

BOOKS



Capsule reviews of books of general professional interest. Any book listed may be purchased by MCA members via Gazette Book-service at reduced rates. Please use the order blank on Page 12.

ONCE A MARINE, The Memoirs of General A. A. Vandegrift, USMC. By Robert B. Asprey. (Norton, 330 pgs., \$6.95.)

Long awaited and well worth it. This exceptional Marine, whose career covered almost 40 years of adventure, tells his story with a quiet competence that only makes it more effective. If you're looking for buried skeletons or sensational disclosures, however, you'll be disappointed. If, instead, you're looking for the logic lying behind some of the decisions of great and lasting significance for the Corps, you'll be satisfied and fascinated.

His story begins in post-bellum Charlottesville, Va., moves to the School of Application at Paris (one "r") Island, then follows the young officer to Haiti, Mexico and Nicaragua. His approach is not one of retelling bandit-chasing tales. Instead, you discover the many "whys" behind the many Marine expeditions of that era. The early China years, too, rate a special treatment, with an insight seldom encountered in standard Marine fare. The pre-war days at Headquarters are almost unbelievable, particularly in this day of continuing crises, both real and imagined.

The story then moves to Guadalcanal. This portion—and the treatment of the General's Commandancy—occupy the major and by far most significant sections of the book.

The memoirs of a famous man are always interesting. They are even more so when they contain the little key which can open a whole series of enigmas. Example: Few Marines who fought at The 'Canal have ever had a kind word for Admiral Fletcher. What would the senior commander ashore have to say about the Admiral? You're right. No Marine has ever had a kind word—but he receives more gallant treatment than you might expect.

Some other topics and/or personalities covered:

- Richmond Kelly Turner and FTP-167.
- Holland Smith and "The Saipan Affair."
- Naval gunfire at Iwo.
- The battle plan ashore at Okinawa.
- Post-war planning and expansion.
- What to do with 50% of 82 unemployed generals.

- Keller Rockey and the North China agrarian reformers.
- Cates-Shepherd and the choosing of a Commandant.
- The whole post-war hassle with Congress, the Army, and the "Bended Knee" speech.

Inter-service rivalries infuriated the General. It made little difference to him whether the Army conducted amphibious operations in winning the war. The Marines had written the book; it was there for all to use. That some in the Army couldn't—or wouldn't—accept such an approach without suspecting some hidden Marine motive was, for the General, the ultimate in frustration. An eye-opening conversation with Chief of Staff Gen Eisenhower is recorded almost verbatim.

Robert Asprey has done an exceptional job. His writing is clear and concise, and as the story teller he is at his best.

This book is not only for old timers. It's for every man who wears the Marine green. A truly wonderful book.

COUNTERINSURGENCY WARFARE. By David Galula. (Praeger, \$4.50.)

This book is our special recommendation of the month. The author, certainly well qualified for the task, "defines the laws of counterinsurgency warfare, to deduce from them its principles, and to outline the corresponding strategy and tactics."

The book is very well written, well organized and short, only 143 pages. It contains some of the best thoughts on the development of tactics from a positive strategy and the actual operations required that we've read.

"Build (or rebuild) a political machine from the population upward" says Mr. Galula. We agree. He divides the country into three parts—red, pink, and white. He spells out the counterinsurgent's job in each part and answers the questions, "Where to start the campaign?" "When to use each type of weapon?" and "What part of the insurgency to concentrate on as the fight progresses?"

This book will make you think. Think about the South American oligarch who has spit on freedom for generations—how does he go about rebuilding by persuasion what he couldn't hold by force?

MAO AGAINST KHRUSHCHEV. By David Floyd. (Praeger, \$7.95.)

This book consists of two main parts—a history of Sino-Soviet relations, and a documentary chronology of events. The author postulates that the ideological conflict provides only the vocabulary for the struggle, the real causes lie in personal and national interests. For the great man theory of history this is good reading. It also has some fresh ideas on the problems this conflict poses for the West. Good reading on the current scene.

THE LONG ARM OF AMERICA. By Martin Caidin. (Dutton, \$5.95.)

The story of the KC-130F and the extension of America's tactical air arm. The USAF Composite Air Strike Force from Mobile Able to the present, with a good chapter on the Marines and trans-Pacs. A good, informative book by a qualified author. Photographs.

Books For You

THE SOUTH AND THE SOUTHERNER. By Ralph McGill. (Little, Brown and Company, \$5.00.)

MANAGING YOUR MONEY. By J. K. Lasser and Sylvia F. Porter (Holt, Rinehart & Winston, \$4.95; Paperback edition published by Doubleday, \$1.95.)

PERSONAL AND FAMILY FINANCE. By J. F. Bradley and R. H. Wherry. (HR&W, \$6.75.)

PERSONAL FINANCE. By E. Bryant Phillips and Sylvia Lane. (Wiley, \$7.95.)

THE CRAFT OF INTELLIGENCE. By Allen Dulles. (Harper & Row, \$4.95.)

THE CULTIVATED MIND. By Edward Hodnett. (Harper & Row, \$4.00.)

DAWN LIKE THUNDER: THE BARBARY WARS AND THE BIRTH OF THE U.S. NAVY. By Glenn Tucker. (The Bobbs-Merrill Co., Inc., \$6.95.)

THE GERMAN PHOENIX. By William Henry Chamberlain. (Duell, Sloan & Pearce, \$5.95.)