Adelman also has Molotov visiting Berlin in both October and November 1940, when only November would have sufficed, and he uses two different spellings of Richard Overy's name. In short, the editor needed an editor.

Taken together, outside of Sullivan's article, the work as a whole is lacking and its great potential is unrealized.

--Richard L. DiNardo, USMC Command and Staff College, Quantico, Virginia

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### Recent Books of Note

*Shattered Sword: The Untold Story of the Battle of Midway*, by Jonathan Parshall and Anthony Tully. Washington: Potomac Books, 2005/2007. Pp. xxvi, 612. Illus., maps, diagr, figs., tables, append., notes, biblio., index. \$35.00 cloth / \$29.95 paper. ISBN: 978-1-57488-923-9 cloth / 978-1-57488-924-6 paper.

Over a quarter of a century ago, Gordon Prange's *Miracle at Midway* (New York: 1982), suggested that the accepted narrative of the battle, shaped largely by Mitsuo Fuchida's *Midway: The Battle that Doomed Japan* (Annapolis: 1955) was flawed. *Shattered Sword* carries this work forward, demonstrating that much of what Fuchida wrote was fabricated. The book draws upon evidence that had been long overlooked, such as damage and casualty reports, memoirs and commentary by Japanese officers, critical analyses of Japanese doctrine, policies, and tactics, as well as a meticulous reconstruction of the events, often on a minute-by-minute basis.

The result is an account of the battle that gives credit not to "miracles" and "blunders" but to the inherent strengths and weaknesses of the culture, doctrine, technology, and training of the two fleets, and the influence of the decisions that shaped the events even before the operations began.

We learn that the Aleutians operation was by no means a "diversion," but rather a "parallel" offensive, to unfold simultaneously. In short, the Japanese were trying to capture two bases with one fleet, which thus had to be divided. The Imperial Navy lacked integrated air defense doctrine or anything akin to the CIC (combat information center), and anti-aircraft guns were often poorly sited, so that the air defense of the fleet was less effective than it might have been. Likewise, the famous "miracle" which found Japanese carrier decks full of air-craft just as American dive bombers arrived to blow them to pieces did not in fact occur, though the Americans did get some hits that penetrated to hangar decks, with much the same results. The disaster did not, however, kill a majority of the Imperial Navy's trained airmen; losses were heavy, but most fleet airmen were rescued.

There's much more, which makes *Shattered Sword* a necessary read for anyone interested in the Pacific War. --A.A. Nofi

*Muhammad: Islam's First Great General*, by Richard A. Gabriel. Norman, Ok.: University of Oklahoma Press, 2007. Pp. xxxii + 249. Maps, chron., notes, biblio., index. \$24.95. ISBN 0-8061-3860-2.

Muhammad's status as the prophet of Islam overshadows his role as a military commander, particularly among Westerners. In this work, Richard A. Gabriel, not a specialist in Islamic studies, tries to throw light on Muhammad's military career, and also on the ways in which he may have shaped Islam's ways of war.

The first three chapters cover the Arabian Peninsula in the seventh century, providing the physical, political, and cultural setting, political and military developments in the region, most notably the great Romano-Persian War of 602-629, which left both empires exhausted, and the conduct of war in the period, from political and cultural underpinnings to the organization and equipping of armies, and more. Gabriel also discusses Muhammad's radical reforms in Arab military practice that led to enormous success in the field. A chapter follows on Muhammad's life, religious awakening, and the foundation of Islam. The next eight chapters discuss, in some detail Muhammad's campaigns. These are well described and the author has provided some fairly understandable maps. The book ends with a look at Muhammad's legacy, religious as well as military, which laid the foundation for the Islamic conquest of a major chunk of the world over the next couple of generations.

The work is readable, and often has critical evaluations of some of Muhammad's actions. There is, however, no analysis of the reliability of the available sources on Muhammad's life and work, an important question when dealing with a figure so venerated that negative views could well have suffered selective deletion from the historical record. Nevertheless, the work will be of use to anyone interested in Islam and the Middle East. --A.A. Nofi

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

For more than a quarter of a century, Col. David Glantz has been the most productive American scholar of the Eastern Front. A co-founder of the U.S. Army's 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, a Red Army attempt 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ukrainian Fronts made several strenuous attempts through April and May 1944 to gain bridgeheads across the Dneestr 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 helpful are 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 yet another 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.

----Richard L. DiNardo, USMC Command  
and Staff College, Quantico, Virginia

*Chief of Staff: The Principal Officers Behind History's Great Commanders*, edited by David T. Zabecki. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2008.

- Vol. I, *Napoleonic Wars to World War I*. Pp. xii, 241. Illus., notes, biblio., index. \$39.95. ISBN: 978-1-59114-990-3.

- Vol. II, *World War II to Korea and Vietnam*. Pp. xi, 243. Illus., notes, biblio., index. \$37.95. ISBN: 978-1-59114-991-0.

After retiring from the U.S. Army, General Zabecki has established himself as a distinguished military historian. In this work he takes on that most neglected, and yet most important figure, the operational chief-of-staff, the man often behind the success of so many of the great captains.

Each volume opens with an introduction that outlines the different styles of staff duties and organization, and the relationship between the chief-of-staff and the actual commander in the various armies during the period.

Both volumes have 14 chapters, each by a specialist (e.g., Steven E. Woodworth on John A. Rawlings, Antulio J. Echevarria on the

Elder Moltke, Zabecki on von Mellenthin, *etc.*), which cover a total of 30 officers who served one or more notable field commanders.

The treatment is formulaic. The chapters, of 10-20 pages, summarize the background and career of each officer, provides a look at his relationship with his commander, and then discusses his performance and influence on operations. Naturally this approach cannot provide more than an overview of how each of these men affected operations, but the notes and bibliographic references give the reader leads for further inquiry.

*Chief of Staff* is an important contribution to the development of our understanding of the history and influence of the staff and staff officers, a much neglected topic. --A.A. Nofi

*Fighting for Franco: International Volunteers in Nationalist Spain during the Spanish Civil War*, by Judith Keene. New York: Hambledon Continuum, 2007. Pp. x, 320. Maps, notes, biblio., index. \$39.95 paper. ISBN: 1-85285-593-2.

While the story of the 40,000 or so foreign volunteers for the Spanish Republic during the civil war has been told often and generally with sympathy, that of the smaller number who chose to serve the Nationalists has not. A study of the subject is greatly needed.

Alas, *Fighting for Franco* does not quite fill that need. Judith Keene, of the European Studies Centre of the University of Sydney, betrays a strong Republican bias which tarnishes her treatment of the subject. After providing some background, she devotes several chapters to anecdotes about some volunteers, concluding that they were mostly Catholic intellectuals fighting for tradition and reaction, or ambitious rightists seeking credentials useful back home. So far, so good. But we learn little of what these men, and some women, did for the Nationalist war effort.

