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Obituary

NYMAS President Prof. David Syrett

It is with the greatest regret that I must inform the members of the death of Professor David Syrett. Professor Syrett died suddenly on 18 October 2004, just outside his home in Leonia, New Jersey. The cause of death was heart-related. He was 63. One of three sons of the American historian Harold Syrett, David overcame severe dyslexia to obtain his B.A. and M.A. in History from Columbia University, and later his Ph.D. from the University of London in 1966. Immediately after obtaining his doctorate, Professor Syrett joined the History Department at Queens College, City University of New York (CUNY). He later became a member of the faculty in the Ph.D. program in History at the Graduate School and University Center of CUNY.

A veritable dynamo in terms of scholarship, Professor Syrett produced a number of books and countless articles on The Royal Navy, Naval History, and Military History. Among his most notable works are *The Royal Navy in North American Waters During the American Revolution, Shipping and the American War 1775-1783*, and *The Defeat of the German U-Boats*. He co-edited with this writer *The Commissioned Sea Officers of the Royal Navy, 1660-1815*, which has since become the standard reference work on the subject in Britain. Professor Syrett was also the first American to have a work published by the Navy Record Society in Britain.

In addition to being a superb scholar, Professor Syrett was also a fine teacher and mentor. Those of us who were fortunate enough to have him as a graduate instructor remember Professor Syrett as a very demanding and tough teacher. If you were willing to do the work, however, Professor Syrett was always equally willing to put in the time needed to get you through orals and dissertations. A number of his students from the CUNY Graduate Center have gone on to fine careers of their own in Military History. For those who did their dissertations with him, Professor Syrett truly exemplified the meaning of the German term *Doktorvater*.

Aside from his 38 years of service on the Queens College faculty and at the CUNY Graduate Center, Professor Syrett also spent a year as Visiting Professor at the United States Army's Command and General

Staff College at Leavenworth, Kansas. He was one of the founding members and long-time President of the New York Military Affairs Symposium. In recognition of his superb record of teaching and scholarly achievement, Queens College appointed him Distinguished Professor in 2001.

Professor Syrett is survived by his wife Professor Elena Frangakis-Syrett (also of Queens College), his three, sons Peter, Matthew, and Chris, and the his brothers, Matthew and John. He will be sorely missed by those of us who were fortunate enough to have him as a colleague or instructor.

--Richard L. DiNardo.

*Professor for National Security Affairs,
USMC Command & Staff College*

Reviews

Warfighting and Disruptive Technologies: Disguising Innovation, by Terry C. Pierce. London/New York: Frank Cass, 2004. Pp. xv, 265. Diagr., notes, biblio., index. \$105.00. ISBN: 0-714-65547-3.

A well-reasoned, thoughtful discussion of the ways in which new ideas and technologies become part of military practice, focused on innovations that are disruptive to traditional ways of doing business. A captain in the U.S. Navy, Pierce begins the book with a lengthy discussion of a number of models that have been advanced to explain how armed forces adapt to disruptive ideas, among them those of Barry Posen (who stressed the coincidence of external threat and civilian intervention as critical to the acceptance or rejection of innovations), Steve Rosen (changes in the security environment and inter-service rivalry), and Elizabeth Kier (organizational culture).

Pierce then proposes his own concept. He attempts to differentiate between "architectural" innovations, ones that build upon or strengthen existing military practice and "radical" innovations, those that are truly disruptive of military practice. Submarines and aircraft carriers are considered radical innovations, while "blitzkrieg," carrier warfare, and amphibious warfare are architectural changes. He then analyzes a dozen innovations in naval warfare by the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps (amphibious warfare, continuous aim gunfire, carrier warfare, and so forth), plus one by the Japanese (carrier warfare), discussing the engine of change, the intellectual and political processes that

promoted or hampered the change, and, the champions. Perhaps Pierce's most interesting criteria, is the "disguising strategy" involved. That is, that genuinely radical innovations are often best promoted by "disguising" their fullest implications for the existing military system, particularly ideas and technologies that have not yet matured. In this fashion, the pioneers in naval aviation stressed the value of aircraft for scouting and gunnery spotting, missions which were clearly ideal, rather than advance claims that airplanes could sink battleships, at the time a highly dubious proposition in any case.

Although the price is rather prohibitive for the average reader, *Warfighting and Disruptive Technologies* is of value for anyone interested in innovation and military forces.

