

book. This may include gathering some information on Union and Confederate commanders, and filling any knowledge gaps about the distinction between ships clad in iron, tin, and wood. Another option is reading some of Smith's other books to gain that background knowledge.

The sources, both primary and secondary, for *After Vicksburg* are extensive. The use of secondary sources written by other Civil War scholars provides a well-rounded history of the naval battles in the larger Civil War. There are also informative histories of contemporary maritime travel on rivers within the United States. Primary sources incorporate United States Naval reports, Congressional reports, papers of the Confederate States of America, papers and memoirs of Union commanders, and the papers of Andrew Johnson. Additionally, Smith refers to a multitude of newspapers spanning the warring nation.

Though some readers may get bogged down with the details, this should not deter them from reading *After Vicksburg*. It is well worth some advance research to appreciate the conflict of the Western waters. Smith gives these Civil War battles the treatment they deserve.

Tracie Grube-Gaurkee  
Fort Worth, Texas

**Harry Spiller, ed. *Navy Corpsmen in the Vietnam War: 17 Personal Accounts*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland Publishing, [www.mcfarlandbooks.com](http://www.mcfarlandbooks.com), 2021. 215 pp., illustrations, appendices, index. US \$22.00, paper; ISBN 978-1-4766-8569-4. (E-book available.)**

This work is a compendium of 17 accounts, 16 firsthand and one posthumous, of United States Navy Corpsmen and their experiences serving with Marine and Mobile Riverine Force units during the Vietnam War. Harry Spiller, himself a Marine Corps veteran who served two tours in Vietnam, was motivated by his wartime experiences to document these crucial, but often overlooked, servicemen who risked their own lives to save as many of the injured as possible. Period photographs, modern images, and award citations are included to introduce the men and to help us understand some of their key experiences. The accounts largely stand by themselves, with appendices of casualties and the Corpsman's Prayer at the end, serving as a conclusion.

Following a brief introduction that covers the history of naval corpsmen, their participation in twentieth-century wars, and a synopsis of the men whose accounts are recorded, the work jumps right into the first story. All of the entries follow the same format, with each chapter titled with the corpsman's name and rank, followed by a bolded information block detailing the man's

unit, duty station in Vietnam, tour of duty time frame, and awards received for service. The accounts range from five to twenty-eight pages in length, with the majority being ten pages or less. Veterans often begin with background information on where they grew up, their family, and how they became a US Navy corpsman. Several of the men had met during their medical training, were stationed together in Vietnam, or in the case of Leon and Loren Brown, were actually brothers serving together, allowing for some intersectionality between accounts. The Brown brothers are especially interesting given their efforts to serve together overseas despite longstanding efforts to keep siblings separated, with each offering their own perspective on shared experiences. The longest entry, written by Dennis Kauffman, is almost jarring in the difference between his experiences aboard a mothership of the Mobile Riverine Force and those of corpsmen serving in the field with the Marines. Each man's memories reflect his service, sometimes humorous, sometimes somber. These include patrols, the Tet Offensive (1969), MEDCAP visits to civilian villages, and Vietnamization, all seen from the perspective of men who would instantly drop everything and rush headlong into a firefight when they heard the call "Corpsman up." Many address friends and comrades who were lost in the field, and how the long-term effects of both Agent Orange exposure and PTSD have affected their lives. The latter is starkly addressed with the final account of Theodore Schindeler, who lost his internal battle with PTSD in 1998.

The book would be improved by including either a general map of Vietnam, or more specific maps depicting where each of the seventeen corpsmen were stationed. This would help readers unfamiliar with Vietnam's geography and the more informal nicknames for some locations. Similarly, some explanatory footnotes or endnotes might be equally beneficial to provide context for bases such as The Rockpile in Quang Tri. The appendix listing the casualties incurred by Lima Company during the battle of Cam Vu could also use an explanatory statement relating it to the accounts of John Wurth and Daniel Milz, as this is the only engagement to receive any post-script information. Finally, it would be appreciated if the originally coloured images were used in the main text instead of the current greyscale. The presence of four coloured images on the cover and the use of several modern images indicates that coloured photographs are likely available and would enhance the book. For example, better image resolution would improve the pixelated image of a Facebook post showing HM3 Schindeler (178), and enhance the overall value of such a unique compilation.

*Navy Corpsmen in the Vietnam War* is an excellent collection of first-hand accounts, each offering its own perspective on the vital role of front-line medical personnel serving overseas during the war. Their unique narratives, often linked through friendships, basic training, and even familial bonds offer a

ground level view of how men became involved in the Navy's medical service, their personal experiences overseas, and how it affected their lives after the war. The inclusion of a fallen corpsman's story and a listing of all those corpsmen lost in the conflict reminds us that not everyone made it back, and many were willing to sacrifice themselves while saving others. For individuals interested in the Navy and Marines during the Vietnam War, researchers seeking primary source accounts, or those studying military medical personnel, this work is a solid resource.

Charles Ross Patterson II  
Yorktown, Virginia

**Mark Stille. *Super-Battleships of World War II: Montana-class, Lion-class, H-class, A-150 and Sovetsky Soyuz-class*. Oxford, UK: Osprey Publishing, [www.ospreypublishing.com](http://www.ospreypublishing.com), 2022. 48 pp., illustrations, bibliography, index. UK £11.99, US \$19.00, CDN \$25.00, paper; ISBN 978-1-47284-672-3.**

This work is number 314 in Osprey Publishing's New Vanguard Series and author Mark Stille's fifty-fifth contribution to the Osprey catalogue. Shifting slightly away from his usual analyses, Stille uses this text to examine the largely theoretical "super-battleship" designs of the major powers involved in the Second World War, covering the partially built Sovetsky Soyuz class of the Soviet Union, the schematics produced by the Americans, British, and Germans for their proposed ships, and the largely undocumented theoretical work of the Japanese. Period photographs are provided, often of models, blueprints, or of the active warships these designs were meant to replace. New contemporary illustrations are also present to show the theoretical configurations of completed vessels. When information is unavailable due to loss of records or the abandonment of a design at an early stage, Stille offers his best estimates of technical information using the production histories and materials available to the country of origin. A "what-if" combat scenario of super-battleships in the Pacific is part of the conclusion, followed by a short Further Reading list and index.

The first five pages introduce both the subject and the basics of early-to mid-twentieth century battleship design. The former consists of a short summation of each nation's proposed designs, while the latter addresses the three key elements of protection, firepower, and speed. The armor employed on vessels receives the most attention, due to the varied application styles and types used by the different countries. Armament receives a similar level of coverage, including a comparative table and some information on fire control