

Welcome to this week's newsletter. Lots of books from the UK in this issue, and the DVDs that are being released this month.

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## **Books**

### **Ancients and Dark Ages**

#### **The Assyrians and the Babylonians**

By Alfredo Rizza

\$64.95

Publisher – White Star, 208 pages, ISBN 9788854402683, hardback

This book takes the readers on a fascinating pictorial journey into the ancient Assyrian and Babylonian civilisations. This meticulously researched and handsomely illustrated volume explores the chronology, historic events, key public figures, and cultural legacy of the Assyro-Babylonian civilisation. Tracing the roots of this ancient society to 3000-2001 BC, historian Alfredo Rizza reveals the impact of various earlier civilisations on the development of Mesopotamia in the second and first millennium BC.

#### **Tutankhamun's Egypt**

By Frances Welsh

\$26.95

Publisher – Shire, 80 pages, ISBN 9780747806653, paperback

The discovery in 1922 of Tutankhamun's tomb captured the imagination of the public. An Egyptian pharaoh surrounded by his golden funerary equipment and luxurious palace furnishings had remained hidden from sight for three thousand years, and the beauty of his gold mask and coffins and other treasures was unsurpassed. This book interprets the objects in Tutankhamun's tomb, the paintings on its walls and its location, to reveal its full significance.

### **Medieval and Renaissance**

#### **Arrowstorm: The Archer in the Hundred Years War**

By Richard Wadge

\$49.95

Publisher – Spellmount, 256 pages, ISBN 9781862273887, hardback

This book chronicles the overwhelming importance of the military archer in the major battles of the late medieval period. The longbow played a central role in the English victory at the battles of Crecy and Agincourt, and dominated the less well-known Battle of the Herrings in 1429. Used with complete disregard for the chivalric code that governed war in the Middle Ages, the English longbow completely undermined the supremacy of heavy cavalry on the battlefield, demanding a wholesale reassessment of the tactics that had gone before.

#### **Europe's Dawn: Constance, 1415, and the Battle for Christendom**

By Frank Welsh

\$49.95

Publisher – Constable, 320 pages, ISBN 9781845295219, hardback

At the dawn of the fifteenth century, Islam invaded Europe from the East and it seemed that Christendom itself was under threat. In an attempt to save Christian world the Emperor Sigismund called the many nations of Europe together for a conference at Constance, beside the Rhine. Schism had ravaged the Catholic Church and three Popes claimed the seat of St Peters. Over the next months debate raged while Sigismund attempted to find a solution. The event would be one of the major turning points in European history - the last event of the medieval world, heralding the dawn of the renaissance.

### **The Mongol Art of War**

By Timothy May

\$59.95

Publisher – Pen & Sword, 224 pages, ISBN 9781844154760, hardback

Presents a study of organisation of war under Genghis Khan. The author demonstrates that the Mongol military was a disciplined and complex military organisation. He describes the make-up of the Mongol army from its inception to the demise. He looks at the strength, quality and versatility of Mongol military organisation.

## **17th-19th Century**

### **Indian Mutiny & Beyond**

By Robert Shebbeare VC

\$59.95

Publisher – Pen & Sword, 224 pages, ISBN 9781844155743, hardback

Robert Shebbeare went out as a cadet to India at the age of seventeen and after a spell of ordinary regimental duties, he was caught up in the extraordinary and bloody events of the Indian Mutiny. With fellow officers he managed to escape to Delhi, where he was attached to the Guides, and he took part in most of the action during the long hot summer of 1857. He was wounded six times and was awarded the Victoria Cross for his gallantry during the storming of the city on September 14th. He raised a new regiment, the 15th Punjab, which volunteered for service in China and took part in the advance on Peking in 1860.

