

# *The NYMAS Review.*

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## **Featured Review**

Joseph T. Stanik's *El Dorado Canyon: Reagan's Undeclared War With Qaddafi*.  
reviewed by Richard L. DiNardo,  
USMC C&SC, Quantico

This book is an extensive study of the "quasi-war" that the United States fought with the major miscreant in the Middle East during the 1980s, namely Libya's Moammar Qaddafi. The conflict began with aerial combat between two Libyan aircraft and two American naval aircraft over the Gulf of Sidra in August 1981, as the US Navy was conducting a Freedom of Navigation (FON) exercise to challenge Libyan claims to control what was legally international waters. This was followed by a series of Libyan sponsored terrorist incidents, most notably the airport massacres in Rome and Vienna in late 1985 and further reassertions of claims to the Gulf of Sidra, this time with threats to attack any naval forces that crossed a so-called "Line of Death," a challenge the Reagan administration quickly took up. This resulted in another FON exercise ("Prairie Fire") in March 1986 by the Navy, during which a couple of Libyan naval vessels were destroyed. A spate of terrorist attacks followed, culminating in the bombing of the La Belle Discothèque in Berlin on 5 April 1986, with over 200 casualties, among them 78 Americans. The conflict with Libya culminated a week later with a raid by US Navy carrier aircraft and Air Force bombers operating from Britain against selected targets, including Qaddafi's own residence, killing his adopted four year old daughter.

The conflict then subsided, ending with a bizarre air battle off Tobruk on Jan. 4, 1989, in which two F-14's shot down two more Libyan aircraft. With the horrific exception of the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, Qaddafi then largely abandoned terrorism, as well as his more grandiose ideas in foreign policy.

Stanik carefully recounts these events in a very well-researched and well-written book. The difficulties of mounting the operations, not to mention the problems in formulating an effective policy against state sponsored terrorism, are covered in considerable detail. The great value of Stanik's book is that it shows both how much things have changed and how much things have remained the same. Militarily these

operations, especially "Prairie Fire," marked an important milestone in the recovery of the US military from Vietnam. Aided by firm political backing and a robust ROE, the Navy was able to establish clear superiority over its Libyan opponents. The conduct of "El Dorado Canyon" also showed how far we have come in our strike capability. The raid on Qaddafi involved aircraft using, at least in the Air Force's case, laser guided bombs, the most accurate weapons of the day. Even then, most of the bombs fell wide of their respective targets. Given the precision of today's weapons, Stanik's book shows how much of a quantum leap the American armed forces have made in this area in a mere two decades. Politically, Stanik shows how little things have changed even with 9/11. The Reagan administration's efforts to formulate a policy on terrorism was marked by divisions between George Schultz' State Department, which sought a much tougher line against Libya, and Casper Weinberger's Defense Department, still concerned with getting into another Vietnam-like situation. One Air Force commander, Maj. Gen. Thomas McInerney, believed that no Libyan target was "worth the life of even one airman." Still, the Navy and Air Force carried out the mission superbly, buoyed by the confidence of the administration in their respective abilities and the President's willingness to let military commanders make the tough calls as they needed to.

In terms of international relations, Stanik paints a picture that has become depressingly familiar. Despite hundreds of casualties inflicted by Libyan-supported Palestinian terrorists (the most notable of whom was the now late and unlamented Abu Nidal), Europeans quailed at the Reagan administration's stern response to Qaddafi. Most irritating, as usual, was France's President Francois Mitterand. After denying overflight rights to American aircraft, Mitterand advised American ambassador Vernon Walters that the raid "should not be a mere pinprick." Stanik notes that one errant bomb damaged the French embassy in Tripoli. The only leaders who defied public opinion in their respective countries to support the raid were Brian Mulroney of Canada, West Germany's Helmut Kohl, and the only real man in Europe, Britain's Margaret Thatcher. Thatcher figures as one of the heroes in the book, as she had to give permission for the Air Force's FB-111s to use British bases. How similar to the present!

Taken all together, this book is an impressive work. It will stand for some time to come as the definitive study on the subject.

*El Dorado Canyon: Reagan's Undeclared War With Qaddafi*, by Joseph T. Stanik. Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 2003. Pp. xvi, 319. Illus., notes, bibliography, index. \$34.95. ISBN: 1-55750-983-2.