Moreover, Keene fails to compare these people with those who served the Republic. Did they differ in education, class, and background, but for their politics, from the leftist intellectuals who fought for *their* ideals or from the many Communist Party members and fellow travelers who responded to the Comintern's call to serve the Republic?

The problems with this work begin early. Though she understates their numbers, Keene rightly notes that volunteers for the Nationalists were far fewer than those for the Republic. But she fails to deal with the claims by Loyalists and sympathetic historians that of many thousands of "foreign fascists" serving in Nationalist ranks (*e.g.*, "two divisions" of Portuguese often cited at the time, when there were actually about two battalions, which she fails to note). Correctly

observing that the Franco regime was largely indifferent, not to say hostile to volunteers, Keene does not discuss whether the difference in numbers could be attributed to well-orchestrated Republican recruiting program. Also, though ridiculing the Nationalists for various ritual and rhetorical practices, she fails to observe that the appearance of André Marty, the brutal French commissar of the International Brigades, was accompanied by as much bloviation, fanfare, and cheering as that of any Nationalist hero. Keene also assumes that all Germans, Italians, and Portuguese serving in Spain were not volunteers, while overlooking the essentially compulsory service of many western and Soviet Communist Party members and of Red Army serving the Republic, who were told to "volunteer."

The book betrays a lack of knowledge of Spanish military terminology; for example, Keene states that she has been told a *bandera* is a company-sized unit, when it is in fact a type of battalion, a matter that could have been clarified by looking at good Spanish dictionary rather than by asking someone.

Although *Fighting For Franco* has some interesting anecdotes about the experiences of some of the volunteers for the Nationalists, and should be read by specialists in the Spanish Civil War, it is not the definitive treatment of the subject. -A. A. Nofi

### Special NYMAS On-Line Review

David Halberstam's  
*The Coldest Winter:  
America and the Korean War*

NYMAS is pleased to present a very detailed review by Col. George A. Rasula, USA (Ret) of David Halberstam's account of the Korean War on its website, <http://nymas.org>.

*The Coldest Winter: America and the Korean War* by David Halberstam. New York: Hyperion, 2007. Pp. xii, 719. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$35.00. ISBN: 978-1-4013-0052-4.

### Ancient

*Sparta & War*, edited by Stephen Hodkinson and Aaron Powell. Swansea: Classical Press of Wales/Oakville, Ct.: David Brown, 2006. Pp. xxi, 309. Illus., maps, notes, index. \$79.50. ISBN: 1-905125-11-9.

*Sparta & War* comprises ten essays about various aspects of war in Spartan history, society, and, of course, military practice. Some of the essays are very arcane, often relying upon an analysis of just a few lines of literary evidence or the criticism of interpretations of those lines by ancient

scholars. In order, the topics cover, a perceived class of “official” cowards, a possible “knightly” social order, memorialization of war dead, Sparta as a military society, frontier and fortification studies, a curious aspect of military organization, Xenophon’s view of why Spartans made good fighters, Spartans as mercenaries, Spartan use of treachery on campaign, and the question of why Sparta did not destroy Athens at the end of the Peloponnesian War. Although some of the essays will be of interest to anyone with a passing interest in ancient military history, most are for the serious student.

*The Anabasis of Cyrus*, by Xenophon, translated and annotated by Wayne Ambler. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 2008. Pp. xv, 281. Maps, append., notes, index. \$49.95 paper. ISBN: 978-0-8014-4398-5

This new translation of *The Anabasis*, is intended to provide a modern, colloquial English version of the Xenophon’s epic tale for both the lay reader, not necessarily familiar with ancient history, as well as the serious scholar. It opens with a lengthy “Translator’s Preface” and a thoughtful introduction by Eric Buzzetti, both of which provide valuable background, including an analysis of Xenophon’s stylistic approach to events. The text that follows is in clear modern English, following the “spirit” of the original, rather than the letter (the latter being sometimes confusing due to differences of language and culture over 2400 years). Footnotes are used extensively to provide cross references, clarify a particular word selection, and fill in historical background. An excellent book for anyone interested in Ancient Greek warfare, or just a rattling good tale.

*The Enemies of Rome: From Hannibal to Attila the Hun*, by Philip Matyszak. New York: Thames & Hudson, 2005. Pp. 296. Illus., maps, biblio., index. \$31.95. ISBN: 0-500-25124-x

A survey of Roman history from its beginning through the mid-Fifth Century, told using the perspective of Rome’s most notable enemies. Written for the non-specialist, the book is divided into four periods; roughly the age of Republican expansion (c. 264-c. 100 B.C.), the civil wars (c. 100-30 B.C.), the *Pax Romana* (30 B.C.- A.D. 200), and the long decline (c. 200-c. 450). In each period, several notable foes of Rome are covered by a chapter that discusses their background, the causes of the war, their forces and skills, and the reasons for this success or failure, and provides some critical analysis. The leaders are a diverse group, some national leaders, some “rebels” against established Roman rule, and, of course, “Barbarians”; Hannibal, Philip V of Macedon, Viriathus, Jugurtha, Mithradates of Pontus Spartacus,

Vercingetorix, Orodes, Cleopatra, Arminius, Boudicca, Josephus, Decebalus, Sapor I, Zenobia, Alaric, and Attila. While the specialist might quibble about some of the coverage, or who’s not included (the Serenas, Juba, Tacfarinas, the list is long), this is an excellent introduction for anyone lacking a serious background in Roman history.

*The Logistics of the Roman Army at War (264 B.C.-A.D. 235)*, by Jonathan P. Roth. Leiden/Boston, Brill, 1999. Pp. xxi, 399. Illus., tables, append, biblio., index. \$243.00. ISBN: 978-9-00411-271-1

The author opens this impressive work with a discussion of the meaning of “logistics,” a useful measure since the term means different things in different eras, and to different armies, and did not actually exist in Roman times. He then establishes the nutritional and equipment needs of the “average” Roman soldier, demonstrating that these were different from those of his modern counterpart. The author begins to develop a picture of the complex material needs of the Roman army, in camp and on campaign, so we get a look at how food was prepared, and the equipment needed, as well as the elaborate food supply system, including purchase, requisition, foraging, and more. He describes such details as the allocation of servants, training personnel, and other specialized staff, the management of horses and mules, for both cavalry and transport uses, and more. The work is based on an extremely thorough sifting of ancient sources, literary evidence, including even poetry, artistic “documents” such as Trajan’s column, funerary monuments, and archaeological finds. *The Logistics of the Roman Army* is an essential work for anyone working in Roman or ancient military history, as well as anyone interested in the rise of military organization and the military staff.

*A Greek Army on the March: Soldiers and Survival in Xenophon’s Anabasis*, by John W. I. Lee. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007. Pp. xii, 323. Illus., map, diagr., tables, notes, biblio., index. \$99.00. ISBN: 978-0-521-87068-9.

