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A Message from the Executive Director

Dear NYMAS Members,

Ever since two of my children moved there, I've been contemplating a move to California. With the arrival of grandchildren the incentive to do so has grown even stronger. Then, a couple of months ago, I was offered an exciting job and the time seemed right to go. I'll be the director of general education for a small, private technical college, Cogswell Polytechnical College, in Sunnyvale, about an hour away from my daughter in Oakland. The college is in Silicon Valley and the students are in great demand when they graduate. I'll still teach a course or two, but will very much enjoy the challenge of revitalizing the science, math, social sciences, and humanities courses that the students have to take in addition to their specialties in such fields as Digital Motion Picture, Digital Art and Animation, Electrical Engineering, Digital Arts Engineering, and Digital Audio Technology.

I'll be finishing up the academic year at Bronx Community College and go out to California at the end of May, though returning briefly to New York to run a final seminar at BCC on 6 June. The next day I'll head out with a friend to drive my car across the country.

It's going to be hard to leave my good friends and colleagues here and I'll miss BCC and the CUNY Graduate Center. I'll also miss NYMAS more than I care to imagine, but at least I can follow all your progress through the website and the newsletter. If I ever find a place to live – I'm looking in Oakland but houses are scarce and prices are outrageous – you know I'll have a guest room and visitors will be welcome.

In the meantime, you can always reach me by email and through NYMAS. I'll let you all know when I have a new address. Keep your fingers crossed that I'll find something soon

Best regards to you all,

--Kathy

The NYMAS Board will be voting shortly to fill the vacancy left by Prof. Williams's departure for California, as well as the Presidency, left vacant by the passing of Prof. David Syrett.

Feature Reviews

Sharon Ghamari Tabrizi's

The Worlds of Herman Kahn:

The Intuitive Science of Thermonuclear War

Herman Kahn was one of the first "MegaPundits." He was witty, gave good soundbite and covered a subject (nuclear warfare) that always got people's attention. As the title implies, *The Worlds of Herman Kahn*, is not a biography, but rather a description of the world he inhabited, and how the media, Herman Kahn, the U.S. government and various aspects of American culture in the 1950s and '60s, came together on the subject of nuclear war. There were many interesting collisions. Some of them were meaningful, most were at least interesting. Kahn was also something of a character, and an original thinker.

Kahn got things rolling in 1960 when his book, *On Thermonuclear War* was brought out by Princeton University Press. Publishers were not eager to take on something like this, because until Kahn came along, the conventional wisdom was that nuclear war meant the end of the world. Not quite, although things would never be the same if the bombs were dropped. Kahn did the math, and explored the various scenarios. It was a touchy subject. This reviewer was running a wargame publishing company in the '60s and '70s, and there was never any enthusiasm in our market for a game on nuclear war. The Department of Defense maintained interest, and asked me to design a nuclear warfare game in 1980.

Kahn started lots of people thinking. This included politicians, military planners, comedians, pundits, filmmakers, environmentalists, clergy, and pacifists. All had different reactions to Kahn's explorations of "the unthinkable." Stanley Kubrick's movie on nuclear warfare, *Doctor Strangelove*, was inspired by Kahn's book (and the character doctor Strangelove, was based on Kahn).

The Worlds of Herman Kahn doesn't go into much detail for military history buffs, although if you want more of those details you can get a second-hand copy of *On Thermonuclear War* online at amazon.com for about \$75. Nor does *The Worlds of Herman Kahn* cover much of the contemporary wargaming on nuclear war (which was one reason I was called in 1980). In the 1950s, most of the wargames dealing with nuclear war only addressed the diplomatic

aspects. The Pentagon didn't get into the kind of wargames that could deal with Kahn's analysis until the 1970s.

Herman Kahn came out of RAND, the first modern think tank. He left RAND in 1961, largely because of the superstar status he had achieved because of his best selling book. That same year Kahn founded the Hudson Institute, in New York, and did well providing defense and non-defense analysis. A compelling and captivating public speaker, he made think tanks chic.

The Worlds of Herman Kahn was written for a general audience, but has enough interesting detail of Kahn, and his times, that even hard-core defense analysis geeks would find it useful.