--A. A. Nofi, CNA

Arsenal of World War II: The Political Economy of American Warfare, 1940-1945, by Paul A.C. Koistinen. Lawrence, Ks.: University Press of Kansas, 2004. Pp. xiii, 657. Tables, diagr., notes, biblio., index. \$49.95. ISBN: 0-7006-1308-0.

The fourth of Koistinen's projected five volume history of "The Political Economy of American Warfare," *Arsenal of World War II* is characterized by the same rather hostile approach to business and the military that was noticeable in the earlier volumes, a penchant that can be seen in the clumsy title; Would not *The Arsenal of Democracy* have worked better? The work is almost wholly taken up with the highest level organizational, administrative, and policy issues.

The work has many flaws. Pre-war underestimates of wartime requirements are attributed to carelessness or ineptitude, rather than to a misunderstanding of the demands of a global conflict on an unprecedented scale, in which the U.S. would become the primary supplier of munitions and goods to most of the world. There is barely mention of the Army Industrial College and none at all of the Joint Army-Navy Board, the principal pre-war mobilization planning agencies. Similar, the book lacks any reference at all to the ways in which industrial mobilization had an impact on operations, such as the notorious "shell shortage" in Europe in September and October of 1944.

There are also a great many errors of fact. For example, Koistinen asserts that the Liberty ship was based on the design of an "old British tramp steamer," when in fact it was a modified version of the Maritime Commission standard C2-S hull, designed in the mid-1930s, which was about twice the size of most of the ships of the day.

The work has some value, particularly for its look at the nation's organization for industrial warfare, but must be used with caution.

--A. A. Nofi, CNA

A Proper Sense of Honor: Service and Sacrifice in George Washington's Army, by Caroline Cox. Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, 2004. Pp. xxii, 338. Illus., notes, biblio., index. \$37.50. ISBN: 0-8078-2884-X.

In *A Proper Sense of Honor* the author looks at the life and social order of the American Army during the Revolutionary War. So there is little of the war side of military life and much on the more common day-to-day side, including recruiting, hierarchy, training, living conditions, medical care, military justice, and the life of prisoners-of-war, this latter part dealing with the fate of Americans held by the British; there's little on that of the British held by the Americans.

The book looks at the Revolutionary Army as it reflected and differed from others of the time, most notably the British. Noting that the new army was consciously modeled on the British, the author points out the many similarities between the two, such as the social gap between officers and enlisted men, reflected in everything from rations to punishments, far coarser for the latter than the former. But she also notes that despite the insistence on officers being "gentlemen," there was a surprisingly good chance for an educated enlisted man to rise.

There is an enormous amount of detail, with many specific citations from letters and diaries to shed light on military life in the Revolutionary War. A good book for anyone interested in eighteenth century military institutions.

--A. A. Nofi, CNA

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Bob Rowen, Webmaster

Ancient-Medieval-Renaissance

The Norman Conquest of Southern Italy and Sicily, by Gordon S. Brown. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2003. Pp. viii, 214. Maps, chron., genealogy, notes, biblio., index. \$35.00 paper. ISBN: 0-7864-1472-3.

The Norman eruption into Southern Italy -- sometimes known as "The Other Conquest" -- has generally been overlooked by English and American historians. Nevertheless, it was an even more arduous undertaking than Duke William's conquest of England in 1066, and undertaken against far more numerous and more capable enemies. Gordon S. Brown's book is essentially a survey of the long struggle (1017-1101) that established the medieval kingdoms of Sicily and Naples, which essentially endured into the nineteenth century. A good introduction to a complex subject.

The Greeks at War from Athens to Alexander, by Philip de Souza, Waldemar Heckel, and Lloyd Llywellyn-Jones. New York: Osprey, 2004. 285.

Illus., maps, chron., glossary, append., biblio., index. \$24.95. ISBN: 1-84176-856-1.

A comprehensive survey that homogenizes the most recent scholarship on the conduct of war in the classical Hellenic world for the interested layman. In three major sections, the work covers the period the Graeco-Persian Wars, through the primacies of Athens, Sparta, and Thebes, to Alexander's conquests and the wars of the Successors. The work is punctuated by numerous short citations from ancient sources, and for each section is a chapter or two that describes in some detail the life and career of particular persons, including a common soldier and a noblewoman. Treatment of operations is concise, but clear, and the work has numerous useful maps.

