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Recent Books

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Recent Books

Alden, John D. *U.S. Submarine Attacks During World War II*. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 1989. 285pp. \$24.95

The compiler of this work states that his primary objective "is to provide a side-by-side listing of data on U.S. submarine attacks and Japanese ship losses during World War II." The information reported by submarine commanders when they attacked ships (most ships could not be precisely identified) is compared with information from Japanese sources on ships that were sunk or damaged by known or suspected enemy submarines. The work includes "the few attacks made by U.S. submarines in the Atlantic, those made by British and Dutch submarines operating in the Pacific and Indian oceans, and casualties caused by mines laid in those areas by U.S. and Allied submarines." This book is similar to Jürgen Rohwer's *Axis Submarine Successes 1939-1945*, produced by the same publisher in 1983.

Bellany, Ian and Huxley, Tim, eds. *New Conventional Weapons and Western Defense*. New York: Frank Cass & Co., 1987. 198pp. \$29

This book should prove useful for a number of people in the American defense establishment in light of increasingly restricted defense budgets. Since the examples are primarily English and European, they may allow some of the ideas about these issues to be examined with less emotion than would be attached directly to American manufacturers and defense policies. This may help to clarify what theories are supported by fact or are merely doctrinaire. The difficult decisions that will have to be made about future weapon development and acquisition need to be based upon reality and not myth.

Brassford, Christopher. *The Spit-Shine Syndrome*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1988. 192pp. \$37.95

"Sir, he has the best-looking boots in the Army," was the answer given to Brassford when he asked if a soldier was a good trooper. For Brassford, this response came to symbolize what is wrong with today's Army: the substitution of appearance for competence, thus "the spit-shine syndrome." He recommends that promotions and assignments be based on unit effectiveness. His proposal for reform would replace the Army's current system for officer evaluation—a fragmented hodge-podge of single focus inspections and reports—with a single, realistic combat simulation and trial exercise wherein the unit's combat performance would be the only measure. Combat performance is that for which an army is maintained. It may thus be too radical.

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Breuer, William B. *Geronimo!* New York: St. Martins, 1989. 621pp. \$29.95
In February 1945, 412 American paratroopers rescued 2,147 civilian prisoners from the Japanese camp Los Baños in the Philippines, with loss of life to neither jumpers nor prisoners. While not the most remembered parachute assault of the Second World War, it is memorable for its absolute success and for the routine audacity of the troopers. This is but one of the anecdotes about American paratroopers, including jumping Marines, in Breuer's exhaustive history of these soldiers who earned every bit of their memorable swagger. Breuer has recovered the stories in tactical detail of what may well be every combat operation of the war that involved paratroopers. This is a splendid book for those who have worn jump wings.

Elsam, M. B. *Air Defense: Volume VII, Brassey's Aircraft, Weapons Systems and Technology Series*. New York: Pergamon Press, 1989. 92pp. \$15.95

This book is a nontechnical tutorial on the subject of air defense. It presents an overview of the air defense battle that examines early warning systems, air defense aircraft, surface-to-air missile defenses, and command and control. It is intended for the cadet, junior officer, or interested amateur. It might also be useful for beginning policy specialists who lack technical training.

Flanagan, E.M., Jr. *Corregidor: The Rock Force Assault, 1945*. Novato, Calif: Presidio, 1988. 331pp. \$18.95

This account of the recapture of Corregidor includes background on the early acquisition and development of the island, the fall of Bataan, the island's own fall to the Japanese in May 1942, the U.S. invasion of the Philippines in 1944 and the recapture of Manila in 1945. Led by the 503 Parachute Regimental Combat Team (two-thirds of which jumped onto the island under the most hazardous of conditions) and reinforced by the 3rd Battalion of the 34th Infantry Regiment, the recapture of Corregidor was a joint operation. This is the story of daring, expertly planned and well-executed ground operations against a fanatical enemy in strong defensive positions.

Haffa, Robert P. *Planning U. S. Forces*. Washington, D.C.: National Defense Univ. Press, 1988. 164pp. \$5

Because of the changes in Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, and the impending crisis in the U. S. defense budget, Colonel Haffa's book is very timely. His thesis calls for the return to first principles for force planning with a focus on what we want our armed forces to do: the strategic policy, military missions to be accomplished, and the alternatives. For readers of the *Review*, his most interesting section deals with planning naval forces. The author demonstrates the principles of rational force planning by comparing the requirements for a power projection versus a sea-control navy. A 600-

ship navy appears to be the answer to neither. Due to the projected major reduction in U. S. forces deployed overseas, Colonel Haffa's section on planning rapidly deployable forces, including their organization and support, takes on an especially current significance.