## ~~~~~ Reviews

*The Peloponnesian War*, by Donald Kagan. New York: Viking Press, 2003. Pp. xxx, 511. Maps, sources, index. \$29.95. ISBN: 0-670-03221-3.

In *The Peloponnesian War* Donald Kagan, a very distinguished classicist and the author of the four volume monumental *History of the Peloponnesian War* (1971-1988), who has of late become a prominent champion of Western culture and the importance of lessons from Classical Antiquity to the modern world, has produced an immensely valuable work.

*The Peloponnesian War* is not a mere abridgement of Kagan's earlier, highly scholarly effort. Although based on that work, the new volume is a remarkable new synthesis intended for the non-specialist, that in some cases comes to conclusions different from those in the earlier effort. The new work tells the story of the greatest war in Greek antiquity for the educated reader who is perhaps not very familiar with ancient history. At the same time accurate, detailed, and analytic, *The Peloponnesian War* is also – perhaps most importantly – clear and readable, rife with surprisingly fresh insights and conclusions that may surprise even the reader well-versed in the period.

A work full of valuable lessons for the modern age, from the politics and dangers of coalition warfare to the unintended consequences of good ideas, and is definitely worth reading.

*Airpower in Small Wars: Fighting Insurgents and Terrorists*, by James S. Corum and Wray R. Johnson. Lawrence, Ks.: University Press of Kansas, 2003. Pp. xvi, 506. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$24.95 paper. ISBN:0-7006-1240-8

A timely study of the role of air power in counter-insurgency, anti-terrorism, and pacification operations in the twentieth century. This is a comprehensive study that looks not only at the American, British, and French experience in places as widely separated as Mexican and Vietnam, but also at air power in usually overlooked small wars in places such as Guatemala, the Philippines, Morocco, Rhodesia, and Greece, to name but a few.

In contrast to other works on aviation history, *Airpower in Small Wars* does not just focus on the use of airplanes and helicopters, but tells a broader story of the integration of air assets with the other tools of

counter-insurgency, diplomacy, development, and ground operations, making it a useful guide to many examples of successful and not-so-successful campaigns.

The work does have some omissions. Aside from the campaign in Afghanistan, there is nothing regarding Soviet use of air power in counter-insurgency operations, though they had considerable experience right from the days of the Russian Civil War, through the reconquest of Central Asia in the 1920s, and against separatist or pro-Nazi insurgents during the Second World War. Likewise Nazi use of aviation against insurgents in Russia and the Balkans has been overlooked. Nevertheless, a very valuable contribution to the literature of counter-insurgency.

*Latin America's Wars*, by Robert L. Scheina. Dulles, Va.: Brassey's, 2003.

- Vol. I., *The Age of the Caudillos, 1791-1899*. Pp. xxx, 569. Illus., maps, notes, index. \$59.95. ISBN: 1-57488-449-2.
- Vol. II., *The Age of the Professional Soldier, 1900-2001*. Pp. xxvi, 530. Illus., maps, notes, index. \$49.95. ISBN: 1-57488-451-4.

A valuable guide to the numerous wars, coups, insurgencies, rebellions, and similar events that have occurred in Latin America since the beginnings of the independence movements in the late eighteenth century. The introductions and conclusions to each volume outline some of the general causes of the conflicts and discuss some of the overall patterns. Each conflict – or group of related conflicts – is dealt with in a standardized fashion, providing background, opposing forces, and basic strategies, followed by an outline of events, often in some detail, and some general conclusions.

Despite the limitations of its size, *Latin America's Wars* is surprisingly comprehensive, providing at least some coverage of many extremely obscure events in a region beset by military adventurism, particularly during the nineteenth century. There are some omissions, however; the U.S. naval expedition to Paraguay in the 1850s is missing, as is reference to a number of U.S. expeditions that prevented the independence of Panama from Colombia, until Theodore Roosevelt intervention in support of independence of Panama.

Although the treatment of the events tends to be even-handed, there are some dubious conclusions. For example, in his coverage of the Cuban Revolution of 1895-1898, Scheina, who has written several prior works on various aspects of Latin American history, overlooks the fact that securing U.S. intervention was a major goal of the rebels.

These are rather minor omissions, given the scope of the work, and, *Latin America's Wars* is a valuable

resource for anyone interested in the military history of the Americas.

*An Army at Dawn: The War in North Africa, 1942-1943*, by Rick Atkinson. New York: Henry Holt, 2003. Pp. xix, 681. Illus, maps, table, notes, biblio., index. \$16.00 paper. ISBN: 0-8050-7448-1.