--James F Dunnigan,
Editor, StrategyPage

Note: An excerpt from *The Worlds of Herman Kahn* is at www.strategypage.com/moviereviews, the author having extracted her discussion of *Doctor Strangelove* from the manuscript of *The Worlds of Herman Kahn*.

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**Mark Urban's**

***Wellington's Rifles: Six Years to Waterloo with England's Legendary Sharpshooters***

Most readers will be familiar with the famous Greenjackets of the 95<sup>th</sup> Rifle Regiment through Bernard Cornwell's *Sharpe's Rifles* series. This is ironic because, while Sharpe and his core followers are soldiers of the 95<sup>th</sup> Rifles, the 95<sup>th</sup> itself appears only in the very first novel and then the Waterloo installment. Therefore, *Wellington's Rifles* should have an instant audience among fans of the popular Cornwell serial who are curious about the famed, hard-fighting outfit that lends Sharpe so much mystique, but appears very rarely in his adventures.

Mark Urban has not strayed very far from his previous work, *The Man Who Broke Napoleon's Codes* a profile of the Duke of Wellington's intelligence chief. In this history of the 95<sup>th</sup>, Urban details the regiment's participation in the campaigns of the Peninsular War of 1809-1814, and then in the climactic battle of Waterloo. The 95<sup>th</sup> built its reputation in numerous engagements with the French stemming from outpost duty, vanguard and rearguard actions, raids, and the storming of fortresses. As elite light infantry the men of the 95<sup>th</sup> participated in most of the major battles of the Napoleonic British Army, but were never at the center of set piece actions. Paradoxically then, the Rifles saw considerable action without being front and center at any famous battle.

Nevertheless, the regiment's considerable action in small affairs makes the book exciting to read. Urban ably weaves a story of Napoleonic soldiering through the personal experiences of a wide cast of characters, ranging from lowly privates to Brigadier "Black Bob"

Craufurd, the founder and first commander of the Light Brigade (later the Light Division). Heroism, chivalry, and honor stand side-by-side with privation, shirking, and floggings in Urban's honest storytelling.

In a afterward outlining the rise of several officers of the 95<sup>th</sup> and the larger Light Division into the ranks of the general officers, Urban discusses how they came to dominate the mid-19th Century British Army, and how the Rifles tactics lived on to permeate the tactics and methods of that Army. The 95<sup>th</sup> Rifle Regiment itself lives on in the British Army (along with the sharpshooters of the 60<sup>th</sup> Royal Americans) as Her Majesty's Greenjackets, and their adventures live and breath in the pages of Urban's excellent book.

*Wellington's Rifles: Six Years to Waterloo with England's Legendary Sharpshooters*, by Mark Urban. New York: Walker & Co., 2004. Pp. 351 pages. Illus., notes, biblio., index. \$27.00. ISBN: 0-8027-1437-4

--Rich Thomas

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Bob Rowen, Webmaster

**Pearl Harbor Revisited**

The events of 9/11/2001 have put an interesting twist in the ongoing interest on the earlier national disaster of December 7, 1941, and as a result, there have been several new books on Pearl Harbor.

*Day of Lightning, Years of Scorn: Walter C. Short and the Attack on Pearl Harbor*, by Charles R. Anderson. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2004. Pp. xii, 240. Illus., notes, biblio., index. \$34.95. ISBN: 1-59114-011-0

Essentially an attempt to exonerate Short of significant responsibility for the disaster at Pearl Harbor, *Day of Lightning, Years of Scorn* presents a well-constructed argument that *seems* to cover all the principal issues, yet nevertheless manages to avoid certain subjects that might adversely affect the author's premise.

The book is characterized by a great deal of superficiality, such as the assertion that Brig. Gen. William Mitchell had "demonstrated how easily air power could sink a battleship," a matter which was supposedly lost on the Navy's "battleship admirals." More importantly, there is no discussion of defense planning in Hawaii prior to Short's arrival, in early 1941, nor of his neglect of his predecessor's efforts to brief him on important issues, including the results of a month-long full alert in November of 1940 (Short preferred to read the latest best seller rather than a thick briefing). The book mentions Short's restructuring of the alert levels, but fails to note that his *lowest* level had the same designation as the Navy's highest – "Level 1" – thus causing Adm. Husband

Kimmel to believe the Army was on full alert. And while the author makes much of the shortages of vital equipment, he fails to put those shortages in the context of the overall national defense status – B-17s, for example, were just beginning to come off the assembly line in significant numbers – and he neglects to mention Short’s failure to capitalize on the assets he did have, such as some dozens of B-18s, designed as a long range bomber as well.