Espionage in the Ancient World: An Annotated Bibliography of Books and Articles in Western Languages, by R.M. Sheldon. Jefferson, N.C.: MacFarland, 2003. Pp. xi, 232. Glossary, index. \$45.00. ISBN: 0-7864-1365-4.

A comprehensive survey of literally hundreds of items that deal with on all aspects of espionage from the earliest times to the Medieval period, with treatment of some additional items thrown in, such as "Greek fire" and the *Sator Rebus*, a very ancient cryptological puzzle. Materials covered include individual passages from ancient literature, including *The Bible*, as well as ancient and medieval treatments of intelligence, including reconnaissance, cryptology, stratagems, and so forth, as well as more modern scholarly articles and books. Depending upon the importance of the item, annotation varies from a line or two to several paragraphs.

The Art of War, by Niccolo Machiavelli, translated, edited, and with a commentary by Christopher Lynch. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003. Pp. xvi, 262. Figures, glossary, notes, index. \$25.00. ISBN: 0-226-50040-3.

Although sometimes dismissed by historians as an amateur, Niccolo Machiavelli played a critical role in the creation of the modern army, albeit that his own efforts to do so for the Florentine Republic ultimately proved futile. Machiavelli's *The Art of War* is here presented in a new translation. Because Machiavelli cast his work in the then-customary form of a dialogue, in this case between a number of mercenary captains, the most notable being the great Fabrizio Colonna, the work is somewhat difficult to follow for modern readers, but the translator has done a superb job in making it as clear as possible and provided both a useful introductory essay and an extremely good commentary that puts his ideas into the context of the times. Despite its age -- nearly 500 years-- *The Art of War* remains an important read for anyone interested in the evolution of military institutions.

The Long March: Xenophon and the Ten Thousand, edited by Robin Lane Fox. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2004. xii, 351. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$45.00. ISBN: 0-300-10403-0.

A lengthy introduction and a dozen essays by Lane and eleven other noted classicists re-examines the famous Persian expedition by "10,000" Greek mercenaries in 401-399 B.C., recounted so vividly by Xenophon. While some of the essays take a fairly traditional look at the expedition, such as "Xenophon's Ten Thousand as a Fight Force" or "The Ambitions of a Mercenary," others take a more novel approach, such as, "One Man's Piety: The Religious Dimension of the *Anabasis*," "Sex, Gender, and the Other in Xenophon's *Anabasis*," "You Can't Go Home Again: Displacement and Identity in Xenophon's *Anabasis*." The essays are all well-written and readable, and throw some interesting light on the expedition, as well as demonstrating that innovative approaches to old subjects can yield valuable new insights.

The Royal Navy in the Nineteenth Century

Building the Steam Navy: Dockyards, Technology, and the Creation of the Victorian Battle Fleet, 1830-1906, by David Evans. London: Conway Maritime Press/Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2004. Pp. 208. Illus., tables, diagr., plans, notes, biblio., index. \$47.50. ISBN: 0-85177-959-X.

This profuouly illustrated work is actually not about "building the steam navy," but rather about building the infrastructure that was required to build the Victorian battle fleet, the dry docks, slip ways, steam plants, drop forges, engine works, and the like, and learning the skills. And it is a valuable contribution to the literature on the transition from wood and sail to iron and steam, as it examines this largely overlooked aspect transformation, the need to make the tools that will make the tools that are necessary to build the innovative weapons and systems that are "transformational." An excellent work.

Nelson's Victory: 101 Questions & Answers about HMS Victory, Nelson's Flagship at Trafalgar, 1805, by Peter Goodwin. London: Conway Maritime Press/Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2004. Pp. 101+. Illus., tables, diagr., maps, notes, biblio. \$24.95. ISBN: 1-59114-615-1.

A delightful little stocking stuffer for anyone interested in naval warfare under sail, whether a novice or a seasoned veteran. The book is comprehensive, extensively illustrated, and carries the story of HMS *Victory* from her construction to the present, with an enormous amount of useful and often unusual information, far more than the "101 Questions & Answers" implies.

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**World War I**

*Tannenberg: Erich Ludendorff and the Defense of the Eastern German Border in 1914*, by Perry Pierik. Soesterberg, The Netherlands: Aspekt/Portland, Ore.: International Standard Book Service, 2003. Pp. 102. Illus., maps, biblio. \$19.95 paper. ISBN: 90-5911-106-0.