## **Napoleonic**

### **Napoleonic Uniforms Volumes I & II**

By Col John R. Elting

\$450.00

Publisher – Greenhill, 424 pages, ISBN 9781853677373, hardback

No other period in history has produced such magnificent uniforms as those worn by the soldiers involved in the Napoleonic Wars. *Napoleonic Uniforms* is the only reference work of its kind to depict accurately the entire Grande Armée in detail. It portrays the French armies as seen by their contemporaries, and combines authoritative text with lavish illustrations. This superb two-volume set depicts in magnificent colour the uniforms of the Royal Army, Emigrant Troops, Revolutionary Armies, and the Army of Egypt. The new edition will be presented in a cloth bound slipcase and contains 916 colour plates.

### **Napoleon's Immortals: The Imperial Guard and its Battles 1805-15**

By Andrew Uffindell

\$64.95

Publisher – Spellmount, 416 pages, ISBN 9781862273764, hardback

Elite fighting forces have an extraordinary hold on popular imagination; this ground-breaking new book is the story of one of the most famous military elites of all time. It explores the life and battles of Napoleon's Imperial Guard and destroys the many myths that have surrounded it. In doing so, it throws new light on Napoleon himself and contributes to the ongoing debate about the value of elite military units.

### **Wellington Against Massena: The Third Invasion of Portugal 1810-11**

By David Buttery

\$59.95

Publisher – Pen & Sword, 224 pages, ISBN 9781844155545, hardback

Wellington's clash with Massena was one of the most remarkable contests between two commanders in the Peninsular War. These two formidable generals carried on a campaign of manoeuvre, battle and attrition across Spain and Portugal in 1810 and 1811 which had a decisive impact on the outcome of the war. Wellington's reputation was enhanced, Massena's was ruined.

## **World War I**

### **Passchendaele: The Sacrificial Ground**

By Nigel Steel & Peter Hart

\$24.95

Publisher – Cassell, 351 pages, ISBN 9780304359752, paperback

In the autumn of 1917, after years of stalemate at Ypres, the British and French armies launched a massive offensive to take Passchendaele Ridge. Following an intensive bombardment the Allies began their attack, but the low ground between the lines had been churned into a quagmire, and the attack was literally bogged down. All surprise had been lost, and the German defence in depth was well organised. For the first time, the Germans used mustard gas, while German planes flew low to strafe the British infantry with machine guns. After two-and-a-half months, the British finally took the ridge they had been aiming for, but at the cost of over 300 000 Allied lives. This is a reissue of the 2002 edition with a new cover.

### **The German Army at Passchendaele**

By Jack Sheldon

\$79.95

Publisher – Pen & Sword, 352 pages, ISBN 9781844155644, hardback

Reeling from the huge losses in earlier battles, the German army was in no shape to absorb the impact of the Battle of Messines and the subsequent bitter attritional struggle. Throughout the fighting on the Somme, the German army had always felt that it had the ability to counter Allied thrusts, but following the shock reverses of April and May 1917, much heart searching had led to the urgent introduction of new tactics of flexible defence. When these in turn were found to be wanting, the psychological damage shook the German defenders badly. But, as this book demonstrates, at trench level the individual soldier of the German Army was still capable of fighting extraordinarily hard, despite being outnumbered, out-gunned and subjected to relentless, morale-sapping shelling and gas attacks.

### **Crisis on the Frontier: The Third Afghan War and the Campaign in Waziristan 1919-20**

By Brian Robson

\$39.95

Publisher – Spellmount, 320 pages, ISBN 9781862274037, paperback

The Third Afghan War has some claim to be the least-known of all British imperial conflicts - even among military historians. But this was no mere border skirmish: although the fighting lasted barely a month and British casualties were slight in comparison to those suffered in the First World War, the conflict spanned the whole North-West Frontier of India and was important enough to involve the mobilisation of 350,000 British soldiers.

## **World War II**

### **Kristallnacht: Prelude to Destruction**

By Martin Gilbert

\$24.95

Publisher – Harper Perennial, 336 pages, ISBN 9780007196043, paperback

Martin Gilbert seamlessly combines a moving account of the suffering of the victims of the Nazi regime with a sophisticated analysis of the gradual process which made the horrors of the Third Reich possible. Broadening his canvas, Gilbert also powerfully depicts how the rest of the world failed Europe's increasingly desperate Jewish population: in the aftermath to Kristallnacht almost every country was asked to help; most would not do so, despite the transport of a staggering 10,000 German Jewish children to Britain. This international indifference had direct implications for future German policy, while the events of Kristallnacht went on to radically influence the attitudes of governments – and people – outside Germany towards Nazism.