There is more, but in summary, *Day of Lightning, Years of Scorn* fails to make the case that Short was not seriously at fault in December of 1941.

--A. A. Nofi, CNA

*Kimmel, Short, and Pearl Harbor: The Final Report Revealed*, by Fred Borch and Daniel Martinez. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2004. Pp. xxiii, 215. Illus., maps, append., notes, biblio., index. \$25.95. ISBN: 1-59114-090-0.

In 1995, at the urging of relatives of Adm. Husband Kimmel and Lt. Gen. Walter Short, Senator Strom Thurmond asked the Department of Defense to undertake a review of the events surrounding the attack on Pearl Harbor. The result was a new investigation of the attack, the first in fifty years (both the Eisenhower and Reagan Administrations having rejected calls for new inquiries), supervised by Under Secretary of Defense Edwin P. Dorn. The Dorn Report essentially confirmed the results of previous inquiries, that though not solely to blame, both officers were guilty of errors of judgment. *Kimmel, Short, and Pearl Harbor*, is about this report.

Colonel Borch, who served on the team that prepared the Dorn Report, and Mr. Martinez, the well-known National Parks Pearl Harbor historian, provide a history of the inquiry, reviewing the proceedings, and then reprint the report in full, with commentary and analysis, before proceeding to make some summary conclusions. In the process, they make some interesting observations. For example, despite the extreme partisanship that characterizes the question of responsibility for Pearl Harbor, and the intense partisanship of our times, there are a surprising number of politicians who have “crossed” party lines on the issue; so Senator Joseph Biden turns up as a champion of Kimmel and Short, while Vice-President Dick Cheney, who Reagan’s former Secretary of Defense turned down an earlier request for a review, is on the other side.

The authors conclude by noting that despite the Dorn Report, in 2000, in a highly partisan vote, a joint resolution of Congress not only relieved the two of any serious responsibility for the events that unfolded on their watch, but not-so-subtly placed the blame on President Roosevelt. Interestingly, this resolution has

been denied a Presidential approval by two successive administrations, of widely differing political views.

Important reading for anyone interested in the Second World War. --A. A. Nofi, CNA

### Some Biographies

*His Excellency, George Washington*, by Joseph J. Ellis. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2004. Pp. 320. Illus., notes, index. \$26.95. ISBN: 1-4000-4031-0

In a sense, there is not a lot that is new in *His Excellency*. But Ellis, who has made something of a career out writing about the Founding Fathers, helps carry the work of rescuing Washington from his idolaters a little further, thus bringing yet more light on how capable a commander and politician he actually was. Ellis spends more time discussing Washington the man than most biographers. So although his military and political efforts are naturally central to the work, we learn a lot more about Washington’s private life, his business interests, and his political and social views, including the evolution of his understanding of slavery, than is provided in most accounts. A good summary of the current state of scholarship about Washington.

*Theodore Roosevelt Jr.: The Life of a War Hero*, by H. Paul Jeffers. Novato, Ca.: Presidio Press, 2002. Pp. Pp. 282. Illus., maps, biblio., index. \$27.95. ISBN: 0-89141-739-7

A biography of “Ted Roosevelt,” the eldest son of President Theodore Roosevelt. In a life that in many ways resembled that of his father, as soldier, author, politician, explorer, and more, Ted never quite matched the elder Roosevelt’s achievements in some areas, notably politics, where he failed in bids for the governorship of New York and the presidency. But he did exceed his father in at least one endeavor, military service, leading American troops in two world wars, and culminating in a masterful performance on D-Day. Shortly after that he died of natural causes, never learning that he had been selected for promotion to major general, command of a division, and an award of the Medal of Honor. Despite occasional convoluted constructions and minor errors of fact (the president’s maternal uncle James Bullock did *not* become an admiral in the Confederate Navy), this is a readable, often thoughtful work.

