

give the reader, in a paragraph or two, the focus of what has been covered. Reading the summaries whets the reader's appetite, and from there the manual is hard to put down.

It employs large print along with different colors in order to emphasize important items or stories. It is military leadership with a sizable dose of combat leadership, and yet it can be used in peacetime or private industry.

Most of the techniques Marines have heard about or practiced are covered in detail. It is one of the finest manuals that I have personally read, and it leaves one with a lasting message. It is interesting, well-written, informative, and innovative. If you have not read it, you are missing a sure bet. It is an absolute must: My only regret is that I did not know about it sooner.

**WITH SWORD AND SHIELD: American Military Affairs, Colonial Times to the Present.** By Warren W. Hassler, Jr., Iowa University Press, Ames, Iowa, 1982, 446 pp., \$29.50. (Member \$26.55)

reviewed by Maj Kenneth W. Estes

Any single-volume survey of American military history will of necessity adopt a peculiar focus or thematic development in order to encompass its vast subject. The value of such surveys depends upon the accuracy and the efficacy of their presentation.

Warren Hassler, Jr., a professor of history at Pennsylvania State University for the past 30 years, postulates in the foreword that:

There is a dearth of recent comprehensive studies that incorporate and integrate military operations and policy with the personalities and characters of leading civilian and uniformed figures who have been the protagonists in American armed endeavors. . . . the present study will provide an up-to-date and integrated survey of American military activities across the span of some three centuries.

This personality dimension, Hassler proposes, sets his work apart from the venerable Walter Millis' *Arms and Men* (1956) and the now standard Russell Weigley's *The American Way of War* (1973).

Actually, Hassler's work represents a return to an even earlier form of American historical writing, the national or patriot school of interpretation. He consistently views the officers of American forces as noble warrior types, held back in their successes, if at all, by deficient

and ever-scheming politicians. His perspective of the personalities integrated with military operations usually amounts to multiple adjectives modifying each warrior's introduction or, in the case of major figures, a paragraph vignette. Thus, Adm Ernest King, who took command of the Navy in 1942 as a " . . . hard, grim, determined seaman of forty-one years experience, who hated publicity and politicians, bore down hard on antisubmarine tactics." Hassler ends his study with a traditional view of American unpreparedness for war. This continuity he lays deftly at the feet of politicians, ignoring the manifest ineptness of soldiers and sailors in many instances.

*With Sword and Shield* gives short shrift to naval campaigns and policies and is rife with error. He credits the British "unveiling of the Spitfire fighter plane" for accomplishing the miracle of Dunkirk, miscounts U.S. carriers in commission in 1941, and implies that Adm King and Gen George Marshall were warned specifically of the Pearl Harbor attack. He even repeats the mythology of 70,000 Singapore defenders surrendering to " . . . waves of Nipponese soldiers, 200,000 in all," where actually the defenders outnumbered the victorious attackers by two to one.

Somewhat anachronistic and too trusting to dated source material, this survey fails to replace the earlier Millis and Weigley volumes as standard, whatever flaws the passing of time has demonstrated.

**BATTLE FOR HUE, TET 1968.** By Keith William Nolan, Presidio Press, Novato, CA, 1983, 193 pp., \$14.95. (Member \$13.45)

reviewed by LtCol Gary D. Solis

Alongside Belleau Wood, Tarawa, and Chosin, tomorrow's Marines will add the name of Hue. For 26 days Marine infantrymen proved the adage that in the nuclear age it is still the rifleman's courage and tenacity upon which a conflict can turn. This book is an excellent history of what may well have been the most savage, sustained combat the Marine Corps saw during Vietnam. Perhaps no house-to-house combat has been more bitter this side of Stalingrad.

Vietnam was much like the proverbial elephant examined by a series of blind men; a different experience to virtually every participant—jungle war to some,

paddy war to others, village war to a few, painless war to most. But of the nearly 8.7 million American servicemen who went to Vietnam very few saw war as experienced by the Marines who fought in Hue for 26 days in February of 1968.

Hue is the northern terminus of what Bernard Fall long ago called the "Street Without Joy." It is actually two cities:



the walled interior city called the Citadel, roughly two miles on a side, and separated by the Perfume River, a triangle-shaped residential area called the South Side. More than once in numerous prior conflicts, Hue had seen combat but never the savagery, suffering, and selflessness like that so well described by author Nolan.

Previous to the North Vietnamese/Viet Cong (NVA/VC) attack, infiltrators had seized key points throughout Hue, and it quickly fell to NVA/VC forces. Pitted against a division-sized enemy force was, initially, Capt Gordon Batcheller's Company A, 1/1, and Capt Ron Christmas' Company H, 2/5, soon joined by Capt Michael Down's Company F, 2/5, and Capt Chuck Meadow's Company G, 2/5. The bloody fight to regain Hue began in the South Side.

Nolan recounts the incredible valor of countless PFCs and lance corporals led by intrepid young lieutenants and captains. B-40 rockets fired at point-blank range. Grenades exchanged from room to room. Hard-driving LtCol Ernest Cheatham and LtCol Marcus Gravel led