### **White Death**

By Robert Edwards

\$26.95

Publisher – Phoenix, 319 pages, ISBN 9780753822470, paperback

The Russian invasion of Finland in November 1939 was a critical turning point in world history. Only now, with the opening of the Russian archives, can this extraordinary story be told in full. Two months after his cynical alliance with Hitler and their joint invasion of Poland, Stalin ordered the Red army to crush the Finns. Everybody expected a walk-over: the odds were ten-to-one in Stalin's favour. But the Finns fought bravely and the Red Army - its high command decimated by Stalin's purges - stumbled from defeat to defeat. Tens of thousands of Russian soldiers died in the snow.

### **Battle of the Baltic: The Sea War 1939-45**

By Robert Jackson

\$59.95

Publisher – Pen & Sword, 224 pages, ISBN 9781844154227, hardback

During WW2 hostilities in the Baltic Sea commenced on 1 September 1939 when the German battleship Schleswig-Holstein opened fire on the Polish fortress of Westerplatte and ended on 9 May 1945 with the final evacuation of German refugees from the Hela peninsula. In the intervening years, battles raged back and forth between the confines of this cold cruel sea. The Soviets attacked the Finnish island of Russaro on 30 November 1939 with an air and naval bombardment. The Russian naval blockade of Finland began and their submarines attacked merchant vessels in the Gulf of Bothnia and their ships engaged shore batteries and coastal towns. The German fleet then turned on their former allies and attacked the Soviet Union, each side's submarines stalked the others and the Russians encountered disaster in a minefield. Finally the Russians retreated under heavy sea and air attack. The siege of Leningrad began in September 1941 and was not broken until 1943. In 1944 the Russian's reached Riga, leaving pockets of stranded German troops on the Courland Peninsula. Then the Russian navy broke out - the race for East Prussia was on, sparking the biggest seaborne evacuation in history.

### **At Leningrad's Gates: The Combat Memoirs of a Soldier with Army Group North**

By William Lubbeck & David B. Hurt

\$64.95

Publisher – Pen & Sword, 264 pages, ISBN 9781844156177, hardback

This is the remarkable story of a German soldier who fought throughout World War II, rising from conscript private to captain of a heavy weapons company on the Eastern Front. William Lubbeck, was drafted into the Wehrmacht in 1939. As a member of the 58th Infantry Division, he received his baptism of fire during the 1940 invasion of France.

The following spring his division served in Operation Barbarossa. In September 1943, Lubbeck earned the Iron Cross First Class and was assigned to officers' training school in Dresden. By the time he returned to Russia, Army Group North was in full-scale retreat. He recounts how the ship arrived in the British zone off Denmark with all guns blazing against pursuing Russians. The following morning, May 8, 1945, he learned that the war was over.

**Stalingrad: How the Red Army Triumphed**

By Michael K. Jones

\$74.95

Publisher – Pen & Sword, 224 pages, ISBN 9781844155439, hardback

Michael K. Jones' new history of Stalingrad offers a radical reinterpretation of the most famous battle of the WW2. Combining eyewitness testimony of Red Army fighters with fresh archive material the book gives a dramatic insight into the thinking of the Russian command and the mood of the ordinary soldiers. He focuses on the story of the Russian 62nd Army, which began the campaign in utter demoralisation, yet turned the tables on the powerful German 6th Army. He explains the Red Army's extraordinary performance using battle psychology, emphasising the vital role of leadership, morale and motivation in a triumph that turned the course of the war.