Attempts at bettering Xenophon’s account of the “Anabasis” of the 10,000 Greeks have not been rare, and most fail. Of late, however, a number of books have appeared that don’t try to retell the story of the march, but attempt to explore what the march can tell us. *A Greek Army on the March* is in this category, and is among the best. Prof. Lee of the University of California at Santa Barbara, uses the story to look into contemporary Greek social, cultural, and military life. Following an introductory

chapter is one that explores the route of the army, and thus outlines its history. Chapters then follow on the composition of the army, its organization and community, its arms and equipment, the march, camp life, food, health, camp followers, and concluding chapter that looks at the army “beyond the battlefield.” The tables provide information on the army’s march, the size of the various contingents, and casualty figures, while the diagrams detail camp layout, unit organization, and tactics. Altogether an excellent work for anyone interested in Greek warfare, and, of course, the Anabasis

*Roman Military Service: Ideologies of Discipline in the Late Republic and Early Principate*, by Sara Elise Phang. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2008. Pp. xvi, 336. Table, notes, biblio., index. \$90.00. ISBN: 978-0-521-88269-9.

An extremely valuable inquiry into the inner life of the Roman Army, that is the day-to-day experiences of soldiers, and how these reflected the Roman concept of “*disciplina*” not cognate with our modern term. Prof. Phang, (University of Southern California), sees the Roman concept as an “ideology.” This is a tricky notion, but it shapes the structure of the book. Phang’s point is that *disciplina* is not just the subordination and organization of troops, to build strong combat forces and protect society from the misuse of its armed force, but also how the Romans viewed the establishment and maintenance of male *virtus*, civil engineering rather than drill, rewards and punishments, even food and drink, as essential to the creation of effective military forces. One can dispute some points made in the work. For example, Prof. Phang claims that the Romans do not seem to have had something like “basic training,” noting as exceptional that Cato the Elder trained his sons to fight. Yet was this not in keeping with Cato’s antiquarian inclinations? In early Rome a youth’s first drill instructor would have been his father. We don’t know how recruits learned to soldier in later periods; but surely, when, year after year, Caesar raised fresh troops for immediate service in Gaul, it hardly seems reasonable to assume he took untrained farm boys into the ranks without any basic training. Nevertheless, this is an innovative, and often very insightful look at Roman military practices.

*Scipio Africanus: Rome’s Greatest General*, by Richard A. Gabriel. Washington: Potomac Books, 2008. Pp. xxii, 302. Maps, chron., notes, biblio., index. \$27.50. ISBN: 978-1-59797-205-5.

Prof. Gabriel, of the Royal Military College of Canada, has written widely in military history, but his work has often been criticized by spec-

ialists for a lack of deep understanding of the subject matter. This is, however, by no means the case in *Scipio Africanus*. Gabriel has demonstrated considerable mastery of the ancient sources, of modern critical analyses of these, and of modern works about the military experience of the age of the Punic Wars. The result is a detailed, comprehensive, and analytical history of the Second Punic War focused on the life and works of the great Scipio, among the handful of generals in history who never lost a battle. Gabriel ranges from matters of policy, strategy, politics, and diplomacy, through organization, campaigns, and operations, and on to tactics, training, and equipment, all very well supported by extensive research. *Scipio Africanus*, which is very well written – even to the notes – is an essential read for anyone interested in the period.

*Land Battles in 5<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. Greece: A History and Analysis of 173 Engagements*, by Fred Eugene Ray. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2009. Pp. vi, 315. Maps, tables, diagr., notes, biblio., index. \$55.00. ISBN: 978-0-7864-3534-0.

By drawing upon an extraordinary amount of material, including ancient accounts and modern critiques, as well as studies of weapons’ effectiveness, terrain analysis, and more, Ray, by training a geologist, gives us a “forensic” analysis of nearly 200 battles from the height of the “Hoplite Era.” Some are famous, such as Marathon or Plataea, while others are quite obscure. The chief flaw in the book is the lack of proper foot-notes, the author relying on in-text “documentation.” A very valuable book for anyone interested in warfare in the Classical age.

### ~~~~~ The Revolutionary & Napoleonic Eras

*Conscription in the Napoleonic Era: A Revolution in Military Affairs?*, edited by Donald Stoker, Frederick C. Schenid, and Harold D. Blanton. New York: Routledge, 2009. Pp. xv, 223. Tables, notes, biblio., index. \$xyz. ISBN: 978-0-415-34999-4.

A baker’s dozen of essays addresses the question of whether France’s “*levee en masse*” represented a “revolutionary” or an “evolutionary” development in the conduct of war in Europe. An introductory essay poses the question, and is followed by individual essays examining conscription by France, Prussia, Russia, the Hapsburgs, the Royal Navy, Napoleonic Italy, Westphalia, Denmark-Norway, Sweden, and even Mehemet Ali’s Egypt. The work closes with a summary essay which concludes that the

conscription had long been practiced in most European states, and that even in Revolutionary and Napoleonic France was hardly as “*en masse*” as has been traditionally accepted.

*Napoleon’s Men: The Soldiers of the Revolution and Empire*, by Alan Forrest. New York/London: Continuum, 2006. Pp. xix, 248. Illus., notes, biblio., index. \$xyz paper. ISBN: 978-1-85285-530-7-263-8.

A look at the lives and service of ordinary soldiers – officers and enlisted – in the French army from the Revolution through the fall of Napoleon, using letters, diaries, and similar works. The book opens with an overview of the nature of the French army in this period, and then provides a discussion of the degree of literacy in the ranks and the types of materials that soldiers produced. There follow chapters giving the soldier’s-eye view of different aspects of the wars and military service, including camp life, campaigning, family and social ties, and more. A very useful book for those interested in the common soldier across the ages or in the era of the French wars.

*The Irish Militia, 1793-1802: Ireland’s Forgotten Army*, by Ivan F. Nelson. Dublin: Four Courts /Portland, Or.: ISBS, 2007. Pp. 272. Illus., maps, plans, tables, notes, biblio., index. \$55.00. ISBN: 978-1-84682-037-3.

The role of the militia in Britain’s wars of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries has largely been overlooked, not to say forgotten. But in fact Britain maintained very large militia forces raised by conscription on a permanent footing during the wars of 1756-1815; Edward Gibbon, for example, served over two years of active duty as a militia officer during the Seven Years’ War. In *The Irish Militia*, retired British officer Ivan Nelson takes a look at the Irish contribution to home defense during the Revolutionary Wars. The book deals not only with military matters, including field service, but delves into complex and contentious political, social, and religious issues involved in raising a force with Catholic enlisted men and Protestant officers, in a period that culminated in the United Irishmen rebellion and French invasion of 1798, during which militiamen performed unevenly at best. Particularly valuable for students of British military history and of the French wars.