A very good, short overview of Ludendorff and his role in the opening days of World War I, culminating in the Battle of Tannenberg, and how these events shaped the war. The work focuses less on the battle itself, to which only c. 40 pages are devoted, as on the events leading up to the battle and its results. For so concise a treatment, the author has managed to provide a number of useful new insights, such as his demonstration that the Russian Gen. Rennenkampf's "failure" to support Samsonov was due not to any festering quarrel from the Russo-Japanese war but rather to conflicting orders from higher up. Aside from a certain affection for the long-discredited Schlieffen Plan, the book's principal flaw is that the translator seems to have lacked a working familiarity with English military terminology (e.g., the use of 'grenade' for 'shell').

*"Wielding the Dagger": The MarineKorps Flandern and the German War Effort, 1914-1918*, by Mark D. Karau. Westport, Ct.: Praeger, 2003. Pp. x, 268. Maps, tables, append., notes, biblio., index. \$67.95. ISBN: 0-313-32475-1

A very detailed treatment of one of the lesser known aspects of World War I, the German Naval Corps that operated in Flanders from virtually the outbreak of the conflict until its end. Recruited from naval personnel, plus Germany's small naval infantry service, the *MarineKorps Flandern* was intended by the Navy to develop and defend bases along the occupied Belgian coast, but elements frequently ended up in the trenches, where the sailors usually did better than one would expect given their lack of infantry training. The book covers not only operations in the field, but also the development of bases and coast defense, the operations of light forces and submarines based on the Belgian coast, and Anglo-French attacks on the bases, most notably the Royal Navy's famous raid on Zbrugge in April of 1918, which is told from the German perspective for perhaps the first time in English.

*France and the Great War, 1914-1918*, by Leonard V. Smith, Stephane Audoin-Rouzeau, and Annette Becker, translated from the French by Helen McPhail. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003. Pp.

xvi, 202. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$20.99 paper. ISBN: 0-521-66631-7.

Although the translation reflects a lack of familiarity with military terminology, this is a valuable synthesis of recent thinking on France and World War I. Intended as a textbook, and part of the series "New Approaches to European History," the book looks at the subject in five chapters, each of which takes a "war and society" approach; "The National Community Goes to War", "Mobilizing the Nation and the Civilians' War", "The Front and the Soldiers' War", "The Crises of 1917", and "The Ambiguous Victory and its Aftermath." A valuable book, providing a number of innovative insights.

*Duty, Honor, Privilege: New York's 'Silk Stocking' Regiment and the Breaking of the Hindenburg Line*, by Stephen L. Harris. Washington: Brassey's, 2001. Pp. xviii, 374. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$9.95 paper. ISBN: 1-57488-467-0

A lively, account of New York's 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment – the 107<sup>th</sup> Infantry – in World War I that takes it from the board rooms of Wall Street and the orchards of "upstate" to the surreal horror of the St. Quentin Tunnel complex. Along the way the author provides numerous mini-biographies of many of the men, even those who went on to serve in other regiments, since the 7<sup>th</sup> provided about 1000 officers to the army, as well as numerous anecdotes about everything from trench warfare to race relations. Although based on secondary sources, *Duty, Honor, Privilege* provides one of the best looks at Americans in the Great War since Laurence Stalling's *The Doughboys*.

**Reminder**

Annual dues – \$35.00 – are payable  
in September

**World War II**

*With Utmost Spirit: Allied Naval Operations in the Mediterranean, 1942-1945*, by Barbara Brooks Tomblin. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2004. Pp. xiv, 578. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$39.95. ISBN: 0-8131-2338-0.

A fairly detailed, though occasionally unclear, account of Allied – read "Anglo-American" – naval operations in the western Mediterranean, from the landings in northwest Africa to the invasion of southern France. Coverage is good, and often insightful. The work is, however, marred by the omission of operations in the Aegean, the Adriatic, and the Gulf of Genoa, where Allies were quite active, particularly later in the war. The focus on Anglo-American forces – in fact the bibliography lists only English materials – is also a handicap, for French and,

after the Armistice, Italian, forces, especially light forces, were very active in littoral operations.