Awarded the Pulitzer Prize for history in 2002, *An Army at Dawn* is essentially a study of the maturation of the U.S. Army in the North African Campaign, and constitutes the first volume of what the author terms the "Liberation Trilogy," the subsequent ones dealing with the campaigns in Italy, 1943-1945, and in Northwestern Europe, 1944-1945.

Atkinson has created a multifaceted look at the green American Army as it entered upon its first offensive campaign of the war. The scope ranges from top level matters of policy and strategy right down to the common soldier in the front lines, and manages to encompass organization, equipment, logistics, and much more, with a wonderful cast of characters that includes such notables as Terry Allen, Ernie Pyle, Ted Roosevelt, and many more.

Atkinson concludes – quite rightly – that the army that went into North Africa was by no means a mighty war machine. Poor training, inexperienced officers, overly optimistic expectations, all led to near disaster during the initial landings against the French, and later to very real disaster in the initial clashes with the Germans. But Atkinson also recounts how the army and its senior leadership learned, and learned well, much more quickly than anyone – friend or foe – expected, gaining the experience and skill that made possible the final victory.

*An Army at Dawn* makes a definitive case against the U.S. Army's belief that a cross-channel attack was possible in '42, and is important reading for anyone interested in the Second World War.

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Bob Rowen, Webmaster

### Of Special Interest

*Terrorism, Afghanistan, and America's New Way of War*, by Norman Friedman. Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 2003. Pp. x, 327. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$29.95. ISBN: 1-59114-290-3.

An insightful look into the American military reaction to the September 11, 2001, Islamist terrorist attacks on the U.S. Friedman explores the background of the attacks and the aims of the conspirators, then goes on to look at how radical innovations in the ways in which the armed forces – and particularly the Navy and Marine Corps – fight, including the through

integration of political and cultural "fronts" with military operations, permitted the rapid liberation of Afghanistan from the Taliban/Al Qaeda yoke. A valuable book for anyone interested in trying to develop a better understanding of the global war on terror.

*Small Wars and Skirmishes, 1902-1918: Early Twentieth Century Campaigns in Africa, Asia, and the Americas*, by Edwin Herbert. Nottingham: Foundry/Casemate, Pa.: 2003. Pp. 224. Illus., maps, biblio. \$40.00. ISBN: 1-901-543-05-6.

A valuable contribution to the literature of "small wars," covering scores of conflicts, in a series of concise, but surprisingly complete briefings that include not only the events, but descriptions of organization, weapons, tactics, and so forth. The principal flaw is that the work focuses exclusively on western clashes with the "Third World," and thus omits any treatment of Latin America beyond U.S. interventions, Russian problems in Central Asia and the Caucasus, and anything in China or Indo-China.

*Emperor Charles V, Impresario of War: Campaign Strategy, International Finance, and Domestic Politics*, by James D. Travy. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003. Pp. xvi, 344. Illus, maps, tables, notes, biblio., index. \$70.00. ISBN: 0-521-81431-6.

A welcome life and works a much neglected figure, Charles V, King of Spain and Holy Roman Emperor, who dominated Europe for most of the first half of the sixteenth century. Although sometime heavy going, the book pretty much fulfills the promise of its title, delving into the intricacies of Charles' grand strategy, military campaigns, financial machinations – despite being the richest man in the world he was usually broke – and domestic policies in an empire that literally stretched half-way around the world. At the same time, the work provides some insights into the nature of kingship, war, politics, and the emergence of the nation-state in the early modern period.

*Denying History: Who Says the Holocaust Never Happened and Why do They Say it?* By Michael Shermer and Alex Grobman. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002. Pp. xviii, 312. Illus., tables, diagr., notes, biblio., index. No price given -- paper. ISBN: 0-520-23469-3.

A detailed examination of Holocaust denial, with a focus on its pseudo-scholarly aspects. The authors take a close look at the principal deniers and their arguments, demonstrating their frequent links with more traditional anti-Semitism. In addition, they provide an excellent overview of the Holocaust itself as a means of refuting literally on a point-by-point basis the arguments advanced by the deniers. A good deal of their material is new, including a rather

devastating statement by Hitler that certain persons were *not* to be liquidated. A very valuable work.

