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1942, Issue in Doubt: Symposium on the War in the Pacific by the Admiral Nimitz Museum

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There is no bibliography but rather an annotated list of "references" that range from the thirty-nine-volume *Congressional Hearings*, through secondary works of varying quality and applicability, to personal correspondence. Two important bibliographic omissions are Forrest Pogue's biography of General George C. Marshall, and B. Mitchell Simpson's biography of Admiral Harold R. Stark.

Scapegoats is an unfortunate title, reflecting a misunderstanding of Leviticus 16. Far from being mute creatures sacrificed or made to bear the sins of others, Kimmel and Short suffered for their own sins of omission. Short seems to have understood this, but Kimmel's stubborn refusal to admit any responsibility for his role in the Pearl Harbor disaster demonstrates that he never did.

ROBERT J. CRESSMAN
Naval Historical Center

Mullins, Wayman C., ed. *1942, Issue in Doubt: Symposium on the War in the Pacific by the Admiral Nimitz Museum*. Austin, Texas: Eakin, 1994. 310pp. \$29.95

"The reader will find this book fascinating and uniquely informative," promises Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, former Chief of Naval Operations, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and a contributor to this work. Overall, this is an accurate observation about a book that addresses one of the most critical years in the Pacific War. It covers the dark days following the Pearl Harbor disaster, to the second half of that year, when the Allies blunted the

Japanese offensives and gradually seized the strategic initiative.

In March 1992, veterans of the Pacific battles of 1942, along with a group of distinguished writers and historians, gathered in San Antonio, Texas, to take part in a symposium to ensure that the lessons of that fateful year would be recorded for future generations. They did not rehash strategies and tactics of the Pacific but instead looked at the impact that the first full year of war for the United States had on the human element. Wayman Mullins has compiled a collection of essays presented at that symposium, held in the Admiral Nimitz Museum.

In the preface and in short introductory comments for each essay, Mullins serves as moderator, placing each narrative in context. All the major battles of 1942 are examined. Roughly a third of the book deals with the grimmest portion of 1942, when the demise of the American-British-Dutch-Australian ("ABDA") command, the fall of Singapore and the Philippines, and a string of similar disasters made the Japanese appear invincible. The remaining essays are concerned with the gradual turning of the tide at the Coral Sea and Midway, and on New Guinea and Guadalcanal.

If this were all the book had to offer, however, it would be nothing more than a review of previous works. What makes it unique is its treatment of the human dimension. For example, the role of women caught in the maelstrom of the Pacific in 1942, largely ignored in earlier histories, is given adequate treatment, as is the Japanese view-

point—three presenters were former Japanese combatants.

The reader enjoys a “you are there” perspective. Of the contributors, Hattie Brandey, an army nurse, was a Japanese prisoner of war from 1942 to 1945. Frank Ficklin, also a prisoner of war, worked on the “Death Railway” in Thailand. Richard Best tells us how it felt to be a dive bomber at Midway. Japanese torpedo officer Teiji Nakamura describes his life in the Imperial Japanese Navy destroyer *Yudachi*. We discover that Shiro Hashimoto was the real “Pistol Pete” on Guadalcanal, and Ted Waller tells us what it was like to be an eighteen-year-old seaman in the USS *Portland* during the naval Battle of Guadalcanal.

From these personal narratives the editor shifts to the historians' presentations. One can almost visualize Fred Parker and John Costello seated together at a table arguing some of the finer points of American cryptologic efforts. It is dismaying to read about the internecine struggles between Admiral Nimitz's codebreakers at Pearl Harbor and their counterparts in the Department of the Navy. It appears that had Nimitz deferred to Washington's assessment, the near-run victory at Midway might have gone the other way. Pettiness resulted in Lieutenant Commander Joseph J. Rochefort's being consigned from Pearl Harbor to duty as the commanding officer of a floating drydock—an action bordering on the criminal, considering how desperately Rochefort's talents were needed to help decipher Japanese naval codes.

The chapter dealing with the struggle for control of New Guinea graphi-

cally portrays how nightmarish fighting in the jungles can be. Nature can be less forgiving than enemy soldiers; starvation, disease, and death are constant threats. We learn that some Japanese were forced to cannibalism to survive the siege at Buna.

There are some distracting errors, such as that the battleship *Kirishima* is misidentified as a carrier; the historians E.B. Potter and Samuel Eliot Morison are referred to as Professor E.M. Potter and Samuel Morrison; and the syntax could use a little cleaning up. Nothing, however, seriously detracts from this fine history.

Mullins has done an excellent job demonstrating that 1942 was indeed a pivotal year in the Pacific War. For those not present at the symposium, this book is the closest thing to actually having been there.

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Mulligan, Timothy P. *Lone Wolf: The Life and Death of U-Boat Ace Werner Henke*. Norman: Univ. of Oklahoma Press, 1995. 247pp. \$15.95

The eye-catching cover, bearing German naval artist Claus Bergen's dramatic painting of a U-boat knifing its way through daunting seas under the protection of six bombers, might suggest that Mulligan's biography is yet another book about U-boat aces, with all their derring-do and bravado. So conventional are the numerous contributions to U-boat literature that one cannot be blamed for the inference. However, Mulligan offers us some-