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The Broken Seal

F.C. Gilmore

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sense the trial succeeded in doing what judicial proceedings are supposed to do: it convinced even the guilty that the verdict against them was just." This book is recommended for those who are interested in obtaining some insight into the character of the Nuremberg defendants. It is not recommended for those interested in a critical, analytical book on the legal basis for the Nuremberg trials and the precedents they established.

J. M. BATTAGLINO

Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy

Fall, Bernard B. *Hell in a Very Small Place*. Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1967. 515 p.

The courage, frustration, agony, hope, and sacrifice of the French military forces during the 1955 siege of Dien Bien Phu are the concern of this volume. The late Bernard B. Fall has written a superb day-to-day description of the events leading to, during, and after this tragic battle.

Hell in a Very Small Place represents Dr. Fall's extensive research of all available official and nonofficial documents pertaining to this historic battle and his interrogations of many of the participants of both sides of the conflict. The book opens with an account of the initial 1954 French airborne landing at Dien Bien Phu during the French Indochina War. It then describes the daily buildup of, and fighting between, the French and Viet-Minh forces. The reports of the French attempts to resupply the fortress are excellent as is Dr. Fall's description of the individuals participating in the battle. The book concludes with a spellbinding recountal of the last agonizing hours of the gallant French defenders and their demolished fortress. In addition, the reactions of French, American, and British officials after the fall of Dien Bien Phu are reviewed. This book is highly

recommended for the student of military history and should be a part of every military library.

G. H. KAFFER, JR.

Commander, U.S. Navy

Farago, Ladislav. *The Broken Seal*. New York: Random House, 1967. 439 p.

The Broken Seal is the story of military and diplomatic cryptology and its place in the events that ended in World War II. The breaking of the Japanese codes prior to World War II is household knowledge and has led to considerable allegation and much hindsight prophecy. Mr. Farago has treated this subject completely, starting with the first breaking, in 1915, of an American code by an ambitious American code clerk. From this point he follows the fortunes, in terms of success, failure, and indifference periods, of U.S. military and diplomatic cryptology involving the Japanese. Mr. Farago has a background of World War II ONI service and was an intimate of many of the primaries in this story. His research into the Japanese side of the story was immense and complete. The footnotes, reference notes, and bibliographic material provide a complete and interesting supplement and will fan the reader's further interest in this intriguing subject. It is this material, in part, that makes the *Reader's Digest* condensation of this book pale compared to the full work.

The event-by-event, personality-by-personality, national-reaction and international-counteraction coverage of the United States-Japanese relations from 1918 through 1941 weaves an incredible story. It is a story replete with daring plans, the dull cryptanalysis spade-work, the good and the bad luck, and the humorous and the saddening stories. Cryptology came of age in 1921 during the Washington

Disarmament Conferences when, by virtue of the "Yardley Black Room," the Americans gained access to the Japanese diplomatic codes. This gave the United States a virtual monopoly at the conferences and assured her achieving her goals. The flush of this victory brought the "Black Room" and interest in cryptology to the fore and seemed to assure its position in military and diplomatic circles. Events and personalities were later to cause great fluctuations in the interest and support, preventing a steady achievement in the field. Because of the dedication of a few, however, the art was never lost, but did pass back and forth from the Navy to the Army as various influences affected the individual services. It is amazing to read how the inner few were able, by combining hard work and intrigue, to continue to break the code systems and duplicate the machines used by the Japanese up through the advanced "purple" machines current at the start of hostilities in 1941. The work of the "purple" machines had the code name "Operation Magic" and those cleared to read magic messages were referred to as "ultras."

The individuals involved in this work on the Japanese codes and the part that each played in this drama which climaxed on that morning of 7 December 1941 are, in the opinion of the reviewer, the vital message of this book. The relating of how it all happened is important, but the devotion of some, the indifference of some, and the disbelief of others in this tense drama of national security stand as beacons to those that follow. Mr. Farago does not make heroes, nor does he make "goats," but the reader will sense the "if" situations and can make the judgment of how a bit more openmindedness, less complacency, less compartmentation, and fewer worries about protocol could have changed the

course of events. This intensely interesting and informative book is recommended for all naval officers and all others who have positions of responsibility in national security. Of great historical interest, it is a dramatic testimony to the cost of being complacent and routine at any level of responsibility in Federal Service.

F. C. GILMORE
Commander, U.S. Navy

Hindus, Maurice, *The Kremlin's Human Dilemma*. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1967, 395 p.

The Kremlin's Human Dilemma provides a fascinating approach to viewing life in the Soviet Union. Author Maurice Hindus feels that the increase of individuality among Soviet citizens poses a development of major proportions and proceeds to investigate the thesis over a broad cultural spectrum. The book is divided into three main parts. The first two contrast life in the city with life in the village, while the last looks at the ideology-individuality conflict in more specific areas. Anything but dull, this latter group of subjects includes atheism, anti-Semitism, literature, Russification, and a novel facet entitled "Rediscovery of Sex." Mr. Hindus, a Byelorussian-born American, is a keen observer of the Soviet scene who writes with the authority of one who has traveled throughout the country over a period of many years. While carefully documented, the book avoids dryness through extensive use of novellike dialogue between the author and the wide range of Russians that he encounters. The author seems particularly adept in addressing the agricultural sector and its inherent incompatibility between a proven need for profit incentive and ideological altruism—work for work's sake. Indeed, his own peasant heritage provides an ideal base from which to con-