*A War of Nerves: Soldiers and Psychiatrists in the Twentieth Century*, by Ben Shephard. Cambridge, Ma.: Harvard University, 2000. Pp. xxiv, 487. Illus., notes, biblio., index. \$27.95. ISBN: 0-474-01119-8

A history of military psychiatry and the mental consequences of combat. Although the book focuses on the twentieth century, it does an adequate job of reviewing earlier insights into what has come to be known as "post-traumatic stress disorder," notably in the aftermath of the American Civil War. The book proceeds by mixing medical history with specific case studies, and includes the evolving medical, military, and public understanding of the baggage some veterans may have and the ways to treat it. The work is not uncritical, and takes a hard look at the mishandling of Vietnam Era veterans so ably described in B.G. Burkett's *Stolen Valor*. A valuable read for anyone interested in the problems of the common soldier.

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### American Military History

*A Short, Offhand, Killing Affair: Soldiers and Social Conflict during the Mexican-American War*, by Paul Foss. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2002. Illus., map, notes, biblio., index. \$18.95 paper. ISBN: 0-8078-5404-0.

A look at the common soldier in the War with Mexico, as a social, cultural, and political actor, rather than as a combatant. There's a good deal of valuable analysis of the racial attitudes, religious prejudices, and economic and social motivations, focused primarily on of the volunteers. Although drawing extensively on primary sources, the book does omit Mexican views of the attitudes and behavior of the American invaders, which might have been of interest. Despite this, a useful contribution to the social history of the American soldier.

*A Fraternity of Arms: American and France in the Great War*, by Robert B. Bruce. Lawrence, Ks.: University Press of Kansas, 2003. Pp. xx, 380. Illus., maps, tables, append., notes, biblio., index. \$39.95 paper. ISBN:0-7006-1253-X.

A history of Franco-American military relations during World War I. The book looks into the ways that French military practice influenced the American Army not only during the Great War, but in some ways even down to the present. Worth reading

*Ghosts of the ETO: American Tactical Deception Units in the European Theater, 1944-1945*, by Jonathan Gawne. Navertowne, Pe.,: Casemate, 2002. Pp. x, 342. Illus., maps, tables, glossary, notes, biblio., index. \$39.95. ISBN: 0-97117-709-5-9.

A history of the "23<sup>rd</sup> Special Troops," the U.S. Army's principal tactical deception unit in northwestern Europe. And it's quite a story, including not only an operational account of the many tricks the unit played on the enemy in the furtherance of Allied tactical operations, but also a series of mini-lessons in the theory and practice of tactical deception. There is a great deal of valuable material in *Ghosts of the ETO*, including the fact that George S. Patton was a great fan of tactical deception, and as a result his Third Army made the most use of the unit's services of any organization in the 12<sup>th</sup> Army Group.

*America as a Military Power: From the American Revolution to the Civil War*, by Jeremy Black, Westport, Ct.: Praeger, 2002. Pp. x, 231. Notes, recommended readings, index. \$26.95 paper. ISBN: 0-275-91106-4

An unorthodox look at the early development of American military policy and practice. Black addresses the various factors that are alleged to have shaped the "American way of war." The book focuses on the geographical exceptionalism, the "Republican" social environment, the different military tasks, the citizen-soldier, and several other factors usually cited to help explain why America makes war – or is believed to make war – in ways different from those of the Old World. Black comes down heavily against this "exceptionalism," though many American military historians will question not only his conclusions, but often also the "spin" he places on the evidence to reach them.

*Resurrection: Salvaging the Battle Fleet at Pearl Harbor*, by Daniel Madsen. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2003. Pp. xii, 241. Illus., maps, diag., notes, biblio., index. \$36.95. ISBN: 1-555750-488-1

An historical treatment of the salvage of the battle-ships and other vessels – including some quite small ones – that were sunk at Pearl Harbor after the Japanese attack. Madsen, who has written on naval topics before, treats the salvage operation almost as a campaign, rather than a series of technical challenges. Thus, rather than address the salvage of each ship in turn as a technical problem – which has been done before – he looks at the operation chronologically. This sets the salvage operations within the context of the war, which caused delays in the work on some ships due to the need to repair vessels damaged during ongoing operations against the enemy, and also shows how the salvage effort grew both organizationally and in experience.

#### Reminder

Annual dues – \$35.00 – are past-due.

## The Ancient World

*The First Jewish Revolt: Archaeology, History, and Ideology*, edited by Andrea M. Berlin and J. Andrew Overman. New York: Routledge, 2002. Pp. xiv, 258. Illus., figures, tables, maps, notes, biblio., index. \$80.00. ISBN: 0-415-25706-9.

Fifteen essays explore various aspects of the Jewish "Revolt" of A.D. 64-69. Topics range from the background of the war and its "fit" into regional political and strategic developments to the development of rabbinical Judaism and the shaping of Jewish and Christian theology. Several of the essays are specifically military, such as looks at the movements of the Tenth Legion or the archaeology of the fortress of Jotapata, famous for its defense by Josephus.

*Heraclius: Emperor of Byzantium*, by Walter E. Kaegi. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003. Pp. xii, 359. Illus., maps, chron., notes, biblio., index. \$70.00. ISBN: 0-521-81459-6.

The first biography of one of the most impressive and important of the latter Roman Emperors in many years, Prof. Kaegi's work breaks considerable new ground by refuting many old, generally superficial views of Heraclius, while putting his considerable achievements firmly into the political, social, cultural, and military frame-work of his times. In many ways a tragic figure, Heraclius, who spent the first 20 years of his reign (610-641), recovering vast territories that had been lost to the Persians, only to see it all be lost again when hordes espousing Islam erupted from the deserts of Arabia.

*The Barbarians Speak: How the Conquered Peoples Shaped the Roman Empire*, by Peter S. Wells. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999. Pp. xii, 335. Illus., maps, diagr., tables, biblio., index. \$19.95 paper. ISBN: 0-691-08978-7.

A look at the culture, political organization, and military systems of the "Barbarians"—notably the Gauls and Germans—with whom the Romans had contact in the late Republic and Early Empire, and how their societies were reshaped by that contact and, in turn, help shape Roman civilization. In the process the author demonstrates that these peoples were far more sophisticated than Roman writers and traditional scholarship have generally portrayed.

*Hannibal's Dynasty: Power and Politics in the Western Mediterranean, 247-183 B.C.*, by Dexter Hoyos. New York: Routledge, 2003. Pp. vii, 304. Illus., append., notes, biblio., index. \$80.00. ISBN: 0-415-29911-X.

Although *Hannibal's Dynasty* naturally revolves to a great extent about the life and campaigns of the great Carthaginian commander, the theme of the volume is

much broader, focusing on the influence of the so-called "Barcid" family and their kinsmen on the politics of Carthage and the Mediterranean world during the third century before the Christian Era. Hoyos presents a balanced view of Romano-Punic relations, providing a more nuanced look at the politics and motivations of prominent leaders on both sides than is usually the case in works on the subject, and has some fresh appraisals of the military skills of Hannibal and a host of other generals of the times.

*Warfare and Society in the Barbarian West, 450-900*, by Guy Halsall. New York: Routledge, 2003. Pp. xix, 320. Maps, figures, append., notes, biblio., index. \$29.95 paper. ISBN: 0-415-23940-0.

A look at the wars in which war and society developed in the post-Roman west. Halsall continues the trend, begun with Bachrach, of demonstrating that the period was neither as backward nor as ignorant as the traditional view of the "Dark Ages" would have it. The work deals with the relationship of society and social order to military life, raising, equipping, and maintaining of armies, strategy and campaign planning, and the conduct and use of battle to attain political and military objectives. The extensive notes themselves provide considerable additional material of interest.

## Recent Reference Works

*Atlas of American Military History*, edited by James C. Bradford. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003. Pp. 248. Illus., maps, biblio., index. \$50.00. ISBN: 0-19-521661-X

A survey history of the U.S. from colonial times to the 2001 Campaign in Afghanistan, heavily supported by maps. The text, although necessarily terse, is excellent, with sections written by such distinguished scholars as Joseph G. Dawson III, on the Texas War of Independence and the Mexican-American War, Carol Reardon, on the Civil War, and so forth. The maps are clear, with sufficient detail to understand the situation in the context of the physical environment. Coverage is sometimes idiosyncratic, however; so while there is no map of the Battle of the Monongahela ("Braddock's Defeat"), there is one of the often overlooked King's Mountain. Illustrations are usually good, and appropriate, but several are clearly wrong. Despite this, a very valuable work.

*German Secret Weapons of the Second World War: The Missiles, Rockets, Weapons, and New Technology of the Third Reich*, by Ian V. Hogg. London: Greenhill/Mechanicsburg, Pa.: Stackpole, 1999. Pp. 223. Illus., diagr., append., index. \$19.95 paper. ISBN: 1-85367-510-5.