### ~~~~~ “The Hero of the Two Worlds”

Despite his heroic status in the English-speaking world during the nineteenth century, surprisingly little fanfare occurred in Britain or America for the bicentennial Giuseppe Garibaldi’s birth in 2007. Nevertheless, two excellent new books did see print.

*Garibaldi: Invention of a Hero*, by Lucy Riall. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2007. Pp. xiv, 482. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$xyz paper. ISBN: 978-0-300-14423-9.

*Garibaldi: Citizen of the World, A Biography*, by Alfonso Scirocco, translated by Allan Cameron. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2007. Pp. xii, 442. Chron., biblio., index. \$xyz. ISBN: 978-0-691-11540-5.

Although they necessarily overlap a good deal, these works are complementary, rather than competitive.

Prof. Scirocco, a veteran historian from the *University of Naples Federico II*, has written *a comprehensive biography nearly half of which deals with* Garibaldi’s life and adventures before he gained fame as the defender of the Republic of Rome in 1848-1849. He provides an often blow-by-blow treatment of Garibaldi’s many battles, but also discusses how the great hero made his living, and the evolution of his thinking on war and peace, democracy, and society.

In contrast, Prof. Riall, of Birkbeck College, London, a rising star in *Risorgimento* studies, while providing a solid look at Garibaldi’s life and works, devotes more attention to the man as mythic hero, how his deeds and goals helped shape his image, how that image shaped the man, and the political and cultural consequences of the Garibaldi phenomenon, which endured well into the twentieth century, and remains potent in the political and cultural life of Italy, on both the left and the right.

Both books will be of interest to students of the *Risorgimento*, the hero in history, and the phenomenon of the romantic revolutionary.

### ~~~~~ World War II: Churchill

With the publication of John Lukacs’ *The Duel*, in 2001, Winston Churchill’s role in shaping World War II, already seen as important, has attracted increasing attention, and a number of new books on various aspects of his influence on the war have appeared with great regularity. By one account, from Sir Winston’s death in early 1965 through 2000, an average of 9 books were published each year about him, a figure that has soared to 15 since 2000. Here we have several more that throw still more light on the subject.

*Churchill Goes to War: Winston Churchill’s Wartime Journeys*, by Brian Lavery. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2007. Pp. 392. Illus., maps, table, diag., notes, biblio., index. \$34.95. ISBN: 978-1-59114-103-7.

A unique look at how Churchill's extensive travels helped shape the "Grand Alliance" and thus strategy during World War II. The book covers all of Churchill's major overseas trips, notably those that involved conferences with his "Big Three" partners, FDR and Stalin, but also many of the smaller journeys as well, during which he visited the various fronts or negotiated with political leaders from such diverse countries as Greece, Turkey, or Saudi Arabia. In the process of covering these journeys, the book not only focuses on the role of these meetings in the development of the Allied war effort, but also provides a look at the complex arrangements required for most of the missions, some quite dangerous; e.g., during the Fall of France he several times flew to Paris, despite enemy superiority. The book also includes frequent useful insights into the personalities, behavior, and motivations of numerous notable characters, often with highly amusing anecdotes. A good book for anyone interested in World War II or in the making of grand strategy.

*Churchill and War*, by Geoffrey Best. New York/London: Hambledon Continuum, 2005. Pp. xv, 353. Illus., notes, biblio., index. \$21.95 paper. ISBN: 1-85285-541-X.

Geoffrey Best, author of a 2001 biography of Churchill, here puts the focus on the man as soldier, military thinker, and strategist. Oddly, although Churchill was educated for a military career, and spent nearly a decade in military service and invested heavily in the study of war and strategy, these aspects of his life are often overlooked, some episodes dismissed in a line or two. This book covers Churchill's education and military service, including his brief service as a journalist in Cuba with the Spanish Army, which gave him his first taste of battle. It then follows him into Parliament, and thence to his activities during World War I, including not only his role as First Lord of the Admiralty, but also his tour at the front, and his role as Minister of Munitions in considerable detail. There follows a look at his career in the interwar period, when he was politically isolated, but spent much time in study and writing, primarily about war, and his early awareness of the Nazi threat. World War II is, of course, the central concern of the work, and it is treated in considerable detail, warts and all. There follows his role in attempting to create a more peaceful post war world, and in the Western response to the rise of Stalinist imperialism. The work ends with a discussion of Churchill's concept of warmaking. A book of great value for anyone interested in grand strategy and the World Wars as well as the role of national leadership in wartime.

*Churchill and America*, by Martin Gilbert. New York: The Free Press, 2008. Pp. xxiv, 501. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$18.00 paper. ISBN: 978-0-7432-5993-4.

Having written Churchill's "official biography" and edited his wartime papers, in this volume Martin Gilbert turns his attention to the narrower, though very critical, subject of Churchill's ties to and relationship with his mother's homeland, the United States. The resulting work effectively weaves several threads, e.g., Churchill's connections to America, including family ties, friendships, business interests, his biography, his political career, and, most importantly, the Second World War. There are many surprises, such as the considerable detail about his notably lucrative lecture tours and publishing success in the U.S., as well as his considerable business success. There are also numerous insights into Churchill's remarkably complex personality, a mixture of hard-nosed warrior, romantic, political magician, and more. As such, *Churchill and America* is likely to be of interest to any student of the twentieth century and would be a good book to serve as an introduction to the man for the interested layman.

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### World War II: General

*War of Annihilation: Combat and Genocide on the Eastern Front, 1941*, by Geoffrey Megargee. Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield, 2007. Pp. xvi, 175. Illus., maps, append., notes, biblio., index. \$19.95 paper. ISBN: 978-0-7425-4482-6.

Combining evidence from untapped German documents and the wealth of scholarship on the Eastern Front, Geoffrey Megargee, of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, provides a concise and quite comprehensive look at the German campaign against Russia, from the initial planning through the invasion of June 1941 and to the end of that year. In the process, he makes it clear that from the start, regardless of what they said or wrote later, all senior German military commanders were cognizant of the genocidal intentions of Hitler and the Nazi Party, offering little or no objection, and that many of them cooperated willingly in the program. The book looks at events both at the front and behind it, providing detailed, grim evidence directly from German sources. *War of Annihilation* is an essential work for anyone with an interest in the Second World War.

*The Two Thousand Yard Stare: Tom Lea's World War II, Paintings, Drawings, and Eye-witness Accounts*, by Tom Lea, edited by

Brendan M. Greeley, Jr. College Station, Tx.: Texas A&M Press, 2008. Pp. xviii, 227. Illus., map, notes, biblio., index. \$xyz. ISBN: 978-1-60344-008-0.

