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C O N T E N T S

The Bear Republic Heads East: Californians in the Eastern Theatre 1862-1865 <i>Brendan Harris</i>	5
The Emergence and Evolution of Memorial Day <i>Richard Gardiner, Ph.D., P. Michael Jones, and Daniel Belhwaere</i>	19
On Point for the Relief of Khe Sanh <i>COL Joe Abodeedy, USA (Ret)</i>	38
POST LIBRARY	
<i>American Amphibious Warfare: The Roots of Tradition to 1865</i> , by Gary J. Ohls. <i>Russell K. Brown</i>	57
<i>The City Becomes a Symbol: The U.S. Army in the Occupation of Berlin, 1945-1949</i> , by William Stivers and Donald A. Carter. <i>Charles H. Bogart</i>	58
<i>We Were Going to Win, or Die There: With the Marines at Guadalcanal, Tarawa, and Saipan</i> , by Lt. Col. Roy H. Elrod, USMC, edited by Fred H. Allison. <i>Duane Colt Denfeld</i>	60
<i>Our Germans: Project Paperclip and the National Security State</i> , by Brian E. Crim. <i>Roger D. Cunningham</i>	62
<i>Turning Points of the American Civil War</i> , edited by Chris Mackowski and Kristopher D. White. <i>Russell K. Brown</i>	64
<i>American Sea Power in the Old World; The United States Navy in European and Near Eastern Waters, 1865-1917</i> , by William N. Still Jr. <i>Charles H. Bogart</i>	65
<i>No Forgotten Fronts: From Classrooms to Combat</i> , by Lisa K. Shapiro. <i>Stuart McClung</i>	67
<i>The Commanders: Civil War Generals Who Shaped the American West</i> , by Robert M. Utley. <i>Roger D. Cunningham</i>	69
<i>Blood on the Marias: The Baker Massacre</i> , by Paul R. Wylie. <i>Steven C. Haack</i>	70
<i>History of the Third Seminole War, 1849-1858</i> , by Joe Knetsch, John Missall, and Mary Lou Missall. <i>Russell K. Brown</i>	73
<i>The Smell of War: Three Americans in the Trenches of World War</i> , by Virginia Bernhardt. <i>G. Alan Knight</i>	75
<i>The General Who Wore Six Stars: The Inside Story of John C.H. Lee</i> , by Hank H. Cox. <i>Roger D. Cunningham</i>	77
<i>Edge of Armageddon: Florida and the Cuban Missile Crisis</i> , edited by Nick Wynne and Joe Knetsch. <i>Stuart McClung</i>	79

has become the benchmark against which all historical studies of the U.S. Navy, from the period after the Civil War to World War I, are compared. The book offers a comprehensive overview of the Navy as an instrument of power projection, wielded by the American Government, in European and North African waters. The main area of focus for the Navy during the period under discussion was the Mediterranean Sea. Navy ships, however, did cruise the Baltic Sea, the Atlantic Ocean off the Azores and Canary Islands, and the waters off Europe's western coast.

The Mediterranean Sea, during the period 1865-1917, would at all times have a contingent of Navy ships sailing its waters. From 1866 to 1905, ships of the European Squadron patrolled the Mediterranean Sea, and from 1905 to 1917, various cruisers on detached service represented the Navy in these waters. The shores of the Mediterranean Basin, from 1865 to 1917, saw constant fighting as civil wars, insurrections, civil unrest, wars of conquest, and ethnic cleansing touched the length and breadth of this area. The story of the Navy in the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean waters off North Africa during this period is a tale of a service transitioning from wooden sailing ships, to steam-powered wooden ships, to coal-burning iron, then steel ships, and finally to steel ships whose boilers were fired by oil. This evolution of warship design led to changes in overseas basing locations, as obtaining fuel had to be added to the tasks of obtaining provisions and other ship supplies.

Much of the story the author presents concerns gunboat diplomacy used to secure payment of a debt owed to American citizens or to rectify an insult to an American official. It is amazing to read of the decisions made by naval officers and consular officials at the scene of an incident without reference to Washington that today would probably require convening the whole National Security Council.

The author devotes considerable text to Navy operations in Europe and the Mediterranean Sea during the first three years of World War I. The Navy was engaged, during this period, in evacuations of American and foreign nationals caught in the war zone, providing humanitarian relief, and showing the flag. Of interest is the story of USS *Scorpion*, the American station ship at Istanbul. While the United States never declared war on the Ottoman Empire, the officers and men of USS *Scorpion* found themselves caught up in the war.

The book is not only a history of U.S. Navy operations in the Mediterranean Basin but also the story of American diplomacy within this area. The overall story told here in many ways differs little from the overall story of the mission of the U.S. Navy's post-World War II 6th Fleet. Unlike today, when the question asked during a

crisis is, "Where is the nearest carrier?" during the period covered in this book the question was, "Where is the nearest cruiser and how long will it take to get her where we want her?" The book is well written and nicely illustrated, but it is missing maps. Unless one has a cartographer's knowledge of the shores of the Mediterranean, one will need a map of that area to place the location of incidents described in the volume. Overall, the book is a great addition to the historical story of the U.S. Navy in the era between the Civil War and World War I.

Charles H. Bogart

No Forgotten Fronts: From Classrooms to Combat, by Lisa K. Shapiro. Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 2018. 392 pp., \$29.95.