*An Admiral for America: Sir Peter Warren, Vice Admiral of the Red, 1703-1752*, by Julian Gwyn. Gainesville, Fla.: University Press of Florida, 2004. Pp. xv, 228. Illus., maps, gloss., notes, biblio., index. \$59.95. ISBN: 0-8130-226-3822.

Although not one of the more famous British admirals in the age of sail, Warren played an important role in naval operations in North America during the

1740s. *An Admiral for America*, lays out his career – and not incidentally that of most officers in the Royal Navy of the day – from his entry as a 13-year old midshipman through his early death. The work also explores the development of the trans-Atlantic community, going into some detail on Warren’s marriage into a “new money” family in New York, in which colony he later began amassing a considerable fortune of his own. A useful book for anyone interested in naval, social, or American history in the eighteenth century.

*Stephen Decatur: A Life Most Bold and Daring*, by Spencer Tucker. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2005. Pp. xx, 245. Illus., maps, chron., notes, index. \$32.95. ISBN: 1-55750-999-9.

This first modern biography of Stephen Decatur not only provides an adequate, often insightful look at the man and his career, but also gives the reader a good look at the naval service during the formative years of the Republic and the Barbary Wars. Worthwhile reading for anyone interested in American naval history or the naval service in the age of sail.

**Reminder**

Annual dues – \$35.00 – are payable  
in September

**The Enlightenment and The Emperor**

*Fighting Napoleon: Guerrillas, Bandits, and Adventurers in Spain, 1808-1814*, by Charles J. Esdaile. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2004. Pp. xi, 272. Illus., map, glossary, notes, biblio., index. \$40.00. ISBN: 0-300-10112-0.

*Fighting Napoleon* breaks some new ground in the study of the Spanish resistance to Imperial France. The book observes that the national uprising was not as broadly popular as is traditionally believed. In fact, upper and middle class men were disproportionately represented among the *guerrilleros*, and most of the insurgents fought not as irregulars, but as organized, uniformed, and disciplined troops, who, contrary to longstanding tradition, often stood up quite well to the French. A valuable book for anyone interested in the Napoleonic Wars, the origins of modern Spain, or irregular warfare.

*Prussia’s Glory: Rossbach and Leuthen, 1757*, by Christopher Duffy. Chicago: The Emperor’s Press, 2003. Pp. 208. Illus., maps, diag., notes, biblio., index. \$33.00. ISBN: 1-883476-29-1.

As one would expect from Prof. Duffy, although focused on the great clashes at Rossbach and Leuthen in 1757, *Prussia’s Glory* provides not only an excellent survey of the nature of war and the character of the armies involved, but also a very good over-view of the

respective strategies and the course of operations over the entire year. Well, written, although relatively short, the book incorporates a surprising amount of detail, extending even to the modern appearance of the principal sites of the campaign and cinematic treatments, notably during the Third Reich.

*Counterpoint to Trafalgar: The Anglo-Russian Invasion of Naples, 1805-1806*, by William Henry Flayhart III. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2004. Pp. xvi, 198. Illus., map, tables, notes, biblio., index. \$24.95 paper. ISBN: 0-8130-2795-0.

A somewhat revised version of the original 1992 work, *Counterpoint to Trafalgar* has less to say about the “Anglo-Russian Invasion of Naples” – an odd choice of words – than about the grand political and strategic issues that prompted Allied operations in southern Italy. That is but one flaw in the work, which, for example, devotes less than a page to the Battle of Maida, in 1806, which gave the first clear demonstration of the superiority of the British over the French tactical system, and says hardly anything at all about the Neapolitan guerrilla resistance to the French invasion, that raged for more than five years, and was never completely stamped out.