In the course of literally tens of thousands of miles of travels, to virtually every theater in which American forces were engaged, *Life* artist Tom Lea visited many fighting fronts at some of the most desperate times, such as Guadalcanal and Peleliu. He produced innumerable sketches of people, places, and things, as well as combat, but also kept – probably against regulations – a detailed diary while maintaining a lively correspondence with friends and relatives. In *The Two Thousand Yard Stare*, named after one of Lea’s most famous paintings, the editor, a former Marine aviator and erstwhile editor of *Proceedings*, has put together a first class look at the war as Lea – and many of those with whom he came in contact – experienced it, from combat soldiers, sailors, marines, and aviators, to hard-working mechanics, embattled civilians, and notable political and military leaders. Although it has the heft and appearance of the proverbial coffee table book, this is of value for anyone interested in the personal experience of war.

*Hitler’s Bandit Hunters: The SS and the Nazi Occupation of Europe*, by Philip W. Blood. Washington: Potomac Books, 2008. Pp. xxii, 400. Illus., figs., append., notes, biblio., index. \$19.95 paper. ISBN: 978-1-5979-7157-7.

The passage of more than 60 years, has not diminished the development of new evidence on the depths of the brutality and the horror of the Nazi regime. In *Hitler’s Bandit Hunters*, Prof. Blood, formerly of the University of Aachen, opens by discussing the differences between “*bandenbekämpfung*—anti-bandit war-fare” and *partisanbekämpfung*—anti-partisan warfare.” This is just academic hair-splitting. By adopting the former term, the Third Reich threw out both traditional and written rules of war regarding resistance movements, while pretending to continue to adhere to them, and at the same time wholly incorporated its genocidal objectives into its rear-area security policies. Blood then discusses the objectives, leadership, bureaucratic institutions, military and police organizations, and the activities undertaken on the pretext of “anti-bandit operations.” There follows extensive, often detailed accounts, of German operations against “bandits” across Europe, often in grim detail. An important book for those interested in World War II and the law of war.

*Harvest of Despair: Life and Death in Ukraine Under Nazi Rule*, by Karel C. Berkhoff. Cambridge, Ma.: Belknap/Harvard University Press, 2004. Pp. xiii, 463. Illus., map, append., notes,

biblio., index. \$22.95 paper. ISBN: 978-0-674-02718-3.

This is a grim work, delving deeply into the horrors of the Nazi regime, as imposed on the “*Reichskommissariat Ukraine*” from 1941 through 1944. Prof. Berkhoff, of the Center for Holocaust and Genocidal Studies in the Netherlands, opens with a look at Ukraine under Soviet rule, in itself a grim subject. He outlines the events of the German invasion, in many quarters initially welcomed by the populace, and the creation of an occupation regime rooted in a complex blend of German nationalism, Nazi ideologies about race, culture, and class, and brutal economic exploitation. The nine chapters that follow deal with the mass slaughter of Jews and Roma, often with the open cooperation of the local populace, the fate of prisoners of war, and life under the occupation. The work is rich in detail on popular reaction to the harsh regime, ranging from collaboration to resistance, and a the surprising range of political, social, cultural, social, and religious developments. A good work for anyone interested in the war in the East, the Holocaust, or the nature of the Nazi regime.

### ~~~~~ World War II: The British Empire

*Eighth Army in Italy, 1943-1945: The Long Hard Slog*, by Richard Doherty. Bernsely, S. Yorks: Pen & Sword/Drexel Hill, Pa.: Casemate, 2007. Pp. xi, 259. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$39.95. ISBN: 978-1-84415-637-0.

Although associated in popular memory with the campaign in North Africa, in fact the British Eighth Army spent far more time campaigning in Italy, a front largely overlooked in most accounts of World War II. In *Eighth Army in Italy*, Irish military historian Richard Doherty tells the story of the Italian Campaign and the Eighth Army’s role in it. This is very well done “traditional” military history, and “telleth of much fight.” It covers, often in great detail, the organization, leadership, and operations of the “British” – actually British, Canadian, French, Indian, New Zealander, South African, Polish, and even Italian – Eighth Army that fought alongside the equally multi-ethnic American Fifth Army from September of 1943 through to the surrender of German forces in the Po Valley in May of 1945. Doherty writes well, and makes even complex actions very clear. Despite an occasional lapse, he is careful to define the numerous technical terms, acronyms, and abbreviations. There are many interesting asides, providing brief back-ground

on notable individuals or organizations, such as the Polish Corps. Doherty is critical where it is reasonable to be critical, but also gives credit where it is merited; he is one of the few historians of the campaign to discuss the contributions of Italian troops and partisans to the Allied success. A good book for those interested in the war in Europe and the Italian Campaign.

*The British Empire and the Second World War*, by Ashley Jackson. London/New York: Hambledon Continuum, 2006. Pp. xvii, 604. Illus., notes, biblio., index. \$19.95 paper. ISBN: 978-1-85285-541-3.

As the title indicates, this work deals with the role 60 or more political entities more or less tied to the United Kingdom – crown colonies, Dominions, mandates, protectorates, and many more – played in the “British” war effort. One would think this a well-told tale, but, as the author notes, though India and the Dominions have been more or less well covered, the rest of the Empire has not received much attention. By dividing the war into its regional components, the author outlines the course of the war in each area, and then discusses how the various jurisdictions of the Empire contributed to the war effort. It’s an impressive contribution, as he shows what even the smallest and most obscure entities within the Empire contributed to the war, from the Indian Princely States to British Honduras to the Maldiv Islands and others. In the process, he also provides a unique insight into the extremely complex strategic concerns of a truly global empire in a truly global war. For example, events in the Indian Ocean might suggest threats to the Falklands or the “Vichy threat” to the security of a number of small but strategically critical imperial outposts or how the generous support of the war effort by an obscure protectorate such as Swaziland, might reflect local concerns and ambitions and help shape the post war world.

*The First Day of the Blitz, September 7, 1940*, by Peter Stansky. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2007. Pp. xii, 212. Illus., notes, biblio., index. \$15.00 paper. ISBN: 978-0-300-14335-5.

An excellent work on “Black Saturday” – September 7, 1940. Prof. Stansky, formerly of Stanford, not only gives us a detailed account of the two German air raids on London that night, and the response, but gives us a look at the background to the events, from the rising awareness of the threat of the bomber to the surprisingly extensive preparations for civil defense (clearly, Britain is not always asleep), and then looks at the long-term effects of the Blitz. The book concludes with a thoughtful essay titled, “The Myth, the Reality,” which examines the image

and influence of the Blitz in wartime and post-war perception. *The First Day of the Blitz* is well written, and would make profitable reading for anyone with even a passing interest in history.

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**Commonwealth Navies at War, 1939-1945**

*The Battlecruiser HMS Hood: An Illustrated Biography, 1916-1941*, by Bruce Taylor. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2008. Pp. 256. Illus., diagr., tables, append., chron., notes, bib-lio., index. \$xyz. ISBN: 0978-186176-216-0.

Best remembered today for her brief and fatal encounter with the German battleship *Bismarck* on May 24, 1941, during the years between the world wars, HMS *Hood* was the largest and most famous warship in the world. This book focuses on those years; only three of its nine chapters can be said to be devoted to World War II. The first six chapters cover the ship’s conception and construction, her physical characteristics, daily life and routine, and her movements during the inter-war period. One chapter is devoted to the slide toward war, and two cover the *Hood’s* operations during the first 20 months of the war, culminating in a very detailed account of the pursuit of the *Bismarck*, and the loss of the *Hood*. A good read for anyone interested in navies or the Second World War at sea.

*The Australian Cruiser Perth, 1939-1942*, by Ian Pfenningweth. Kenthurst, N.S.W.: Rosenberg Publishing/Portland, Ore: ISBS, 2007. Pp. 263. Illus., maps, diagr., notes, biblio., index. \$29.95 paper ISBN: 9781-8777058-52-3.

Known in the U.S. only as the Australian ship that went down fighting alongside the USS *Houston* in Sunda Strait very early on March 1, 1942, HMAS *Perth* was in fact a seasoned veteran of more than two years of war, beginning operations just two months after commissioning. But for a brief refit, *Perth* was almost continuously in action until she was sunk. This volume traces the history of the ship, from her origins, as part of the effort to expand Australia’s naval forces in the interwar period, through her war, from routine patrol in the Atlantic and escorting convoys to Malta, and from the Battle of Cape Matapan to the evacuation of Crete, supporting land forces in North Africa and Syria, and, at her end, the desperate Allied attempt to stem the Japanese advance in Indonesia. In the process the book introduces the reader to the ship’s company, from her captains to many of the common

seamen, and gives the reader an excellent look at a fine ship in a desperate war.

*In Which They Served: The Royal Navy Officer Experience in the Second World War*, by Brian Lavery. Annapolis: Naval Institute, 2008. Pp. 384. Illus., maps, diagr., notes, biblio., index. \$xyz. ISBN: 978-1-59114-401-4.

The primary object of this work is to examine the routes to commissions in the Royal Navy during the war, the duties officers found themselves performing, with particular focus on the Battle of the Atlantic, in which most reserve and war-time only officers found themselves. This is done quite well, though Lavery, Curator *Emeritus* of Britain's National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, passes over regular pre-war officers, and thus the "Big Ship" navy. In telling the story, Lavery draws upon the memoirs, experiences, and writings of a good many officers, among them Nicholas Monsarrat, who spent much of the war on convoy duty, Alec Guinness, who commanded a landing craft, and even Evelyn Waugh, who served in the Royal Marines, as well as some quite obscure men. The book takes the officers-aspirant from recruitment through training, and on into the war, in the process proving much information about life in the Royal Navy and the ways in which it fought, including escorting convoys, beaching landing craft and sinkings. Invaluable for those interested in the Royal Navy or war at sea

*The Battle of the River Plate: A Grand Delusion*, by Richard Woodman. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2008. Pp. x, 164. Illus., maps, append., biblio., index. \$39.95. ISBN: 978-1-59114-040-5.

Among the most famous sea fights of World War II, the Plate, in which three British Commonwealth cruisers fought Germany's "pocket battleship" *Graf Spee*, opened the naval war in traditional style, with the Royal Navy defeating a superior foe. In this work, naval historian Woodman challenges that image. The book is revisionist, but in the best sense of the term, *i.e.*, it is a reasoned critique based on sound research and analysis. It opens with the political and military background to the battle, followed by a detailed account of naval operations in the South Atlantic that led to the confrontation off the River Plate on December 13, 1939, switching back and forth from the German to the British perspective as necessary. A very detailed tactical account follows, against changing perspective as events unfold, followed by a short look at the circumstances after the battle that led to *Graf Spee's* scuttling, and concluding with a critical review of the policies, personalities, and decisions that shaped the battle. Woodman's

most notable conclusions are that raiders like the *Graf Spee* were a wasted effort (the average U-boat early in the war accounted for more allied shipping than almost any raider) and that the British squadron was by no means as out-classed as has generally been claimed (as wargames, both professional and amateur, had demonstrated that even before the war). But there is much more in this valuable contribution to the history of war at sea.

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**Reminder**

Annual dues are \$35.00,  
payable in September

**Biography**

*Stalin: A New History*, edited by Sarah Davies and James Harris. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005. Pp. xiii, 295. Notes, index. \$32.99 paper. ISBN: 0-521-61653-0.

*Stalin: A New History* consists of fourteen essays by a dozen scholars that take a fresh look at the Soviet dictator's life and works based on newly available archival and other materials. So we have what is perhaps the fullest available account of Stalin's youth and education, accounts of his service as Commissar of Nationality Affairs, economic policy maker, dictator, foreign policy director, and much more, including even his influence on film and science. All the essays help build a much clearer picture of the man and his regime. But conspicuous by its absence is any essay dealing with Stalin's role as war lord during the Great Patriotic War. Despite this very serious flaw, the book will be of interest and value for students of Russian history.

*Santa Anna of Mexico*, by Will Fowler. Lincoln, Nb.: University of Nebraska Press, 2007. Pp. xxvi, 501. Illus., notes, biblio., index. \$45.00. ISBN: 978-0-8032-1120-9.

One of the most reviled figures in Mexican history, and a villain to Americans as well, Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna would seem to have no redeeming qualities. But Prof. Fowler, of the University of Saint Andrews, does a good job of finding quite a few. Noting that much of Santa Anna's reputation is based on tradition, and political expedience, Fowler reviews the record, consulting documentary evidence often overlooked or ignored, to present us with a more complex figure than the well known villainous opportunist. The final picture is of a man not much different from most of Mexico's leaders of the age; ambitious, deceitful, corrupt, and opportunist, to be sure, but also brave, smart, a good commander and manager, and certainly a patriot. The principal flaw in the work is that

Fowler might have given more attention to Santa Anna's military skills, which were considerable.

*Canaris: The Life and Death of Hitler's Spymaster*, by Michael Mueller, translated by Geoffrey Brooks. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2007. Pp. xv, 368. Illus., notes, biblio., index. \$34.95. ISBN: 978-1-59114-101-3.

This is a highly detailed, very nuanced biography of the enigmatic chief of the *Abwehr* during the Nazi regime, authored by a German journalist who has written several books on the German intelligence services. It reveals a very complex individual who is never quite what he seems to be, or, perhaps more accurately, what historians and biographers have attempted to make him out to be. Mueller gives us glimpses of Canaris as enthusiastic supporter of the Nazi regime, as dissident, as nationalist, and, perhaps even, at the end, as conspirator. But perhaps above all else, he shows Canaris as a man who preferred to be something of a mystery, hinting at a family and personal history that was, in fact, not necessarily very accurate, and a masterful bureaucratic in-fighter with his own agenda. This book is likely to become the standard treatment of Canaris' life and career.