*Endkampf: Soldiers, Civilians, and the Death of the Third Reich*, by Stephen G. Fritz. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2004. Pp. xvii, 382. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$35.00. ISBN: 0-8131-2325-9.

A detailed account of the final weeks of the Third Reich, focused closely on Bavaria and adjacent areas, where the Allies believed the Nazis had established a fortified zone in which to fight on for as long as possible. Fritz, the author of *Frontsoldaten*, has an impressive cast of characters, common citizens, soldiers (Allied as well as German), political leaders, and more. The work is often very chilling as he describes die-hard Nazi gangs going around executing people to encourage the rest, and it notes some atrocities by American troops. The work is also timely, given that it deals rather extensively with the problems of military occupation.

*On the Fiery March: Mussolini Prepares for War*, by G. Bruce Strang. Westport, Ct.: Praeger, 2003. Pp. xv, 375. Maps, notes, biblio., index. \$49.95. ISBN: 0-275-97937-7.

Based in part on newly available archival materials, *On the Fiery March* address the question of whether Mussolini's policies during the mid- and late-1930s were, as has often been asserted, based on opportunism or on principle. Reviewing the voluminous evidence, the author makes a good case for principle. However twisted it may have been, Mussolini did have a comprehensive world view that drove his actions, albeit that at time he did take advantage of opportunities. An interesting contribution to the literature on the origins of World War II.

*Swift, Silent, and Deadly: Marine Amphibious Reconnaissance in the Pacific, 1942-1945*, by Bruce F. Myers. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2004. Pp. xix, 167. Illus., maps, glossary, notes, biblio., index. \$26.95. ISBN: 1-59114-484-1

A history of Marine Corps special amphibious recon units, from the time they were first conceived of and tested, during the interwar fleet problems and amphibious exercises, through their organization, training, and operations across the Pacific. Although short, the book manages to cover such things as specialized equipment, right up to the introduction of the APD or high speed destroyer transport, and also discusses other similar special warfare reconnaissance organizations formed by the army and several of our Allies. A useful book for anyone interested in amphibious operations and the Pacific War.

*Hitler's Renegades: Foreign Nationals in the Service of the Third Reich*, by Christopher Ailsby. Dulles,

Va.: Brassey's, 2004. Pp. 192. Illus., maps, glossary, biblio., index. \$19.95 paper. ISBN: 1-57488-838-2.

A survey of the various "foreign legions" that served Nazi Germany. Although coverage is very uneven -- for example, more space being devoted to the minuscule "British Legion" than to the Spanish *Division Azul* -- there are some valuable new perspectives and materials, particularly with regard to the Italian and Soviet contingents and the post-war fate of many of the personnel, as well as short profiles of some of the more prominent volunteer leaders.

*The German Fleet at War, 1939-1945*, by Vincent P. O'Hara. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2004. Pp. x, 308. Illus., maps, diag., tables, append., notes, biblio., index. \$32.95. ISBN: 1-59114-651-8

A readable guide to the surface actions of the *Kriegsmarine* during World War II. Each action is "framed" to provide specific data, including type of action, sea state, participants, and so forth. Although the accounts are necessarily brief, they are concise and generally accurate. More questionable is the author's assertion that the German Navy fought more surface actions during the war than any other save those of the British Commonwealth, a point about which he ought to have provided more discussion; the Japanese Navy was involved in literally hundreds of small surface actions in the South Pacific, the East Indies, the Aleutians, the Indian Ocean, and even off the China coast during the war

*Guns of the Third Reich*, by John Walter. London: Greenhill/Mechanicsburg, Penn.: Stackpole, 2004. Pp. 256. Illus., append., notes, biblio., index. \$34.95. ISBN: 1-85367-598-9.

A narrative look at the development of the infantry firearms -- pistols, rifles, and machine guns -- used by the German armed forces from the end of World War I through 1945. Coverage is nicely fitted within the context of political and military developments. Thus, the author discusses not only the technical characteristics of various weapons, but also production problems, the introduction of new arms to the troops -- a particularly complex problem in the midst of war, and the problems of the German arms industry, as it had to adapt to rapid expansion during the 1930s and, after the war began to go badly, the loss of plant and resources. A very useful work for anyone interested in infantry, small arms, and industrial mobilization.