A handy guide to the principal special weapons projects of Nazi Germany, including not only missiles and aircraft, but also artillery-types weapons, naval weapons, and a look at nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons research. Rather than focus his attention only on the systems that actually saw use, such as the V-1 or the Me-262, which have received much coverage elsewhere, Hogg provides good coverage of many lesser-known systems that were much less well developed but in many ways far more interesting, such as the A-3 intercontinental missile.

*A Guide to Airborne Weapons*, by David F. Crosby. Charleston: Nautical & Aviation, 2003. Pp. vii, 138. Illus., glossary, index. \$26.95. ISBN: 1-877853-67-4.

A catalog of airborne munitions currently in the U.S. inventory, including missiles (air-to-air and air-to-ground), unguided and guided munitions, cluster munitions, aircraft gun systems, and torpedo. Each entry includes a description of the weapon, with some background details, plus employment considerations, and general physical and operations characteristics. Very handy for anyone interested in current air warfare.

*Dictionary of the First World War*, by Stephen Pope and Elizabeth-Anne Wheal. Barnesley, S. Yorkshire: Pen & Sword/Charleston: Casemate, 2003. Pp. xxviii, 561. Maps. \$16.99 paper. ISBN: 0-85052-979-4.

This first paperback edition of the original 1995 work includes some additional material, and extensive maps. Although better than most such works in terms of its coverage of the lesser powers – there are even entries for Italy’s Luigi Capello and Serbia’s Radomir Putnik – the work is still heavily Western Front oriented and quite Anglocentric.

### ~~~~~ **Reissues and Reprints of Note**

*The Little War of Private Post: The Spanish-American War Seen Up Close*, by Charles Johnson Post. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1999. Pp. xii, 340. Illus. \$15 paper. ISBN: 08032-6757-7.

A classic of American soldier’s reminiscences, *The Little War of Private Post* tells the story of a young man who went to war, and experienced it in all its guises, from the boredom to the horror. An easy read, well written and witty, the book is illustrated with Post’s sketches of the war, and has an introduction by Graham Cosmas.

*The Illustrated Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era*, by James M. McPherson. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003. Pp. xiv, 786. Illus., maps, index. \$65.00. ISBN: 0-19-515901-2

A profuouly illustrated new edition of what has become the standard one volume history of the Civil

War years. The text has been lightly abridged, and footnotes and the bibliography omitted. This does not detract from the essential strength of the work, and the literally hundreds of new illustrations and maps – many of them in color – and the informative captions that accompany them add greatly to the power of the original. Despite being more than a decade old, McPherson’s work remains a valuable book, and this edition makes an ideal gift for anyone interested in the Civil War.

*The American Sword, 1775-1945*, by Harold L. Peterson. Mineola, N.Y.: Dover, 2003. xviii, 348. Illus., diagr., append., biblio., index. \$24.95 paper. ISBN: 0-486-42802-8.

Originally published in 1955, *The American Sword* is a standard reference to swords, sabers, and cutlasses used by the U.S. Armed Forces and Diplomatic services since the creation of the Republic. The book has a wealth of technical information, including not only details of the individual types of weapons, but also on equipment regulations and a great deal of historical material on the origins and purpose of various weapons. The enormous number of half-tones and diagrams makes it a useful handbook not only for those who collect swords, but also for anyone working with photographs.

*The Ship of the Line, Vol. I, The Development of the Battlefleet, 1650-1850*, by Brian Lavery. London: Conway Maritime Press, 2003. Pp. 224. Illus., plans, figures, tables, append., notes, biblio. \$44.95. ISBN: 0-85177-252-8

This reissue of *The Ship-of-the-Line* (the U.S. edition available from Casemate), brings back into press what has for some 20 years been the standard reference on the wooden battleships of the age of sail. Despite its very British slant – only brief attention is given to French, Spanish, and American practice and hardly any at any other country – the book remains immensely valuable.

### **From the Executive Director**

This is just a short note to wish NYMAS members a Happy New Year, and to thank them for their vigorous support during 2003.

*Prof. Kathleen Broome Williams*

### **Naval History**

*Corry: A D-Day Survivor’s Stories about the Destroyer that Led the Normandy Invasion*, by Francis M. McKernon, as told to Kevin McKernon. West Haven, Ct.: Easy Rudder Press, 2003. Pp. 203. Illus., maps, append.