*John Hawkwood: An English Mercenary in Fourteenth Century Italy*, by William Caferro. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006. Pp. xviii, 459. Illus., maps, chron., append., notes, biblio., index. \$35.00. ISBN: 978-0-8018-8323-1.

John Hawkwood (1320-1394), or "*Giovanni Acuto* – Sharp John," among English speakers the best known of the great Italian *condottieri*, has generally been treated well by historians and biographers. The canny merc rose to the peak of his profession in the tumultuous politics of early Renaissance Italy, while amassing great wealth and influence and preserving his honor. This portrait, by Prof. Caferro of Vanderbilt University, is rather different, presenting a far more nuanced picture of the man. The book opens with a chapter discussing "The Man and the Myth," followed by chapters on Hawkwood's early life and on politics and warfare in early Renaissance Italy. Upon this foundation, Caferro then describes Hawkwood's life and career, warts and all (illustrated by some wonderful artwork and anecdotes), as he rises from the newly minted captain of a band of English mercenaries to the most distinguished commander in Italy. Along the way we see Hawkwood in many roles, not only as battlefield commander and strategist, but also as business manager, diplomat, military innovator, land owner, Englishman, butcher, husband, popular hero, blackmailer, chivalrous nobleman, and more. In the process we are treated to a look at

the complex political and diplomatic history of Italy during the fourteenth century and at the evolution of the art of war. A useful read for anyone interested in Renaissance Italy, the evolution of the practice of war, command, and even the interrelationship of art and society.

*Genghis Khan: History's Greatest Empire Builder*, by Paul Lococo, Jr. Washington: Potomac Books, 2008. Pp. ix, 90. Maps, chron., notes, biblio., index. \$21.95. ISBN: 978-1-57488-573-2

Initiated several years ago, the Potomac Books "Military Profiles" series now numbers dozens of surprisingly good short biographies of notable figures in the history of statecraft and warfare. *Genghis Khan*, is a very good example of the quality of the series. The book provides an outline life of the Mongol conqueror, set within the context of his culture and his times. We are given look at his origins and rise to power, are exposed to military systems of the region, and are shown the broad outlines of his many reforms, not only military but also the political and social changes that he initiated. Of course, there's also a concise, well-written account of his many campaigns. A very useful book for anyone seeking an introduction to Genghis' life and work, the history of China and Central Asia, and the conduct of war on the vast Eurasia plan.

#### A New Work by David Syrett

*At the time of his untimely death, in 2003, then-NYMAS President Prof. David Syrett, of Queens College, had several books in various stages of completion for publication. These have been appearing at regular intervals. .*

*Shipping and Military Power in the Seven Years' War: The Sails of Victory*, by David Syrett. Exeter: University of Exeter Press/Chicago: University of Chicago Press 2008. Pp. xii, 179. Illus., maps, tables, notes, biblio., index. \$69.95. ISBN: 978-0-85989-786-0.

*Shipping and Military Power in the Seven Years' War* examines the bureaucratic, financial, and administrative processes whereby that enabled Britain to organize and manage the sea lift needed to support its global reach in the mid-eighteenth century.

Prof. Syrett provides a look at the great skill and sophistication with which the Royal Navy and such agencies as the Navy Board, the Victualling Board, and the Ordnance Board could approach operations which even today seem daunting. The work consists of a series of chapters that discuss, in great detail, the

process by which vessels were examined, contracts let, provisions procured, convoy movements organized, and costs managed, and the problems of, inter-agency relations, illustrated with numerous examples and anecdotes. .

In the final chapter, Syrett brings together these threads in a concise overview of the capture of Havana in 1762. This undertaking literally went from conception to completion in a few days more than eight months, and gives the reader an excellent look at the British ability to manage global logistics, but also provides some interesting lessons in the conduct of sea-borne operations.

The work, a further demonstration of the late Prof. Syrett's extraordinary mastery of the sources and the nature of maritime operations in the age of sail, will be of value to anyone interested in logistics, amphibious operations, and naval warfare in the Eighteenth Century..

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**Other**

*A Date Which Will Live: Pearl Harbor in American Memory*, by Emily S. Rosenberg. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2005. Pp. x, 236. Illus., notes, biblio. \$18.95. ISBN: 0-8223-3637-5.

The subtitle of *A Date Which Will Live* sets the purpose of the work, a point stressed in the title of the first of its two main sections, "Signifying Pearl Harbor." The point is not to discuss "The Day of Infamy," but to explore the ways in which Pearl Harbor has been perceived and used by the American people. Individual chapters look at how the attack rallied the nation to unity in the war effort, provided a opportunities for those opposed to the administration and the New Deal, affected the place and role of Japanese-Americans in society, served as a metaphor for preparedness, became part of the "culture wars," and more, including the relationship between the memory of Pearl Harbor and the events of 9/11. Well written and often quite insightful, the book will be of interest to students of Pearl Harbor, war and society, and modern America.

*Armies of the Twentieth Century: Risings and Rebellions, 1919 to 1939*, by Edward Herebt. Nottingham: Foundry Books/Drexel Hill, Pa.: Casemate, 2007. Pp. 188. Illus., maps, tables, notes, biblio. \$63.00. ISBN: 1-978-1901-54312-4.

Intended for the gamer, and particularly the miniature gamer, Foundry's series "Armies of the Twentieth Century" nevertheless provides an enormous amount of valuable historical information and analysis of numerous obscure campaigns and armed forces of the interwar period. The book covers a surprisingly large

number of obscure colonial and counter-insurgency operations, across a broad swathe of the globe, including all of the major campaigns from Soviet "anti-bandit" campaigns in Central Asia, to British operations in Afghanistan, Somaliland, and Iraq, to Franco-Spanish campaigns in Morocco and Italian operations in Ethiopia, Libya, and Somaliland. Also covered are many campaigns not widely known, such as the Mongolian "invasion" of Russia in 1920, and revolts in Burma, Nigeria, Aden, and elsewhere. Generally each section opens with a short background, that includes a concise outline of the operations, and then provides details of the organization and equipment of both sides, and a short analysis of leadership, tactics, and consequences. The length of each entry varies with the scale of the operation. Very useful for those interested in colonial and limited warfare.

*Mobilizing Minerva: American Women in the First World War*, by Kimberley Jensen. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2008. Pp. xvii, 244. Illus., notes, biblio., index. \$65 cloth/\$30 paper. ISBN: 978-0-252-03237-0/978-0-252-07496-7.