**Images of War: German Guns of the Third Reich**

By Ian Baxter

\$44.95

Publisher – Pen & Sword, 160 pages, ISBN 9781844155675, paperback

This book presents an illustrated record of German light and heavy artillery, heavy mortars, anti-tank and anti-aircraft guns at war. Using previously unpublished photographs, many of which have come from the albums of individuals who took part in the war, it presents a unique visual account of the various German guns that were deployed for action between 1939 and 1945.

**Hitler's Great Panzer Heist: Germany's Foreign Armour in Action 1939-45**

By Anthony Tucker-Jones

\$59.95

Publisher – Pen & Sword, 224 pages, ISBN 9781844155484, hardback

The prowess of the German panzers is the stuff of legend, but it is not generally known that Hitler stole over 10,000 British, Czech, French, Italian, Polish and Soviet tanks and other armoured fighting vehicles to feed his war machine. He also gained another 6,000 through various alliances. At the height of his extraordinary military success over 25 per cent of the German tank fleet was of foreign origin.

**Heroes: The Greatest Generation and the Second World War**

By James Holland

\$24.95

Publisher – HarperCollins, 400 pages, ISBN 9780007213818, paperback

In an age in which achieving individual happiness is paramount, these extremely private and touching accounts give personal insight into a time when the men (and women) of an extraordinary generation were willing to risk their lives for their country. Each story is unique – ranging from heart-rending to hilarious – yet each one emphasises the individuality of the story-teller, the tragedy of war and the preciousness of youth.

**Arctic Convoys 1941-45**

By Richard Woodman

\$39.95

Publisher – Pen & Sword, 560 pages, ISBN 9781844156115, paperback

During the last four years of the Second World War, the Western Allies secured Russian defences against Germany by supplying vital food and arms. The plight of those in Murmansk and Archangel who benefited is now well known, but few are aware of the courage, determination and sacrifice of Allied merchant ships, which withstood unremitting U-boat attacks and aerial bombardment to maintain the lifeline to Russia. In the storms, fog and numbing cold of the Arctic, where the sinking of a 10,000 ton freighter was equal to a land battle in terms of destruction, the losses sustained were huge.

**B-17: Combat Missions**

By Martin Bowman

\$59.95

Publisher – Greenhill, 160 pages, ISBN 9781853677540, hardback

The B-17 Flying Fortress is, along with the British Avro-Lancaster, the most famed heavy bomber of World War II. More than 12,000 B-17s were built and the planes were the mainstay of the Eighth Air Force's campaign of daylight precision-bombing raids on targets in Germany and the occupied territories. The book describes in detail the technical role of each crew-member, and follows this up with extensive first-hand reports, many drawn from previously unpublished oral histories, showing what it was like to be, for example, a ball-turret gunner or a co-pilot. Equipment is described in detail, as is what it was like to use it. Throughout the book, the text is accompanied by newly commissioned and archive photos.

### **Spitfire Dive Bombers vs the V2**

By Bill Simpson

\$59.95

Publisher – Pen & Sword, 256 pages, ISBN 9781844155715, hardback

On 8 September 1944, the first of over 1,000 V2 missiles aimed at southern England exploded in west London. It had been launched from a wooded street corner in Den Haag in the Netherlands. Fighter Command was responsible for defending Britain from air attack and thus Air Marshal Roderic Hill countered the threat by using six squadrons of Spitfires from 12 Group bases in Norfolk to discover and then dive-bomb the mobile V2 launch sites scattered throughout the Dutch towns and countryside. This was no easy task as the missiles were well camouflaged and often positioned adjacent to dwellings occupied by civilians. The RAF was under orders to cause minimum damage to Dutch property and life, therefore precision bombing became a necessity. This is a full account of the campaign including discussions of the strategy and tactics employed and the equipment used and it also considers the effect upon Dutch civilians.