*A French Genocide: The Vendee*, by Reynald Secher, translated by George Holoch. Notre Dame, Ind.: University of Notre Dame Press, 2003. Pp. xiv, 305. Illus., maps, tables, append., notes. \$40.00. ISBN: 0-268-02865-6

A comprehensive, chilling account of the protracted popular insurrection in western France against the excesses of the revolutionary regime during “The Terror.” The work covers a great deal of economic and social history as well as providing an operational treatment of the campaigns that may well have left 600,000 people dead. Although largely forgotten today, the operations in the Vendee set the standard for counter-insurgency operations used by the Napoleonic regime, which ultimately backfired in Spain and elsewhere.

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Early America

Army and Empire: British Soldiers on the American Frontier, 1758-1775, by Michael N. McConnell. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2004. Pp. xx, 211. Illus., maps, tables, notes, biblio., index. \$49.95. ISBN: 0-80232-3233-0

This work concentrates on the experiences and living conditions of British soldiers on the frontier, rather than on military operations, though these are covered to some extent. Particular chapters focus on fortifications, military routine and society, work, diet, and health. A very useful book for anyone interested

in military service and the American frontier in the mid-eighteenth century.

Britain and America Go to War: The Impact of War and Warfare in Anglo-America, 1754-1815, edited by Julie Flavell and Stephen Conway. Gainesville, Fla.: University Press of Florida, 2004. Pp. x, 284. Map, fig., chron., notes, index. \$65.00. ISBN: 0-8130-2781-0.

A short introduction on the nature of war in North America is followed by nine essays, three each on the Seven Years' War, the American Revolution, and the War of 1812, that examine various aspects of warfare in Anglo-America, usually from a British angle. Essay topics range from women in the British army in North America during the Seven Years' War, to volunteering in Britain during the American Revolution, to Lord Cochrane's naval operations in the War of 1812. The perspective is decidedly "New Military History," and likely to be of interested primarily to the specialist..

The Seminole Wars: America's Longest Indian Conflict, by John Missall and Mary Lou Missall. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2004. Pp. xxii, 255. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$29.95. ISBN: 0-8130-2715-2.

After an introduction discussing the origins of the Seminole Indians and the rise of the young American nation, the authors provide a clear narrative of the now largely forgotten three Seminole Wars (1817-1818, 1835-1842, and 1855-1858), naturally focused on the second, which was the longest and most expensive Indian War – seven years, \$30 million, and thousands of casualties, mostly from disease. The book has a rich cast of characters, and provides a number of valuable insights into the difficulties the U.S. Army had in coping with an irregular enemy in an unusually harsh environment. Worth reading.

The War with Mexico, by Anton Adams. Chicago: The Emperor's Press, 1998. Pp. 208. Illus., maps, tables, glossary, biogr. append., biblio., index. \$38.00 ISBN: 1-883476-08-9

An excellent treatment of the military history of the Mexican-American War. The book is heavy on organizational, operational, and biographical information. Well organized, it provides a balanced look at both sides. As a result, although essentially a survey treatment, the volume is likely to be of value even to the serious student of the war.

Membership News

On March 15, 2004, Executive Director *Prof. Kathleen Broome Williams* delivered a paper on "Grace Hopper: Mathematician, Computer Pioneer, and Navy Admiral," as part of the Naval History Seminar

Program at the United States Navy Museum in the Washington Navy Yard.

Director *Dr. Albert A. Nofi* has been temporarily re-assigned to serve as the Center for Naval Analyses field representative to the CNO Strategic Studies Group (www.nwc.navy.mil/ssg), in Newport, R.I.

Board member *Prof. Ted Cook* has been awarded a 2005 Fulbright Senior Scholar Award. As a result of this award, in the Spring of 2006 Ted will depart for six months in Australia to conduct research on "The Japanese War with Asia and the West: Australian Resources for Understanding the History and Memory of Japan's Second World War." In Australia, Ted will be affiliated with the Australian Defence Force Academy, the University of New South Wales, and the Australian War Memorial. Although centered in Canberra, but he will also pursue field work in other parts of the country, both at archives in Sydney and Melbourne, and hopes to find human resources for oral history work where possible.

The e-edition of *Woman's War Work*, edited by Jennie Jerome Churchill, Sir Winston's mother, with an introduction by NYMAS Board member *C. Kay Larson*, has been posted on the NYMAS website, at www.nymas.org/jenniechurchill.html. The book consists of articles on the experiences of people from the allied nations of Europe and America, plus Australia, and even Germany. They discuss the war- and home front efforts that most likely have been published in few other volumes, including a short description of German women soldiers.

