

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Gallipoli.** E. W. BUSH. London. George Allen & Unwin Ltd. 1975. P. 325. £7.25. Illustrated.

I greatly enjoyed the previous books of Captain Bush whose work I much admire. Without doubt the volume under review is the best thing which he has done and of the innumerable accounts of the Gallipoli Campaign I place his first.

How has he achieved this success? Firstly, he took part in the Gallipoli fighting so that he knows the setting intimately. Secondly, he did so as a young man of 15 when events and happenings made their greatest impact on the mind and memory. The result is that there is a vividness and freshness in his account which makes the intervening 60 years vanish.

Thirdly, the author is the master of a vivid narrative style so that the reader feels that he, too, is taking part in the events described, and I find myself on occasion ready to call out the troops to make one more effort to gain the hill and the day would be ours! Fourthly, the author thanks to his long service career and experience passes judgement on those involved with restraint and understanding, and authority.

Each reader, as is natural, will find points of special interest. To me one of the most interesting was the almost complete lack of communication between the assaulting forces and the G.O.C. (Sir Ian Hamilton) so that once his troops were put into the attack he had virtually no control over them.

The author comments on the lack of control from above in the Army as opposed to the Navy and implies that this was due to a different philosophy. I venture to suggest that this difference is accounted for more by difference in facilities for communication within the Army rather than by philosophical attitudes.

I especially welcomed the author's defence of Sir Ian Hamilton whose true stature has too long been obscured by his denigrators. What a splendid soldier is shewn—upright, brave and with a loyalty which neither lack of support nor stabs in the back could ever impair.

Not all emerge so well from the author's scrutiny and I leave readers to form their opinion on say Stopford, Murdoch and Ravenel. I know what mine is.

The author has been at immense pains to search out first-hand accounts by those who were at Gallipoli and had woven these into his story with skill and success so that more than ever does one think one is reading of events of only yesterday. Most of these accounts were quite new to me and I found that of the grief of one of a pair of horses to his fellow's death particularly moving. Thank God in these enlightened days of mechanical transport we do not see the scene of animal suffering in war as in the past.

Every Army reader will be grateful to the author for providing him with so clear and vivid an account of the exploits of our navy. I had heard of those of Holbrook and Nasmith but to my shame the others were all new to me.

One pleasant note is how well the Army and Navy worked together, but the lesson, even so, is that in an expedition like that to Gallipoli one overall Commander is essential.

The maps are absolutely first-class and add immensely to the value of the book as they are so clear and easy to consult. Excellent illustrations and productions add greatly to the pleasure which the book gives.

I could only spot two errors—Sir Ian Hamilton was born in 1859 and not 1869 as stated and Holbrook is not included in the index. Pace Captain Bush!

To sum up. This book can be unhesitatingly recommended. No Military Library should be without it. It is deserving of every success.

A. MacLENNAN

**The Field-Marshal's Memoirs.** J. MASTERS. London. Michael Joseph. 1975. P. 315. £3.50.

I have long been an admirer of this author's work—especially his earlier books such as "Night-runners of Bengal" "The Deceivers" etc. The reason for this is that the author apart from a natural aptitude for good narrative prose was dealing with a subject with which he was familiar—the Indian Army.

The present volume is not up to the usual standard because he is dealing with unfamiliar subjects. For example on Page 18 a 3-litre Bentley was not the winner at Le Mans but a 6½-litre. Also the run of 3-litre productions was 1922-1928 and on Page 43 "raised" may sound alright in American ears but surely "brought-up" is English?

From then on the plot is interesting but not gripping and I found it a definite effort to read, unlike the other books by the same author which I couldn't put down.

To sum up it is well written and well contrived book which I might have enjoyed had I not known the superb prose of which this author is capable—especially when dealing with a subject sympathetic to him.

A. MacLENNAN

**Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps.** J. PIGGOTT. London. Leo Cooper Ltd. 1975. P. 105. £4.50. Illustrated.

This book is published by Leo Cooper in the well known series of Famous Regiments.

It is excellently written and the reader will spend a pleasurable time in following the development of Army Nursing over the years.

Like all books in this series it is without an index which greatly detracts from its value.

Despite this handicap it can be warmly recommended.

A. MacLENNAN

**Trauma Management.** E. F. CAVE, J. F. BURKE and R. J. BOYD. London. Lloyd-Luke (Medical Books) Ltd. 1974. Pp. xviii + 1198. £42.75. Illustrated.

This is a major work of great importance which attempts to cover the entire field of trauma surgery in one volume and which succeeds in doing so remarkably well. The editors have combined the efforts of no fewer than 56 other contributors in 54 chapters and more than 1000 text pages into a commendably cohesive whole. The authors were selected from the past and present staff of the Massachusetts General Hospital and the book largely sets forth the principles and practices favoured by that famous clinic.

In a volume of this size and scope it is of course possible for surgeons to find many points which do not closely accord with their own views but in fact those who follow the advice given in this book will rarely fall into serious error, and will undoubtedly find a great deal of very helpful material within its pages.

The text is set out clearly and the double column page format is an aid to easy reading. The illustrations are profuse and clear and abundant use is made of well produced X-rays as well as line and shade drawings. At the conclusion of each chapter there is an extensive bibliography which refers mainly, although not exclusively, to American work.

This is a very large and expensive book which most military surgeons would be delighted to possess. Those in charge of hospital library funds should not be unduly deterred by the price for there can be no doubt that this book would be well used and pay its way many times over.

W. C. MOFFAT

**Surgery of Violence.** Articles Published in the British Medical Journal. London. British Medical Journal. 1975. P. 47. £1.00.

This small inexpensive paperback brings together under one cover seven short articles which appeared in the British Medical Journal under the same title in 1975. They were written by members of the staff of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast and draw largely on their experiences of casualties from bomb and missile injury arising from the current "troubles" in Northern Ireland. It is an important booklet which records the views and impressions of a number of eminent men each dealing with matters in his own specialist field and relevant in particular to the type of urban guerilla warfare which we all hope will not become more familiar to us in the future but for which it is wise for us to prepare.

Army surgeons would not perhaps entirely agree with some of the views expressed but it is a valuable little book on a very topical subject and we would all do well to read it.

W. C. MOFFAT

**A Concise Surgery of the Acute Abdomen.** J. A. SHEPHERD. Edinburgh. Churchill Livingstone. 1975. Pp. v + 203. £5.50.

The author has written this book primarily for the surgeon in training, who deals with a large proportion of emergency surgical work that is done in hospitals.

He succeeds in his aim and has produced a book which can be recommended without reservation to all surgeons who deal with the acute abdomen. It must be compulsory reading for all surgical trainees who will find much to help them assess and treat their patients.

The layout is simple to follow and is on an anatomical basis. The first chapter on Principles and Methods of diagnosis is masterly and is typical of the style which reflects the personal experience of the author. There are short lists of up-to-date, well chosen references at the end of each chapter.

All in all this soft covered book can be thoroughly recommended.

M. S. OWEN-SMITH