### **Luftwaffe Efficiency & Promotion Reports for the Knight's Cross Winners Vol 1**

By French L. MacLean

\$134.95

Publisher – Schiffer, 256 pages, ISBN 9780764326578, hardback

In World War I German and British bombers sometimes faced a few dozen light machine-guns defending the target. In World War II Luftwaffe Stuka dive-bombers braved the combined fire of over 1,000 anti-aircraft guns to sink several capital ships at Kronstadt in the Gulf of Finland. In World War I hundreds of thousands of German troops fought months to gain ground measured in yards. During World War II, eighty-five Fallschirmjäger captured one of the world's strongest fortifications at Fort Eben Emael, Belgium - manned by 1,200 defenders - in only eighteen hours in May 1940. As a result of these and many other deeds of valour, some 1,785 Luftwaffe officers and enlisted men won the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross - World War II Germany's highest decoration for bravery. This is their story through the eyes of the commanders of 113 of these men, as recorded in their official efficiency reports contained here.

### **Luftwaffe Efficiency & Promotion Reports for the Knight's Cross Winners Vol 2**

By French L. MacLean

\$134.95

Publisher – Schiffer, 256 pages, ISBN 9780764326585, hardback

Volume 1 contains 53 Knight's Cross winners, volume 2 the remaining 60.

### **Canaris: The Life and Death of Hitler's Spymaster**

By Michael Mueller

\$84.95

Publisher – Naval Institute Press, 320 pages, ISBN 9781591141013, hardback

Admiral Wilhelm Canaris was the head of the Abwehr—Hitler's intelligence service—from 1935 to 1944. Initially a supporter of Hitler, Canaris came to vigorously oppose his policies and practices and worked secretly throughout the war to overthrow the regime. Near the end of the war, secret documents were discovered that implicated Canaris and hinted at the extent of the activities conducted by Canaris's Abwehr against the Hitler regime, and in 1945 Canaris was executed as a national traitor. But Canaris left little in the way of personal documents, and to this day he remains a figure shrouded in mystery.

## **Post World War II**

### **Honour Bound: American Prisoners of War in South-East Asia 1961-73**

By Stuart I. Rochester & Frederick Kiley

\$104.95

Publisher – Naval Institute Press, 728 pages, ISBN 9781557506948, hardback

Among the many horrors of the Vietnam War, some of the most brutal and, until now, least documented were the experiences of the American prisoners of war, many of whom endured the longest wartime captivity of any POWs in U.S. history. With this book, two of the most respected scholars in the field offer a comprehensive, balanced, and authoritative account of what happened to the nearly eight hundred Americans captured in Southeast Asia. The authors were granted unprecedented access to previously unreleased materials and interviewed over a hundred former POWs, enabling them to meticulously reconstruct the captivity record as well as produce an evocative narrative of a once sketchy and misunderstood, yet key chapter of the war.

## DVDs

### **Air Combat Volume 1**

Rated E, 627 mins, 4 disc set

\$39.95

This covers the history of military aviation from World War I to the present day, focusing on famous aerial engagements, heroic pilots and a dramatic array of aircraft from Harrier Jump Jets to B-52 bombers. *Air Combat* makes history come alive through the feats of the men whose heroics in the air changed the shape of war, and whose courage lives in legend. Originally shown on the History Channel.

### **Heroes of World War II Box Set**

Rated E, 463 mins, 5 disc set, The War Collection

\$59.95

During the darkest days of World War II when war lords unleashed their hordes upon the free world, a handful of warriors stepped forward to lead their countrymen on the last great crusade and, in victory, became legends. This set contains the following episodes – General Eisenhower, George S. Patton, Omar Bradley, Douglas MacArthur, Henry 'Hap' Arnold, James Doolittle, Chester W. Nimitz, George C. Marshall, Joseph Stilwell, Bernard Montgomery, Georgi Zhukov, Sir Arthur Harris, Medals of Honour, Medal of Honour Winners, and Nuremberg. Also contains several bonus features.