In November, Ms. Larson, a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, received a Department of Transportation award for her service with the New York Guard on the night of 9/11 and subsequent service at Coast Guard headquarters at the Battery, during which she was aided in facilitating communications by Board member *Rob Rowan*.

World War I

American Indians in World War I: At War and at Home, by Thomas A. Britten. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1999. Pp. x, 254. Illus., notes, biblio., index. \$21.95 paper. ISBN: 0-8263-2090-2

Although providing a look at a neglected subject, the focus of *American Indians in World War I* is primarily on the "at Home" side of the picture, with several chapters devoted to such subjects as the Army's policies toward the recruiting of Indians as regular troops and to the politics of Native American service (the best part of the work), the motivations of Native American volunteers, relations with other racial minorities in uniform (the book fails to discuss Native American relations with immigrants, lumping them

under the monolithic term “Anglo”). The author is, however, unfamiliar with military terminology, which often introduces some confusion as to his precise meaning (e.g., “service in the echelon” – presumably, from context, meaning the “rear echelon,” but it’s jarring).

Collapse at Meuse-Argonne: The Failure of the Missouri-Kansas Division, by Robert H. Ferrell. Columbia, Mo.: University of Missouri Press, 2004. Pp. xiii, 156. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$29.95. ISBN: 0-8262-1532-7