*Mobilizing Minerva* deals with the role of American women in the war effort during the Great War. It is, however, neither military history nor a war and society treatment, but rather a "gender studies" account. The author often betrays a lack of familiarity with military terminology and history. For example, she often uses "soldier" to include "sailor." The author also seems unaware that in major wars military personnel are mostly civilians wearing uniforms rather than military professionals, and thus that their behavior may not reflect "military culture" at all. With the preface and conclusions, there are ten essays in the book. A number are quite good, such as the organization of women's volunteer militia units, the effort of women medical personnel to secure professional status in the armed forces, and the role of women in pressing for and providing medical assistance to women and children in the war zone. An essay on the tribulations of women working in military hospitals is good, but illustrates some of the limitations of the work, failing, for example, to ask if hostile conditions (e.g., sexual harassment) differed from the experience in civilian hospitals, from which the Army's medical personnel were recruited. There is some excellent material in *Mobilizing Minerva*, but much of it is buried.

*Imperial City: Rome, Romans, and Napoleon, 1796-1815*, by Susan Vandiver Nicassio.

Welwyn Garden City: Ravehall Books/Oakville, Ct.: David Brown, 2005. Pp. 255. Illus., notes, biblio., index. \$34.95 paper. ISBN: 1-905043-06-6.

A look at the “love/hate” relationship between Napoleon and the Eternal City, which he saw as a second capital of his empire, to link it with Classical Antiquity, yet viewed with suspicion and never actually visited. A complex work, *Imperial City* is simultaneously a political, social, religious, cultural, and military account, even touching upon Puccini’s *Tosca*. It opens with a look at Papal Rome in the late eighteenth century, a curious city with an awesome reputation, an extensive “social safety net,” free public education, a widely admired penal code, and no political freedom in modern terms. The story unfolds, with the city changing hands several times (The Pope, the French, the Neapolitans, the French, the Neapolitans, the Pope, the French again, and so on), as well as the abduction of and exile of two popes, efforts at “modernization,” some of them beneficial and others not. All this is against the background of Napoleon’s desire for friendly relations with the Church, if only it would submit to his will. A good read for anyone with an interest in the Revolutionary and Napoleonic eras or the *Risorgimento*.

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**Membership News**

Former NYMAS President *Brian R. Sullivan* contributed an essay on Italo-German military relations to *Hitler and His Allies in World War II*, reviewed elsewhere in this issue.

In October *Bob Rowen*, NYMAS Director of Operations and Programs and webmaster, was a featured speaker at the Twelfth National War of 1812 Symposium, held at the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House in Baltimore. His paper,

“Privateers in the War of 1812: Did an Accidental Encounter in the Mid-Atlantic Turn the Course of the War?” is available in expanded form on the NYMAS website.

Board member *C. Kay Larson's* article, “Anna Ella Carroll, Adviser to Lincoln,” was featured in the December issue of *Shoreline*, published by Maryland’s Salisbury University Nabb Center, dedicated to the study of the DelMarVa peninsula. The Carroll family were among the earliest settlers in Somerset County on the Eastern Shore. Kay has also submitted an article to the “Knapsack” column of *North & South*, edited by board member *Al Nofi*, on the bread riot in New York City in July 1861, sparked by economic uncertainty due to the secession crisis and onset of the Civil War.

NYMAS Executive Director *Eugene Feit* received his Master’s Degree in history as part of his progress in the Ph.D. program at the C.U.N.Y. Graduate Center.

In July 19<sup>th</sup>, Board member *Wayne Sarf* was presented with the Jay D. Smith Award, by the Little Big Horn Associates, for his *The Little Big Horn Campaign* (Conshohocken, Pa.: 2000).

Board member *Frank Radford* has been in Liberia, where he has been assisting in the training of 48 officers for the newly formed AFL (Armed Forces of Liberia) in an abbreviated Infantry Officer Basic Course at the Barclay Training Center in Monrovia and elsewhere.

Board member *Al Nofi's* new book, “*To Train the Fleet for War*”: *The U.S. Navy’s Fleet Problems, 1923-1940*, will be published by the Naval War College Press in 2009. On December 11<sup>th</sup> he made a presentation to the Austin Civil War Round Table on “‘Trivia’ as an Insight into History.”

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**NYMAS Autumn 2008 Schedule**

- Jan. 9 “The Red River War of 1874: Indian Removal and the First Bonanza” - Robert Spiegelman, Independent Scholar
- Jan. 16 “German Air Operations on the Eastern Front, 1914-1917” - Richard DiNardo, US Marine Corps Command & Staff College/ NYMAS
- Jan. 23 “Borrowed Soldiers: Americans under British Command during the First World War” - Mitch Yockelson, US National Archives
- Jan. 30 “The Intendance and the Logistics of The *Grande Armée*, 1806-1807” - Alex Stavropoulos, CUNY Graduate Center
- Feb. 6 “Pre-WWI Thinking and the Theory and Practice of Field Fortification” - Nicholas

- Murray, US Army Command & General Staff College
- Feb. 13 “Lincoln’s Code: The Laws of War in American History” - John Fabian Witt, Columbia Law School
- Feb. 20 “God Willing: My Wild Ride with the New Iraqi Army” - Eric Navarro, US Marine Corps Reserve
- Feb. 27 “Islam in the French Army during the Great War” - Richard S. Fogarty, University at Albany, State University of New York
- Mar. 6 “Policing the White Man’s Democracy? Army Aid to the Civil Power in Jacksonian America” - Samuel Watson, USMA, West Point
- Mar. 13 “Fahrenheit 2,200: A History of Napalm” - Bob Neer, Columbia University

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- Mar. 20 "Naval Aviation and the U.S. Fleet Problems, 1923-1940" – Albert A. Nofi, NYMAS
- Mar. 27 "Issues of Identity in the Wartime Occupation of Okinawa, April-June 1945," Maj. Courtney Short, USMA, West Point
- Apr. 3 "Why Iraq Wanted Nuclear Weapons" - Norman Cigar, USMC University Research Fellow
- Apr. 10 Passover/Easter weekend – No lecture
- Apr. 17 "Breaker Morant: Film and History" - James Kirschke, Villanova University
- Apr. 24 – 25 The NYMAS Spring Conference – TBA
- May 1 "Winning the English Civil War: Fairfax, Cromwell and the Formation of the New Model Army in 1645" – Florene Memegalos, Hunter College
- May 8 "Chinese Amphibious Operations: 1949-1958," Edward Chen, NYMAS member
- May 15 "Sparta and the Greek Art of War 550 – 362 BC" - Scott Rusch, Independent Scholar

- May 22 "Spycraft: The Secret History of the CIA's Spyspechs from Communism to Al-Qaeda" - Robert Wallace, Former Director, CIA's Office of Technical Service
- May 29 "Right vs. Left Politics in the Cold War and the Incredible Saga of Major General Edwin Walker" - Bob Rowen, 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 8:45 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  
NYMAS  
c/o Eugene Feit  
333 E 55th St #9D  
New York, NY 10022  
(note new mailing address)**

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 address above. Items for *The Review* should be sent to the Editor, Al Nofi, via email to [anofi@nymas.org](mailto:anofi@nymas.org).