Keegan, John, ed. *The Times Atlas of the Second World War*. New York: Harper & Row, 1989. 254pp. \$50.

Many publishers of war histories fail their readers by providing their books with inadequate maps. Now for those interested in World War II, *The Times* of London, Harper & Row, and John Keegan have provided at least a partial remedy. There are about 180 pages of four-color maps, plus a chronology, index, and other paraphernalia suitable for helping the reader get the best use out of his maps. There are also tables, such as that on page 193, showing Japanese war production year by year of such items as warships (by type), aircraft (also by type), and military vehicles (likewise). For those who come to own it, this promises to be a useful possession for a long time.

O'Kane, Richard H. *Wahoo*. New York: Bantam Books, 1989. 337pp. \$4.50
Dick O'Kane was the first executive officer of the newly commissioned *Wahoo* when she went to war in the Pacific in 1942, with the aggressive "Mush" Morton as her skipper. *Wahoo's* career was short but violent. She destroyed 31,980 tons of Japanese shipping until she was lost in the Sea of Japan on her seventh patrol. O'Kane gives a wonderfully detailed account of those patrols and of the men who served her. His book, first published in 1987, will be warm reading for all those who served in *Wahoo's* sisters.

Parrish, Michael. *Battle for Moscow: The 1942 Soviet General Staff Study*. McLean, Va.: Pergamon-Brassey, 1989. 210pp. \$40

Rotundo, Louis. *Battle for Stalingrad: The 1943 Soviet General Staff Study*. McLean, Va.: Pergamon-Brassey, 1989. 340pp. \$40

Pergamon-Brassey has added two new titles to their "The USSR at War Series." Both works are translations of Soviet general staff studies written during the war to teach Red Army commanders and their staff the lessons of recent combat experience. Though both volumes were intended as training tools and not for mass consumption, the material is largely free from propaganda and distortion. Its focus is on how the battles were fought and why the results were not always satisfactory. Grand strategy is not discussed, instead the emphasis is tactical. The range of topics extend from the employment of forces at the army and corps level, to the techniques for fighting in trenches and in cold weather. While the writing is rough in parts, both works provide a wealth of detailed information for the student interested in these campaigns.

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Polmar, Norman and Mersky, Peter B. *Amphibious Warfare, An Illustrated History*. New York: Sterling, 1988. 192pp. \$34.95

This is a quick tour of amphibious warfare during and after World War II, well supported by photographs, though not quite so well with maps. The emphasis is on the American experience. The book will be convenient as an introduction for those who know little about the subject and as a quick reference for those who know more.

Suvorov, Viktor. *Spetsnaz: The Inside Story of the Soviet Special Forces*. New York: W. W. Norton, 1988. 213pp. \$3.95

Vladimir Bogdanovich Rezun, a.k.a Viktor Suvorov, who first introduced the West to the Soviet Special Forces or Spetsnaz, has now written a book on this subject. While his earlier works created a sensation by revealing the existence of this elite and deadly force, they contained only one or two chapters that specifically discussed Spetsnaz. This volume contains greater detail on this mysterious, but interesting component of the Soviet military with descriptions of the Spetsnaz' history, training, and equipment. Particularly noteworthy is a chapter that explains the close relationship existing between the Soviet Union's top athletes and the Spetsnaz: many athletes are also trained Spetsnaz agents. The book concludes with several chapters on typical tactics and a fictitious scenario for Spetsnaz employment, in a Warsaw Pact/Nato war. Although no major surprises are contained in this work, it is highly readable and does serve to provide additional information on a subject about which little published material exists.

Taylor, H.A. *Fairey Aircraft Since 1915*. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 1988. 450pp. \$29.95

This is another in a long series of aviation catalogs, published first in England and then in this country, detailing the products of various aircraft manufacturing companies from beginning to end, or, as in a few cases, to the present. As did the others in the series, this book contains extensive information about each aircraft and many interesting photographs. One, for example, shows a Flycatcher fighter "emerging from the upper hangar deck . . . starting to fly-off from the 60-foot lower deck of HMS *Glorious*." It has been a long time since anyone in any navy has seen an event such as that.

