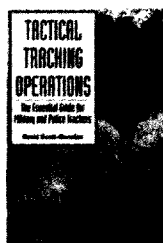


Books Reviewed



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 for shipping, plus 75 cents for each additional book. Virginia residents add 4½ percent sales tax. Prices subject to change. Make check or money order payable to: Marine Corps Association, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134.

TACTICAL TRACKING OPERATIONS. By David Scott-Donelan. Published by Paladin Press. 184 pages with glossary, photographs, drawings. Soft-cover. Stock #003-8. \$27 MCA Members. \$30 Non-members.



"Tactical Tracking Operations" covers the "A to Z" of tracking fugitives or other run-aways in the course of law enforcement, corrections or military operations in a range of terrain and circumstances appropriate to

the modern requirements of low-intensity conflict. Scott-Donelan deals with the tracking of those who are possibly armed and dangerous to pursuers and the community at large. As he points out, this is a throwback to other times and places where the same need was met through organization and the use of human senses rather than technology that might not be available or does not do the job as well.

The use of trackers and tracking in a range of circumstances is documented in 12 chapters of well-written and clearly explained material. Based on the understanding that training is no replacement for doing, the author starts with a history of tactical tracking and moves on into individual attributes and skills. From this background, the specific techniques of the art are identified as well as the part played by each member of a tracking team: controller, tracker and flank trackers. Once the basic and alternate methods of "running down" a fugitive are covered, advanced subjects are addressed to include countertracking, command and control, and training. This is a sophisticated approach that takes tracking from the realm of individual skill and makes it almost a science—even though experience might teach us otherwise.

The text is based on the author's first-hand research and experience on two continents. The narrative is full of anecdotal

examples that make it an interesting read. The handbook is illustrated with more than 60 photographs and diagrams. Included are sections on useful clothing, equipment and weapons. Tracking skills are as old as the Stone Age and as current as newspaper headlines. This volume details the tactics and techniques of human senses in the pursuit of others in a variety of terrain and circumstances. This manual is a timely reminder that technology does not always provide the best or only solution for the hunters and the hunted.

Charles D. Melson

GUARDIANS OF EMPIRE: The U.S. Army and the Pacific, 1902-1940. By Brian M. Linn. Published by University of North Carolina Press. 342 pages. Stock #2321. \$35.95 MCA Members. \$39.95 Non-members.



Army Lieutenant General William M. Steele wrote in a recent defense journal that "the American commitment to the Pacific over the last century can be divided into two major periods: Japanese expansionism and confrontation with the [former] Soviet Union. These two experiences challenged the Army to assume various roles—expeditionary, occupation, counterinsurgency, and deterrent—in a theater where vast ocean spaces and faraway land masses presented another passive but significant force, the tyranny of distance."

Brian Linn's book, "Guardians of Empire: The U.S. Army and the Pacific, 1902-1940," details how the U.S. Army (as well as the Navy and Marine Corps) gradually became responsible. The Army's commitment to Asian defense, as Linn brings out in his book, was not only a much debated affair, but created an Army much different in character and outlook than its continental cousin. How-

ever, this mission did not automatically fall to the Army, instead it required a long and painstaking process as well as a heated debate. The Joint Army and Navy Board eventually settled upon a formula that provided for the concentration of the U.S. fleet at Pearl Harbor while charging the Army with the defense of both Oahu and the Philippines.

The book contains 10 well-written and factual chapters that detail the arrival of the Army and the adjustments that the force had to make as it settled into what became a 40-year period of occupation duty prior to the outbreak of World War II on Dec. 7, 1941, with the Japanese Empire.

Brian Linn's book, well-researched and highlighted by excellent photographs, is a book that Marines will enjoy reading while learning something about the joint nature of our common defense in the Pacific.

Leo J. Daugherty III

THUNDER ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI: The River Battles That Split The Confederacy. By Jack D. Coombe. Published by Bantam Books. Paperback. 274 pages. Stock #37967. \$11.65 MCA Members. \$12.95 Non-members.

In "Thunder Along the Mississippi: The River Battles That Split The Confederacy," Jack Coombe concentrates his efforts on the campaign that played perhaps the most important part in defeating the Confederacy. Coombe effectively illustrates how unprepared the Federal forces were at the start of that conflict and how adept the Union flotillas eventually became in riverine warfare after 1½ years of trial and many errors. In fact, both Union and Confederate forces started from scratch, and in the end both sides were able to muster sufficient naval strength to attack and defend each other's vital logistical bases and troop concentrations from Cairo, Ill., to Vicksburg, Miss.



The book's central themes are the campaigns waged by the Union Army and Navy along the Mississippi River and the difficulties encountered by Union forces as they struggled to put together an effective combined offensive aimed at splitting the Confederacy in two. This strategy had been conceived in order to split the Confederacy in two and gradually squeeze her into submission. The Union generals assigned to this task included Brigadier (later Lieutenant Gen-