

Books Reviewed



Unless otherwise specified, books reviewed in this column may be purchased through the Marine Corps Association Bookservice at the prices listed for MCA members and non-members. Subscribers to *Leatherneck* and the *Marine Corps Gazette* may order books at MCA members' prices. Please include \$2.00 for shipping, plus 75 cents for each additional book. Virginia residents add 4 1/2 percent sales tax. Prices subject to change. Make check or money order payable to: Marine Corps Association, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134.

RUGER & HIS GUNS. By R. L. Wilson. Published by Simon & Schuster. Hardcover with 368 pages, nearly 200 color photographs, more than 100 black & white photos. Includes appendices, indexes and serial-number tables for models by year of manufacture. \$65. Not available through the MCA Bookservice.

This book, written by one of the most well-known firearms historians and authors in the United States, chronicles the rise of William B. Ruger, Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc., and Ruger firearms.

Ruger began his business with \$50,000 and a 1,500-square-foot machine shop shortly after World War II.

Between the beginning and 1949, he took on Alex Sturm as a partner and developed his .22 standard pistol, which became the cornerstone for a long succession of sporting, military and law enforcement firearms that continue to grow.

That pistol, a semi-automatic offering that resembles the German Luger in appearance only, became a best-seller because its design made it inexpensive, trustworthy and durable.

Wilson fleshes out the success story of the .22 standard pistol and the dozens of later offerings in the Ruger line of rifles, pistols and shotguns. Along the way he visits the automobile that Ruger designed and built.

This is a success story that was not supposed to happen. According to the experts of the day, no upstart company could take on the big four—Winchester, Remington, Smith & Wesson and Colt—and survive. Wilson says no such company had been successful since the turn of the century.

Wilson takes obvious delight, not only in reporting the success of Ruger and his business, but that, at one time or another, Ruger passed up opportunities to acquire the big four.

This is a big book, laden with gor-

geous color photos, a wealth of tables of markings and lists of serial numbers/manufacture dates for the firearms that Ruger designed and manufactured over the years.

It's an important book for Ruger fans and invaluable for serious collectors.

In reading the book it becomes obvious that Larry Wilson, the author of 30 books and more than 200 articles on firearms, took this effort as a labor of love.

"Ruger & His Guns" can be ordered directly from the company by writing: Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc., 296 Lacey Pl., Southport, CT 06490. It is also available through your local Ruger gun dealer and bookstores everywhere.

Herb Richardson

ENDER'S GAME. By Orson Scott Card. Published by TOR® Press. 226 pages. Hardcover. Stock #93208. \$19.95 MCA Members. \$21.95 Non-members. 200-page soft-cover is also available. Stock #55070. \$6.29 MCA Members. \$6.99 Non-members.



This book, on the Commandant's Reading List, is the story of the development of a military genius in the guise of clever, brash, exhilarating and extremely enjoyable science fiction. Even if you do not like science fiction, you will love this book, and you will learn a lot in the process.

Alien "buggers" launched an unsuccessful attack on the earth and are coming back for another try. Outnumbered and underequipped, earth's leaders know the only hope of survival rests in finding a military genius who can outfight the buggers. They choose young Ender Wiggin, whose intense training comes in the form of space-age war games.

Ender thinks he is but one student

among many, but the administrators of the battle school have a particular curriculum in mind for the young soldier, who will be put to the severest test. The tactics Ender develops in his training are based on fluidity, adaptability, tempo, deception, ambiguity and a keen appreciation for the enemy. If this sounds remarkably similar to maneuver warfare, it is.

Released through DivPA
HQMC, Washington

SEA STORIES & FAIRY TALES. By Chuck Beveridge. Illustrated by Gene Packwood. Published by Grunt Publishing Inc. 239 pages with cartoons. Soft-cover. Stock #9654688. \$15.25 MCA members. \$16.95 Non-members.

Former *Leatherneck* artist Chuck Beveridge relates yarns of his Marine Corps experiences with masterful quick strokes.

Accompanying the 18 chapters of sea stories are cartoon sketches by Gene Packwood, also a former Marine, who served on *Leatherneck* magazine as an artist and later as the civilian art director.

Packwood, some will recall, wrote and illustrated two Marine-oriented cartoon books: "Leatherhead in Boot Camp" and "Leatherhead in Korea."

The talents and humor of Beveridge and Packwood blend uproariously to the benefit of the reader. There's a chuckle or laugh on every page...or at least a smirk.

Some names in the book were changed to protect the guilty.

Tom Bartlett

BREAKING RANKS. By Ed Ruggero. Published by Pocket Books Publishing. 447 pages. Stock #89172. \$6.30 MCA members. \$6.99 Non-members.

The Commandant's Reading List recommends several books for career enhancement. Ruggero's paperback is for enjoyment.

The hero is an Army major, Mark Isen. He's been around and was the main character in "38 North Yankee," "The Common Defense" and "Firefall," all written by Ed Ruggero. The author was



LEATHERNECK • MARCH 1997