There is another selection of DVDs that have been released in both the War Collection series and the War File series. These are the latest titles:

<b>Vietnam: Combat Hell 1965-1969</b>	\$19.95
<b>The Memphis Belle</b>	\$19.95
<b>The Battle of Britain</b>	\$19.95
<b>The A-Z of British Military Aviation</b>	\$19.95
<b>War in the Pacific</b>	\$19.95
<b>Submarine Warfare</b>	\$19.95
<b>The Somme 1916</b>	\$19.95
<b>Mons: The First Major Battle of WWI</b>	\$19.95
<b>Arnhem: Operation Market Garden</b>	\$19.95
<b>Michael Wittman: Tiger Ace</b>	\$19.95
<b>Barbarossa</b>	\$19.95
<b>Culloden 1746: The Last Highland Charge</b>	\$19.95
<b>Balaclava 1854: The Charge of the Light Brigade</b>	\$19.95
<b>The Crusades: Knights of Christ</b>	\$19.95
<b>Carrier Warfare</b>	\$19.95
<b>Atlantic Convoys</b>	\$19.95
<b>Infantry Firepower</b>	\$19.95
<b>Kriegsmarine</b>	\$19.95
<b>Rorke's Drift 1879: Against All Odds</b>	\$19.95
<b>Wars of the Roses: Blood, Treachery and Cold Steel</b>	\$19.95
<b>Agincourt 1415: The Triumph of the Longbow</b>	\$19.95
<b>William Wallace: The True Story</b>	\$19.95
<b>The War Against the U-Boats</b>	\$19.95
<b>North Atlantic Battles</b>	\$19.95
<b>Propaganda: The War of the Mind</b>	\$19.95
<b>Doodlebugs: Hitler's Terror Weapons</b>	\$19.95

### **Sea Patrol Series 1**

Rated M, 563 mins, 2007, 4 disc set

\$49.95

This is all 13 episodes of this very popular Australian drama that has just finished screening on Channel 9, highlighting the job that the Navy does in defending our coastline. Stars Lisa McCune and Ian Stenlake.

### **Flyboys**

Rated M, 138 mins, 2006

\$27.95

The Great War, 1917. A handful of brave young Americans volunteered to fight alongside their French counterparts against the might of Germany. They were ordinary boys with one thing in common: they wanted to learn how to fly. These young men formed the fighter squadron known as the Lafayette Escadrille. The Escadrille pilots became legendary. *Flyboys* is inspired by their story. Stars James Franco, Jean Reno & Martin Henderson.

### **Dr Who – Time Warrior**

Rated PG, 137 mins

\$29.95

This is the story that introduced one of the most famous and popular of all the Doctor's companions – Sarah Jane. A Sontaran officer named Linx is forced to crash land his spaceship near a robber baron in the Middle Ages. Requiring help to repair the spaceship, he ventures forward in time to the 20th century and kidnaps scientists. This attracts the

attention of UNIT and the Doctor, who follows the trail back through time, unknowingly taking a young stowaway with him. Stars Jon Pertwee and Elisabeth Sladen.

**Dr Who Series 3 Vol 4**

Rated PG, 136 mins

\$29.95

The Doctor's adventures continue with the release of the fourth volume of the third series. Starring David Tennant as the Tenth Doctor and Freema Agyeman as Martha Jones, Series 3 Volume 4 includes the next three episodes of the new series – Human Nature, The Family of Blood, and Blink.

**Lexx Season 3**

Rated MA, 622 mins, 5 disc set

\$39.95

The third season of what is undoubtedly one of the most unusual science-fiction TV shows. This Canadian-German co-production is known for its quirky, sexually charged adult storylines, and its decidedly offbeat sense of humour. This set contains all 13 episodes of season 3.

**Andromeda Season 2**

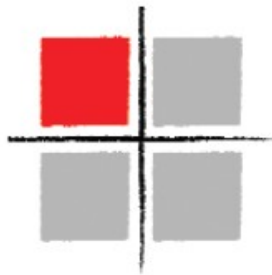
Rated M, 913 mins, 6 disc set

\$59.95

This remastered (and much cheaper) box set contains all 22 episodes of season 2 of Gene Roddenberry's follow-up to Star Trek, and all new extras that weren't included in the original box set.

Well, that's it for this newsletter, good reading and look forward to another small newsletter next week.

Tony



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