*No Uncle Sam: The Forgotten of Bataan*, by Tony Bilek in collaboration with Gene O'Connell. Kent, Oh.: Kent State University Press, 2004. Pp. xx, 260. Illus., maps, index. \$34.00. ISBN: 0-87338-768-6

The highly readable, vivid memoir of a young U.S. Army sergeant who fought against the Japanese invasion of the Philippines in 1941-1942, was captured on Bataan, and endured three years of harsh, often

brutal treatment as a prisoner-of-war, including slave labor in coal mines. Worthwhile for anyone interested in the Pacific War.

*If the Gods Are Good: The Epic Sacrifice of HMS Jervis Bay*, by Gerald L. Duskin and Ralph Segman. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2004. Pp. xiii, 270. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$28.95. ISBN: 1-59114-819-7

A readable, detailed account of the heroic convoy defense battle between HMS *Jervis Bay*, an "armed merchant cruiser" equipped with a handful of obsolete cannon, and the German "pocket battleship" *Admiral Scheer* in the North Atlantic in November of 1940. The book treats both sides well, but naturally is focused on *Jervis Bay* and her captain.

### ~~~~~ War, Politics, & Society

*Napoleon and the British*, by Stuart Semmel. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2004. Pp. xxiii, 354. Illus., notes, biblio., index. \$40.00. ISBN: 0-300-09001-3.

This work *is not* an account of the long war between Britain and Bonaparte, rather it deals with the relationship between the two during that struggle. The book touches upon such matters as the impact of the war on the British economy, politics, policy, and popular culture, as well as the ambiguity of Napoleon's image in Britain, who was both reviled and admired, depending upon the times and the perspectives of various elements in British society.

*The People in Arms: Military Myth and National Mobilization since the French Revolution*, edited by Daniel Moran and Arthur Waldron. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003. Pp. xii, 268. Illus., notes, index. \$65.00. ISBN: 0-521-81432-4 .

A dozen essays that collectively provide a revisionist treatment at the concept of the "nation in arms", focused more on the political, cultural, social, and legal aspects of the concept and its mythic character; that is, that while the reality of the "nation in arms" has usually never been experienced, the ideal has frequently played an important political role in many societies. The overall premise of the work focuses on the contradictions of the myth, that is, that while most democratic societies have embraced it in principle, they have usually shied away from actually implementing it. Four of the chapters focus on ideas, interpretations, and historiography, and the balance look at the concept against the experience of a particular society at specific times, such as France in the Revolutionary Wars and during the Third Republic, Germany during the Liberal Era, the Bismarckian period, and the World Wars, the U.S. in the Civil War, and so forth. The book is open to some serious criticism, notably in terms of the failure to perceive

that total war does not necessarily mean that everyone should serve in arms, and in peacetime a "people in arms" approach can leave a country with an enormous military establishment with nothing to do.

*The Red Army, 1918-1941: From Vanguard of World Revolution to U.S. Ally*, by Earl F. Zeimke. London and New York: Frank Cass/Taylor & Francis, 2004. Pp. xxi, 415. Illus., maps, glossary, tables, append., notes, biblio., index. \$80.00. ISBN: 0-7146-5551-1.

*The Red Army* is the first of the three volume history of the Red Army that Zeimke began with the final volume, *Stalingrad to Berlin*, in 1968 and continued with the middle one, *The German-Soviet War: Moscow to Stalingrad* in 1985. In this volume, Zeimke deals with the creation of the Red Army in the Revolutionary days of 1918, its initial experiences at war during the Russian Civil War and the Russo-Polish War, its rise between the world wars, including its long covert relationship with the *Reichswehr*, and the effects of diplomatic and political developments, notably the purges, on its professional development, before ending with the opening rounds of Hitler's invasion of Russia. Along the way Zeimke gives us detailed looks at personalities, doctrinal and technological developments, and operations, from the Spanish Civil War, through the various incidents with Japan, the Winter War, and from the German onslaught of June 1941 to the defense of Moscow the following December. In the process, Zeimke revises some of his earlier conclusions, making his "backwards written" work a unique contribution to the literature of the war on the Eastern Front.

*War in the Twentieth Century: Reflections at Century's End*, edited by Michael A. Hennessy and E.J.C. McKercher. Westport, Ct.: Praeger, 2003. Pp. vi, 238. Diagr., tables, notes, biblio., index. \$67.95. ISBN: 0-275-97709-9.