The author’s personal account of the life and death of the USS *Corry* (DD-463), one of the first ships to engage the enemy on D-Day, which was sunk by a

mine during an exchange of gunfire with German shore batteries. Neither a history nor a memoir in the traditional sense, *Corry* is essentially a series of vignettes about the ship and its crew and their life and service in the war and after it, including the author's rise from enlisted man to lieutenant, j.g. A valuable, often moving work likely to be of interest to anyone studying the Battle of the Atlantic, Normandy, and the war at sea.

*Red Sky in the Morning: The Battle of the Barents Sea, 31 December 1942*, by Michael Pearson. Shrewsbury: Airlife/Mechanicsburg, Pa.: Stackpole, 2002. Illus., maps, diagr., tables, append., notes, index. \$24.95. ISBN: 1-84037-339-3.

An operational and tactical account of one of the obscure but notable surface actions that developed when a German cruiser-destroyer force attempted to intercept a Russia-bound convoy, only to be beaten off in a gallant fight by a weaker British escorting force. Although marred by some silly errors – such as referring to the president as “Theodore Roosevelt” – this is a solid account of a hard fought fight.

*For God and Glory: Lord Nelson and His Way of War*, by Joel Hayward. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2003. Pp. xix, 250. Illus., maps, glossary, notes, biblio., index. \$32.95. ISBN: 1-59114-351-9.

The spate of books about Nelson and about naval warfare in his age has increased to a torrent as the 200th anniversary of his death draws near. Surprisingly, most of these works have been good, and often very good. In *For God and Glory*, Joel Hayward neatly -- and not uncritically -- summarizes the man and his approach to warfighting in just six relatively short chapters, including several which touch upon areas not usually given much attention. Thus, "Nelson's Conception of His Enemies", "The Admiral's Spiritual Beliefs", "Command, Leadership, and Management", and "Nelson's Warfighting Style and Maneuver Warfare" are certainly to be expected in a work of this nature, and the author's treatment of these is excellent. But Hayward goes on to add interesting -- and valuable -- chapters on "Nelson and War on Land" and "Coalition Warfare", giving the reader a deeper understanding of the Nelson's brilliance. A valuable addition to the literature of naval warfare in the age of sail.

### ~~~~~ **Short Rounds**

*The Economics of World War II: Six Great Powers in International Comparison*, edited by Mark Harrison. New York/Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000. Pp. figures, tables, notes, references, index. \$26.00 paper. ISBN: 0-521-78503-0.

Although this volume intends to review how economics played a role in the preparations for and

conduct of the war in each of the major powers, and thus contains a wealth of economic data, it is sometimes not as analytical as it could be; for example, Italy's GDP is counted in the “Axis” column throughout the work despite the fact that from mid-1943 to the end of the war half of the country was fighting on the side of the Allies, while French GDP is counted as Allied, despite German occupation from mid-1940 through mid-1944. A work that should be used cautiously.

*To the Bitter End: Paraguay and the War of the Triple Alliance*, by Chris Leuchars. Westport, Ct.: Greenwood Press, 2002. Pp. viii, 254. Maps, notes, biblio., index. \$68.95. ISBN: 0-313-32365-6

A good, profusely mapped general survey treatment of the protracted “Lopez War” (1864-1870) that pitted Paraguay against Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay. Although drawn almost entirely from secondary sources, the work provides a good account of military developments and is likely to be of value to anyone seeking an introduction to the subject.

*Imperial China, 900-1800*, by E.W. Mote. Cambridge, Ma.: Harvard University Press, 2003. Pp. xx, 1106. Maps, tables, append., notes, biblio., index. \$45.00 paper. ISBN: 0-674-01212-7.

A survey of Chinese history from the collapse of the Tang Dynasty (907) to the height of the Qing in the eighteenth century. The author manages to turn the often complex events – during significant parts of the centuries covered China was divided into numerous hostile states – into a fairly smooth narrative that touches not only upon political developments, but also military, economic, and social.

*Corporate Warriors: The Rise of the Privatized Military Industry*, by P.W. Singer. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2003. Pp. ix, 330. Tables, diagr., notes, biblio., index. \$39.95. ISBN: 0-8014-4114-5.