Compilations of personal letters, diaries, and journals for publication extend primarily in United States history, from the Civil War to the present. This volume presents letters which were sent to a professor of geography at then-San Diego State College during World War II. Excerpts of these letters were included in a newsletter which was mailed to those SDSC Aztec students who were serving in the military, at home and abroad.

This format helped fellow students keep in touch and keep track of their counterparts. It also provided a forum to improve and maintain morale, keep their parents informed when news was obtained regarding students' fates or current status, such as promotions and decorations, and ensure that those serving would not be forgotten, especially in cases where a student was killed in action or otherwise while serving (sometimes prior to official notification from the War Department).

The excerpts included in these monthly newsletters show the flavor of the times, from the language used to characterize the enemy (Nips, Japs, disgust at German citizens' hypocrisy in blaming the Nazis for the war, etc.) to attitudes regarding the war effort and eventual victory. The editor in question, Professor Lauren C. Post, coordinated this effort, inserted his own uplifting and informative messages, followed instructions from letter writers as to deleting certain passages and received the approbation of the Office of Censorship when it came to co-operation according to the war-time rules of keeping any valuable intelligence from being gleaned by the enemy.

Even after V-J Day, the newsletter continued to be published and mailed to the long list of recipients until such time as the status of all Aztec students had been ascertained, or they had returned

home to their family and country. Indeed, many of the students and their parents provided financial contributions to Professor Post in order to defray paper and postage costs over the course of nearly four years.

Along the way, an updated board was maintained on campus for those who had paid the ultimate price, were prisoners of war, or missing in action. Many of the letters express relief that a fellow student had been captured after initially being reported missing in action or feared killed. There were also expressions of grief and sadness when the latter status was confirmed by another student or the War Department. Of course, a highlight for many was being able to meet or catch up with classmates in their theaters of operations.

The format of the book covers almost the entire chronological range of the war. As students began departing from the campus to join the military services, Dr. Post established his newsletter for the benefit of students, including those who had taken his geography courses and found such to be of benefit and advantage in terms of their military responsibilities, particularly in navigation.

The text is also broken up by the insertion of contextual information and clarification by author Lisa K. Shapiro. In places, it is a bit simplified to the extent that it seems to be mostly for the benefit of the lay reader who may not be as familiar with World War II events and battles and indicates perhaps her own lack of expertise in the subject. Fortunately, there is a glossary or list of abbreviations to help with identifying aircraft, organizations, weapons, and so forth.

Chapters generally cover theaters of operations from the Pacific to North Africa, the Mediterranean and Western Europe. Each one begins with a photocopy of a newsletter so that one may peruse its specific layout and text, and there are also photographs of specific letters as well as those of some of the students referenced.

Given the relatively small amount of text inserted by the author, there are not that many notes to each chapter. The bibliography is mostly of secondary sources, with the archives of the newsletters and other documents of Dr. Post from the SDSC library collections being the most consulted, as they should be.

With much of the World War II generation having passed away, these letters are invaluable in giving those of us who have come after an opportunity to again appreciate the effort and sacrifice made on our behalf, as well as the viewpoints of those who lived through the destruction and life's disruption of the world's greatest conflict. For a look at an academic segment of American society in the 1940s, this volume is recommended.

Stuart McClung

The Commanders: Civil War Generals Who Shaped the American West, by Robert M. Utley. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2018. 243 pp., \$29.95.

Distinguished historian Robert M. Utley has written some of the finest books on the Army in the West, including *Frontiersmen in Blue* and *Frontier Regulars*. In his latest work, *The Commanders*, he continues to burnish his reputation by examining the careers of seven officers who fought as generals during the Civil War and then remained on active duty, serving as department commanders in the West during the Gilded Age. The generals he examines are Christopher C. Augur, George Crook, Oliver O. Howard, Nelson A. Miles, Edward O. C. Ord, John Pope, and Alfred H. Terry.

The author devotes roughly half of each biography to early life and service during the Civil War and half to post-war service. Five of the seven generals graduated from the United States Military Academy between 1839 (Ord) and 1854 (Howard). Nelson Miles began his military career by raising a company of volunteers that became part of the 22d Massachusetts infantry regiment in 1861. Alfred Terry attended Yale Law School before being admitted to the bar and learning how to soldier by serving in a Connecticut militia unit, the New Haven Grays. Terry began his wartime service, however, as colonel of the 2d Connecticut infantry regiment.

Due to brevet promotions for wartime heroism and promotions to Volunteer Army ranks, it was often confusing on how to properly address postwar generals, especially as the Army was greatly reduced in strength, and some of the officers had to revert to much lower ranks. There was much scrambling to secure the limited higher ranks that were available in the Regular Army, and some of them carried favor with superior officers and politicians, or married into powerful families, as did Nelson Miles when he married General Sherman's niece. In 1866, brevet Maj. Gen. George Crook was appointed lieutenant colonel of the 23d U.S. Infantry, while brevet Maj. Gen. Christopher Augur became the colonel of the 12th U.S. Infantry. The seven men in this book were appointed as brigadier generals in the Regular Army between 1862 (Pope) and 1880 (Miles). All but Augur eventually retired with two stars or, in the case of the notoriously ambitious Nelson Miles, with three stars. In 1903, Lieutenant General Miles finally retired as the last Commanding General of the Army.

The generals commanded in a total of eight western departments, whose boundaries and headquarters changed a bit over time. General Terry only commanded the Department of Dakota, while everyone