A survey of how the character of war in the twentieth century developed and changed, from the industrial global warfare that prevailed at its onset and through the end of the Cold War, to the less clear patterns that emerged in its final decade, with a look at disarmament, peacekeeping, and other late-century trends.

*Stalinism and Nazism: History and Memory Compared*, edited by Henry Rousso. Lincoln, Neb.: University of Nebraska Press, 2004. Pp. xxvi, 324. Notes, index. \$39.95 paper. ISBN: 0-8032-9000-4.

Originally published in France in 1999, *Stalinism and Nazism* includes more than a dozen essays by some of the most distinguished modern European historians, comparing and contrasting the two most brutal totalitarian regimes of the twentieth century, with a special introduction and additional material added by Richard J. Golsan. The essays are grouped

together under such headings as "The Dictator and the System," dealing with the different roles the respective dictators played within otherwise quite similar regimes, "The Logics of Violence," contrasting the culture and purposes of violence in the two systems, and, a particularly large series grouped under "'The Wages of Memory in Formerly Communist Eastern Europe," where recollections of the two regimes are considered. A worthwhile read for anyone interested in twentieth century totalitarianism.

### Membership News

The Naval Institute Press has recently published *Grace Hopper: Admiral of the Cyber Sea*, by NYMAS Director & Executive Secretary Prof. Kathleen Broome Williams.

As part of his duties on the staff of the Marine Corps Command & Staff College in Quantico, Virginia, NYMAS Director Prof. Richard L. Di Nardo is currently on assignment in Hawaii and Okinawa.

### Recent References

*Encyclopedia of the War of 1812*, edited by David S. Heidler and Jeanne T. Heidler. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2004. Pp. xxxvii, 636. Illus., maps, chron., gloss., biblio. index. \$ 34.95 paper. ISBN: 1-59114-362-4.

As a reference, *The Encyclopedia of the War of 1812* is both valuable and limited. What it covers it covers quite well, with concise, comprehensive articles on battles, ship-duels, politicians and commanders, and so forth. Quite a number of entries deal with often forgotten or overlooked people and events, such as Stephen van Rensselaer, the Battle of Ogdensburg, or Jefferson's gunboat navy. Unfortunately, the problem with the book is what it *doesn't* cover. There are no entries that discuss the military organization and policy of either side (though there is a good entry on the American militia). There are several entries dealing with artillery, but none on fortifications, a particular weakness given the enormous investment made in the defense of New York and other major ports. Nor is there any treatment of infantry and cavalry, nor of tactics or strategy. And there is surprisingly little material dealing with Canadians.

*Commandants of the Marine Corps*, edited by Allan R. Millett and Jack Shulimson. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2004. Pp. xx, 580. Illus., notes, biblio., index. \$55.00. ISBN: 0-87021-012-2

On one level, *Commandants of the Marine Corps* is a collection of the biographies of the first 27 of the 31 Commandants who have led the Corps since the Revolutionary War. The biographies, though necessarily short, are comprehensive and well

documented. On another level, however, this work is a concise history of the Marine Corps and the ways in which each Commandant helped – or failed to help – it develop as a military force. There's a surprising amount of valuable material in this work, including not only personal information on the commandants, but also administrative and operational history, the development of doctrine, service politics, and more.

### Intelligence Operators

*The Archaeologist Was a Spy: Sylvanus G. Mosley and the Office of Naval Intelligence*, by Charles H. Harris III and Louis R. Sadler. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2003. pp. xiv, 450. Illus., maps, tables, append., notes, biblio., index. \$32.50. ISBN: 0-8263-2937-3.

The tale of how ONI leveraged the skills and local knowledge of the noted Mayanist Sylvanus G. Mosley to build an intelligence network in Central America and the Yucatan during World War I, as a way of keeping tabs on the threat of clandestine German activity in the region, not to mention local political developments. Although perhaps overly detailed, the work is very readable, extremely lively, and displays considerable good humor, as it follows Moseley's adventures throughout the region, whilst coping with bureaucrats, occasional bandits, bouts of malaria, and suspicious locals. A good read, and very useful for anyone interested in the craft of intelligence in the early twentieth century, as it touches upon everything from recruitment and training of agents, to codes, ciphers, and other elements of tradecraft, particularly in terms of the rudimentary nature of the profession at the time.

