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## Vlasov

A. A. Nelson Jr.  
*U.S. Marine Corps*

Sven Steenberg

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one minor imperfection should be mentioned and that concerns the quantity of the maps depicting the battle progress. A map of the Motobu Peninsula plus more charts of the Southern Okinawa area dispersed throughout the book in the appropriate chapters would have provided a better pictorial representation of the printed word and would have made it easier for the reader to follow the total action.

*Typhoon of Steel* is an exciting, scholarly publication that is a fitting tribute to all the men who served in the battle for Okinawa.

WALTER S. PULLAR, JR.  
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps

Miller, Wayne C. *An Armed America: Its Face in Fiction, a History of the American Military Novel*. New York: New York University Press, 1970. 294p.

The present disrepute of the military, in the eyes of many Americans, is disconcerting to members of the Armed Forces, but, as Wayne C. Miller shows in his new book, a study of the American novel over the past century and a half reveals a history of recurring disenchantment with the military profession. From James Fenimore Cooper's *The Spy* (1821) down to Joseph Heller's *Catch-22* (1961) and even later, the military man has been viewed in fiction with emotions ranging from occasional enthusiasm to frequent distrust.

Professor Miller, who has taught at the Air Force Academy and now teaches at the University of Cincinnati, attempts to provide "a better historical and cultural perspective from which the American military man and military machine may be understood and controlled." By surveying the American novel from 1821 to 1964 (*Dr. Strangelove*) and discussing at some length the war novels of such major writers as Cooper, Melville, Crane, Dos Passos, Faulkner, and Hemingway, he demon-

strates that the main thrust of many fiction writers against the military institution reinforces the criticism of such social and economic analysts as Fred J. Cook, Tristram Coffin, Samuel Huntington, Morris Janowitz, Walter Millis, and C. Wright Mills.

The attitudes of the novelists toward the military have been as diverse as their works and their personalities. Cooper, William Gilmore Simms, John P. Marquand, and James Gould Cozzens have tended to look upon military life realistically without any overt criticism of the system, while many of the others have seen the Armed Forces as authoritarian (even tyrannous), brutal, stifling, vain, and self-serving, a danger to American society and its freedoms. Some have suggested that the American military is symptomatic of increasing disorientation in society, that the uneasiness of many people about the Armed Forces is an extension of their fears about the direction our civilization is taking.

But Professor Miller is not a pacifist or antimilitarist; as he says in his introduction, "It is important . . . that it [the American military] remain an arm of the state and not the brain at the center of the state's activities." Maintaining this relatively objective point of view throughout his analysis, he has produced an interesting book of social criticism and literary history which ought to be of interest to those of us who fret about our professional image.

ROBERT C. STEENSMA  
Commander, U.S. Naval Reserve

Steenberg, Sven. *Vlasov*. New York: Knopf, 1970, 230p.

All those who expressed or felt indignation when a Lithuanian seaman was forcibly returned to Soviet control in November 1970 should not fail to read this tragic portrayal of an episode infamous in Western history. The author, Sven Steenberg, with firsthand knowledge and extensive contacts with

the individuals portrayed, has assembled a moving summary of the life of one individual, Gen. Andrey Vlasov, Hero of the Soviet Union, Defender of Moscow, patriot, opportunist, or traitor. This obscure and forgotten man struggled from peasant to general in the Soviet hierarchy, from prisoner of war of the Nazis to the rallying symbol for the oppressed of Eastern Europe, in both instances overcoming apparently impossible odds. The now forgotten Russian Liberation Movement of World War II, its trials, tribulations, and inglorious demise are succinctly set forth in a dramatic, concise narrative.

Hundreds of thousands of peoples of the U.S.S.R. used the German invasion of Russia as their opportunity to gain individual liberty, to escape the oppressive Stalin regime and its reign of terror; those who placed, albeit erroneously, their faith in the Western World only to have this escape door closed not by the Germans, but by the very governments who had proclaimed the Atlantic Charter:

“Article III. They respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live;

and they wish to see sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them.”

The heartbreak, anguish, and attempt at self-destruction by these people following the war were ignored by the governments and military leaders of the Allied nations. They not only ignored the principles of the Atlantic Charter, but kowtowed to the demands of one of the most ruthless dictators the world has ever seen, “good old Uncle Joe Stalin.” Granted, the postwar settlement of the affairs of Eastern Europe would reflect the realities of the ever-present Red Army but, nevertheless, the Atlantic powers did have an obligation to see to the political safety of several million who had dissented against the Soviet regime “with their feet.” Especially one nation whose major harbor has as its most notable landmark a statue with the inscription: “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free . . .”

A.A. NELSON, JR.  
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps

