

BOOKS



Capsule reviews of books of general professional interest. Any book listed may be purchased by MCA members via Gazette Bookservice at reduced rates. See pages 50, 51 for other listings.

VIET NAM HEARINGS—Voices From the Grass Roots. By the Hon. Robert W. Kastenmeier, Member of Congress, 2nd. Dist., Wisconsin. (Doubleday: New York, 159 pps., \$1.95.)

It should be considered somewhat unfair when fate gives an editor the opportunity to review his Congressman's book, but in this case the temptation is just too great to overcome.

This book is a transcript of testimony given at special hearings conducted by the Congressman in his home district of Wisconsin on the purpose and conduct of the war in Viet-Nam. All shades of opinion are represented, from the Madison DuBois Club to the Dane County Chapter of the United Nations Association and the Young Americans for Freedom.

The New York Times refers to the contents as "A new political phenomenon." We disagree. There is nothing new here. It's an excellent example of what Charles Burton Marshall refers to as "the great amateur hour of American foreign relations." It has happened in every war in our history. What, pray tell, is the difference between the International Association for Peace and Arbitration of pre-WWI days, the America Firsters of the early 40's, and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom of today? We don't criticize the motives of any of these groups, but let's not act as though we just discovered them. Dissent is the tradition of American politics. The question is, the quality of the dissent. And every time we go home to the Congressman's district we are again impressed by the geographic and political reality that Wisconsin is a long way from salt water. WLT

ARMED FORCES OF THE WORLD. By Laurence L. Ewing and Robert C. Sellers. (Robert C. Sellers & Associates: Washington, D. C., \$14.95.)

A unique, concise compendium of essential data on all branches of the armed forces of over 118 independent nations. Easy reference, excellent for the researcher.

OKINAWA, THE LAST BATTLE. By Roy E. Appleman, James M. Burns, Russell A. Gugeler, and John Stevens. (Charles E. Tuttle Co.: Rutland, Vermont and Tokyo, 527 pps., \$7.50.)

A work of a group of U. S. Army historians who participated in the Ryukyu campaign as members of a group organized to accompany the American forces in this campaign and to secure at first hand the materials for a history of their operations. In order to make the Army's role and the entire campaign as intelligible as possible, the historians have treated in detail the operations of the Marine Corps units attached to the Tenth Army.

Illustrated with almost 200 photographs the book generously provides the reader with approximately 50 maps and appropriate tables and charts.

We would suggest that there is little else to be done in the way of historical work on the Okinawa caper. It appears that these gentlemen have done it all.

CURRENT THOUGHT ON PEACE AND WAR. Edited by L. Larry Leonard. (Current Thought, Inc.: New York, Individuals—\$15.00 Students—\$7.50.)

This research tool consists of digests of books, articles, UN and government reports, unpublished materials, such as doctoral dissertations and reports by private research organizations. In short, it is a compilation of the sources of current thinking on peace and war. If you're a serious student of the project you'll find this volume a necessary addition to your professional library.

TEST BAN AND DISARMAMENT, The Path of Negotiation. By Arthur H. Dean. (Harper & Row: New York, 153 pps., \$3.50.)

In the author's words, this book "is in the nature of a personal disquisition on certain topics of particular importance to America's future. It discusses the value of negotiations with the Russians, their diplomatic style, certain aspects of the search for general disarmament, possible limited measures for arms control, the critical problems of verification and enforcement," and contains an excellent concluding section on the overriding arms problem of our times, the future proliferation of nuclear weapons. Provocative.

SOUTHEAST ASIA'S SECOND FRONT: The Power Struggle in the Malay Archipelago. By A. C. Brackman. (Frederick A. Praeger: New York, 341 pps., \$6.95.)

"In the event that the Indochinese Peninsula slides under Communist control, the next logical stage of the Communist enterprise will center on the Malay Barrier" predicts the author, a former correspondent for the UP and *Christian Science Monitor* and longtime resident and student of SE Asia.

Outlining the traps and stratagems of the players, Mr. Brackman offers the first extensive and up-to-date study of the conflicts of this area. He discusses Indonesia's "crush Malaysia" campaign; the Brunei revolt and its relationship to the competition for regional leadership among Indonesia, the Philippines, and Malaysia; Manila's claim to North Borneo; the struggle of local Communist parties to gain control of the archipelago; and the Singapore crisis.

Over this tale of internal unrest and instability the author spreads "the lengthening shadow of a unified, single-minded China"—and an equally determined Russia.

Even the most casual glance at the map should tell most Marines that it's time we started learning something about these lands and these people. This is an excellent book with which to begin.

HAGANAH. By Munya M. Mardor. Foreword by David Ben-Gurion. (The New American Library: New York, 295 pps., \$5.95.)

When the British Army withdrew from Palestine in 1948, an organized, trained, and fully-equipped Jewish Army came out of hiding into the open. This was Haganah, the underground freedom fighter, whose daring actions were largely responsible for keeping the new nation alive. The dramatic, firsthand story is re-created here by a man who was an active member from 1934 to 1948, who draws his facts from personal experience as well as from secret documents kept hidden during the British mandate.

This is one of those truth-is-better-than-fiction books. It describes the Haganah during WW II, their early struggles with the Arabs, and their long and relentless—and often savage—fight for an independent Israel.