*The Reader of Gentlemen's Mail: Herbert O. Yardley and the Birth of American Codebreaking*, by David Kahn. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2004. Pp. xxi, 318. Illus., figures, notes, biblio., index. \$32.50. ISBN: 0-300-09846-4

Although the primary focus of *The Reader of Gentlemen's Mail* is the rather remarkable Herbert O. Yardley, the book is more than merely a biography. It provides a very in-depth look at the life and achievements of the nation's first modern master of cryptanalysis, a man with a talent for organization, self-promotion, and even codebreaking, though he seems actually not to have been as great at this as he claimed, who managed to work for several different countries over the years, after having made himself *person non grata* in the U.S. But it is also an outline history of American cryptology, from George Washington's time to the Cold War. In addition, it provides some insights into how cryptological organizations and cryptology changed in the twentieth century. A very good book.

**Preliminary NYMAS Winter-Spring 2005 Schedule**

- Jan 7 "1,350 Years: Islam vs. the West," Howard Bloom, NYU
- Jan 14 "Rescued from the Reich: How One of Hitler's Soldiers Saved the Lubavitcher Rebbe," Bryan Rigg, Author
- Jan 21 "From Tobruk to El Alamein: The American Contribution to Victory in the Desert," Andrew Buchanan, NYMAS
- Jan 28 "Mussolini: The Secrets of his Death," Robert Miller, Enigma Books
- Feb 4 "August von Mackensen, 1914-1916," Richard DiNardo, USMC Command & Staff College
- Feb 11 "The Lies of Iuka: the Origin of the Grant-Rosecrans Feud," Frank Varney, Cornell
- Feb 18 "From "Bolt-On" to Built-In: The Evolution of the Dedicated Attack Helicopter from the 1950s up to the RAH-66A and AH-1Z Kingcobra." Tom Wisker, NYMAS/WBAI
- Feb 25 "Vaccine A: The Covert Government Experiment That's Killing Our Soldiers—And Why GI's Are Only The First Victims," Gary Matsumoto, Author/Investigative journalist
- Mar 4 "The Water Cure," Louise Barnett, Author
- Mar 11 "Himmler and SS Thinking in the Context of Operation Barbarossa," André Mineau, Univ of Quebec
- Mar 18 "OSS Operations in Greece and the Beginnings of the Greek Civil War, 1944-47," James A. Poulos, Fairfield U
- Mar 25 Good Friday – no talk scheduled
- Apr 1 "Prison Camps in the American Civil War," Capt. Clay Mountcastle, USMA
- Apr 8 "The Amazon Century: Women and War in Eleventh-Century Italy," Valerie Eads, NYMAS
- Apr 15 Panel Discussion: "Counterinsurgency in Iraq," James Dingeman and others
- Apr 16 Conference: "Approaches to Counterinsurgency," moderated by Richard DiNardo
- "The Portuguese Experience in Africa," Dr. John P. Cann
  - "The British Experience in Iraq during the Arab Revolt, Dr. Mark H. Jacobsen
  - "The Evolution of American Counterinsurgency Doctrine," Dr. Wray R. Johnson

- "The Phoenix Program in Vietnam," Dr. Mark Moyer, USMC Command & Staff College
- Apr 22 "Rajah Brooke and the Conquest of Sarawak," Maj Mike McDermott, USMA
- Apr 29 "Whose Side Were They On? Indian Auxiliaries in the Black Hawk War," Capt. John Hall, USMA
- May 6 "A Vital Link: American Corps Command in the Battle of the Bulge," Hal Winton, Air University's School of Advanced Air and Space Studies
- May 13 "Sources and Historians: How We Try to Reconstruct the Past," Don Bittner, USMC Command & Staff College
- May 20 "The Battle of Putot-en-Bessin: Blunting the Counterattack against the Canadians, June 8, 1944," Michael Jankowitz, Author/NYMAS
- May 27 "The Fear Factor: A History of the Impact of Fear on Military Effectiveness," Major Greg Daddis USMA
- Jun 3 "Allied Air Supply and the Warsaw Rising, August 1944," Pieter Moeller, Southwestern Univ., South Africa
- Jun 10 "Presidential Decision Making in the Two Gulf Wars," Meena Bose, USMA
- Jun 17 – Not Yet Scheduled --
- Jun 24 "1919: The Year that Ought to Live in Infamy," Frank Radford, NYMAS

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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