A detailed inquiry into the performance of the National Guard’s 35th Division in World War I, in which Harry S Truman served as a battery commander. The author makes a telling case that the virtual collapse of the division as an effective fighting force after only five days in combat was the result of a combination of poor training, Regular Army prejudice (which led to the removal without cause of critical Guard commanders on the eve of combat), and an inept Regular in command. The book provides an excellent look at the problems of the problems of a green division, with some excellent word-portraits of a number of soldiers and actions.

~~~~~ World War II

Hitler’s Admirals, by G.H. Bennett and R. Bennett. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2004. Pp. 248. Index. \$32.95. ISBN: 1-59114-061-7.

Hitler’s Admirals is an unusual work. The “authors” have compiled it from accounts written by nine German admirals while prisoners of the Allies after the Second World War., providing necessary organization, “bridging,” and explanations as needed. Although not complete satisfactory as a history of the *Kriegsmarine* in during the Nazi-era, the result often provides useful insights into the naval side of Hitler’s war.

Irish Secrets: German Espionage in Wartime Ireland, 1939-1945, by Mark M. Hull. Dublin: Irish Academic Press/Portland, Or.: International Specialized Book Services, 2003. Pp. xx, 383. Illus., map, tables, append., notes, biblio., index. \$29.50 paper. ISBN: 0-7165-2807-X

An extremely detailed work, *Irish Secrets* is more than just the story of German espionage operations in Ireland, it’s the story of a profoundly complex, very dangerous covert intelligence war involving not only Ireland and Germany, but also Britain, Italy, the U.S., and several other actors, including some non-state entities. The book actually begins well before 1939, with some treatment of German interest in Ireland during the previous war, and continues through the efforts of German and Italian intelligence to establish

outposts in Ireland during the 1930s, and on through to the end of World War II. The book is populated by quite a number of interesting characters – spies, soldiers, politicians – and tells quite a number of interesting tales. Worth reading for anyone interested in the covert side of the world wars.

The Eagle and the Rising Sun: The Japanese-American War, 1941-1943, Pearl Harbor Through Guadalcanal, by Alan Schom. New York: W.W. Norton, 2004. Pp. xviii, 540. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$28.95. ISBN: 0-393-04924-8

Despite a conscious attempt to emulate Barbara Tuchman’s masterful *The Guns of August*, *The Eagle and the Rising Sun* is a poor work. The author relies heavily on secondary sources, often dated ones at that. The result is that the book presents many discredited notions (e.g., that the U.S. fleet was rendered obsolete compared with its rivals because of the Naval Arms Limitation Treaties), fails to explain numerous curious developments (e.g., why, although a qualified naval aviator, Richmond Kelly Turner did spend the war commanding surface forces?), and seems to have relied rather heavily on Bergamini’s misguided *Japan’s Imperial Conspiracy* for his perspective on Japanese leadership. Worth reading for the specialist on the Pacific War.

The Siege of Budapest: 100 Days In World War II, by Kristian Ungvary, translated from the Hungarian by Ladislav Lob, and with an introduction by John Lukacs. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005. Pp. xxiv, 475. Illus., maps, tables, notes, biblio., index. \$35.00. ISBN: 0-300-10468-5.

A very detailed, well integrated account of the desperate fighting around and later in Budapest in the winter of 1944-1945. The book begins before the Soviet forces invested the city, on Christmas Eve of 1944, providing a great deal of background on Hungary’s role in the Second World War and on the political developments that led to the Nazi-seizure of power in the country. Military operations are told in considerable detail, primarily from the perspective of the Germano-Hungarian defenders, though the Soviet side is not neglected, and there is a great deal of material on the city’s people, including its Jewish residents, and numerous word portraits of everyone from field marshals to common soldiers. A very good book.

Luftwaffe Over America: The Secret Plans to Bomb the United States in World War II, by Manfred Griehl. London: Greenhill/Mechanicsburg, Pa.: Stackpole, 2004. Pp. 256. Illus., maps, diag., biblio., index. \$34.95. ISBN: 1-85367-608-X.

An impressive effort, *Luftwaffe Over America* opens with a survey of German plans to attack the United States from the late-nineteenth century through the

advent of the Third Reich, and then concentrates on efforts to develop aircraft and weapons capable of striking across the Atlantic, and delves into some of the dubious claims that have been advanced about the Reich's nuclear weapons program. The book, translated from the German, is rather strong on technical matters, as it looks into the extraordinary variety of systems that *Luftwaffe* thinkers and engineers devised in their ultimately fruitless effort to carry the war to America. An excellent book for anyone who argues that the US had no quarrel with Germany in the 1930s, it is also of great value to anyone interested in aviation.

Blood and Iron: The German Conquest of Sevastopol, by C. G. Sweeting. Dulles: Brassey's, 2004. Pp. xxii, 200. Illus., maps, append., gloss., notes, biblio., index. \$35.00. ISBN: 1-57488-796-3

Although clear and comprehensive, *Blood and Iron* is a one-sided treatment of the epic 1941 battle for Sebastopol, telling the story almost exclusively from the German perspective, and relying rather heavily on the dubious memoirs of Erich von Manstein. The particular strength of the book lies in the appendices, which provide some valuable detail on weaponry, notably the German ultra-heavy artillery used in the siege.

Bootprints: An Infantryman's Walk Through World War II, by Hobert Winebrenner and Michael McCoy. Albion, Ind.: Camp Comamajo Press, 2005. Pp. x, 308. Illus., notes, index. \$27.95. ISBN: 0-9759155-0-9.

The war memoirs of Hobert Winebrenner, which takes the young man from Indiana into the Army, and then to England, Utah Beach on D-Day +2, and then across France and on into Germany, to end the war in Czechoslovakia. On the way Winebrenner takes part in numerous battles with the 3rd Battalion, 356th Infantry, is wounded, liberates a concentration camp, and becomes involved in the opening stages of the Cold War, all while really just trying to get back to his sweetheart. A very good soldier's tale of the war, worth reading for anyone interested in the American infantryman.

And If I Perish: Frontline U.S. Army Nurses in World War II, by Evelyn M. Monahan and Rosemary Neidel-Greenlee. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2003. Pp. x, 514. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$30.00. ISBN: 0-375-41514-9

And If I Perish opens with short, useful discussion of the early history of American military nursing and the state of the Army Nurse Corps on the eve of World War II. After a very short discussion of Army Nurses in the Pacific Theater, largely those in the Philippines in 1941-1942, it traces the history of army nurses in the ETO, from North Africa, to Italy, to France, and into

Germany, culminating in their role in the liberation of Nazi concentration camps. This is told essentially as a series of "soldiers' stories," with a great deal of personal background and anecdote, but these are interwoven with history and an overview of the evolution of military medicine and nursing during the war..

Warfare & Technology

Misguided Weapons: Technological Failure and Surprise on the Battlefield, by Azriel Lorber. Washington: Brassey's, 2002. Pp. xvi, 292. Tables, notes, biblio., index. \$18.95 paper. ISBN: 1-57488-528-6

A look at technological innovation, including successes, failures, and perfectly predictable surprises. Although the analysis is sometime superficial and the history a mite off (e.g., the author believes that famous Soviet "evacuation" of industry before the advancing German armies actually happened), the book does sometimes have useful, and even thoughtful observations on the military uses and misuses of technologies. including some that were misapplied, misunderstood, pre-mature, or just plain ineffective..

Malice Aforethought: A History of Booby Traps, from World War One to Vietnam, by Ian Jones. London: Greenhill/Mechanicsburg, Pa.: Stackpole, 2004. Pp. 270. Illus., diagr., biblio., index. \$34.95. ISBN: 1-85367-631-6.

As the subtitle indicates, *Malice Aforethought* is a surprisingly comprehensive treatment of the experience with the booby trap—described by the author as "a savage practical joke"—by Western armies across the twentieth century. The book spends a little time discussing the rationale behind the booby trap, but primarily focuses on providing a myriad of examples of the ingenious devices and techniques—such as the booby trapped rat—used to kill or maim the unwary, and in some cases even the wary. Although, aside from chapters on the war with Japan and Vietnam, the coverage is limited to a Western perspective, this is likely to be the definitive treatment of the boob trap for some time to come.

Zeppelin!: Germany and the Airship, 1900-1939, by Guillaum de Synn. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins, 2002. Pp. xi, 295. Illus., diagr., notes, biblio., index. \$45.00. ISBN: 0-8018-6437-7.

More than just a history of the German rigid airship, *Zeppelin* is about the interactions between the rigid airship and German society. While it provides an adequate look at the technology of airship design and development, and the use of Zeppelins in peace and war (abridge, though very good), it goes well beyond that to look at the rigid airship's impact on German

popular culture, politics, art, science, and even gender roles, with an especially good chapter on the Nazi efforts to “adopt” the Zeppelin as a symbol of their “new” Germany. Of value for anyone interested in aviation, the Great War, and the inter-war period.

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**Books Received**

*Dictionary of Modern Strategy and Tactics*, by Michael Keane. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2005. Pp. viii, 218. \$34.95. ISBN: 1-59114-429-9.

*Battle of the Bulge: Hitler’s Alternate Scenarios*, edited by Peter Tsouras. London: Greenhill Books

/Mechanicsburg, Pa.: Stackpole, 2004. Pp. 256. Illus., maps, notes., biblio. \$34.95. ISBN: 1-85367-607-1.

*Looking for a Hero: Staff Sergeant Joe Ronnie Hooper and the Vietnam War*, by Peter Maslowski and Don Winslow. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2004. Pp. 618. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$29.95. ISBN: 0-8032-3244-6.

*Agent of Empire: William Walker and the Imperial Self in American Literature*, by Brady Harrison. Athens, Ga.: University of Georgia Press, 2004. Pp. x, 238. Notes, index. \$34.95, ISBN: 0-8203-2544-9

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**NYMAS Spring 2005 Schedule**

- Apr 15-16 Spring Conference, “Approaches to Counterinsurgency”  
>Fri: Panel Discussion -- “Counterinsurgency in Iraq,” James Dingeman and others  
>Sat: 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, 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,” Maj. Greg Daddis, USMA  
Jun 3 “The Battle For Berlin, 1945”, Jim Dingeman, INN/NYMAS  
Jun 10 “Presidential Decision Making in the Two Gulf Wars,” Meena Bose, USMA  
Jun 17 “British versus Indian Martialities in Company India,” Joseph Sramek, CUNY Grad Center  
Jun 24 “1919: The Year,” Frank Radford, NYMAS

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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. Registration for the Saturday Conference on April 16<sup>th</sup> begins at 8:30 a.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 are to change without notice. A current schedule is available at the NYMAS website at <http://nymas.org>.

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**The New York Military Affairs Symposium**

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