A look at the rise of “private” or “corporate” organizations that provide military training, technical support, and even operatives, a revival of the mercenary in a new guise. Although the introductory chapter on the history of mercenary forces is very poor, the treatment of contemporary their contemporary counter-parts is good, and often quite detailed.

**NYMAS Winter 2004 Schedule  
as of Dec. 31, 2003**

| Date   | Topic & Speaker                                                                                                                                          |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jan 9  | – “Iraq: A View from the Palace”, Col. Michael Hess, US Army ( <i>Ret.</i> ), Former Deputy Chief of Staff Coalition Provisional Authority, Baghdad      |
| Jan 16 | – “The Bari Mustard-Gas Disaster, December 2/3, 1943,” Tom Wisker, NYMAS / WBAI                                                                          |
| Jan 23 | – “Information Warfare: What it Is, Isn’t, and How it Shapes National Security,” Daniel Kuehl, National Defense University                               |
| Jan 30 | – “Henry Rawlinson and the Indian Army,” Mark Jacobsen, USMC Command and Staff College                                                                   |
| Feb 6  | – “Huns with Webbed Feet: Amphibious Assault on Oesel, 1917,” Richard DiNardo, USMC Command and Staff College                                            |
| Feb 13 | – “Dying for the Country: The Logic of War and Genocide,” Richard Koenigsberg, Library of Social Science, co-sponsored by the Historical Society         |
| Feb 20 | – “The Battlecruiser and Pre-World War I British Trade Protection: A Prehistoric Case of Network-Centric Naval Warfare,” Norman Friedman, Author / NYMAS |
| Feb 27 | – “Henry V’s Strategy in 1415: Was Agincourt an Accident?,” Cliff Rogers, USMA                                                                           |
| Mar 5  | – “Ambiguous Imperialism: Popular Response to American Military Intervention in Nicaragua and the Philippines, 1899,” Maj Andy Koloski, USMA             |
| Mar 12 | – “Sea Stories from the Submarine Force,” Capt. David Marquet, USN                                                                                       |
| Mar 19 | – “Rape as a War Crime: From Nuremberg to Akayesu,” Denise Scotto, UN/International Federation of Women Lawyers                                          |
| Mar 26 | – “Massacre or Myth: Banastre Tarleton and the Battle of Waxhaws, 29 May 1780,” Capt Tom Rider, USMA                                                     |
| Apr 2  | – “The Sino-Japanese and Russo-Japanese Wars in Meiji Grand Strategy and Its Consequences,” Sally Paine, Naval War College                               |
| Apr 9  | – “On Winfield Scott,” Sam Watson, USMA                                                                                                                  |

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|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Apr 16 | – “The Battle of the Bulge: Leonard Gerow, V Corps & the Initial Defense of Elsenborn Ridge,” Hal Winton, Air Command and Staff College                    |
| Apr 17 | – Spring All-Day Conference: “The Makers of Non-Western Strategy -- Abd-al-Qadir, Abd-el-Krim, and Chinese Strategic Thought,” Air Command & Staff College |
| Apr 23 | – “Airpower in Small Wars,” Wray Johnson, USMC Command and Staff College                                                                                   |
| Apr 30 | – “Gebhard Leberecht von Blücher: An Old Fashioned Warrior in a Newfangled Fight,” Chuck Steele, USMA                                                      |
| May 7  | – Women in the American Revolution,” Carol Berkin, CUNY                                                                                                    |
| May 14 | – “Staff Rides: Four Hooves and a Tale,” Don Bittner, USMC Command and Staff College                                                                       |
| May 21 | – “Medical Care & Innovations in the Vietnam War, 1967-69,” Lt. Col. Mariana Fodor, US Army ( <i>Ret.</i> )                                                |
| May 28 | – “Post-War Iraq,” Gordon Rudd, USMC Command and Staff College                                                                                             |
| Jun 4  | – “World War II: Recent Reinterpretations,” Jeremy Black, Exeter University                                                                                |
| Jun 11 | – “The Battle of the Boyne,” Roger Kennedy, NY Public Library/Independent Scholar                                                                          |
| Jun 18 | – “Arms and Armor in the Maciejowski Bible,” Richard Gradkowski, NYMAS                                                                                     |
| Jun 25 | – “The Influence of Sea Power on Ancient History,” Jim Bloom, Author                                                                                       |

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

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

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

**The New York Military Affairs Symposium  
c/o Prof. K. B. Williams  
20 Alden Pl.  
Bronxville, N.Y., 10708**

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