

trouge opportunity for Halifax's Members of Parliament.

Not surprisingly, then, Cahill gives top research priority to the high-level documentation pertaining to the policies adopted to pull Halifax back from the dangerous brink of disaster. As a result, his exploration of the long-term recovery overseen by the HRC is an interesting companion piece to David Sutherland's "*We Harbor No Evil Design*": *Rehabilitation Efforts after the Halifax Explosion of 1917* (Toronto: The Champlain Society, 2017), a lower-level examination of the interaction between HRC staff and a sampling of representative categories of rehabilitated and pensioned survivors.

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Richard Camp. *Three War Marine Hero: General Raymond G. Davis*. Oxford, UK: Casemate Publishers, www.casematepublishers.com, 2020. viii+231 pp., illustrations, bibliography, notes, index. UK £27.50, US \$34.95, cloth; ISBN-978-1-61200-939-1.

In *Three War Marine Hero*, Richard Camp examines the life and career of General Raymond G. Davis, with particular emphasis on the general's role in the Second World War, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Briefly mentioned are the family-related events that occurred between the wars.

Beginning with the Davis' enlistment in the United States Marine Corps, the author follows his career from Guadalcanal and the Pacific campaign, through Korea and Vietnam. While the broad nature of the work does not allow for a detailed exploration of every battle and fire-fight, by choosing specific events from all three wars, Camp gives the reader a glimpse into the unique chal-

lenges of each conflict and the changing roles of an officer as Davis advances in rank. Though useful, a knowledge of the conflicts and battles discussed is not essential to understanding or enjoying this particular book. Students of military history will find this book interesting because of the different perspective that it provides. Unlike personal memoirs by a soldier who is on the ground doing the shooting, but with little idea of the bigger picture, this book approaches the situations discussed from a different perspective. Being an officer, Davis is required to both execute the orders given to him, and make sure that those under him follow his orders. As a result, he has a better grasp of what is going on around him. Nevertheless, like the soldier on the line, he still has to deal with the fact that he does not know everything. Camp's examination of this issue allows the reader to reflect on how the lack of information affects those soldiers giving the orders, as well as those following them.

A recurring theme throughout the book is the fact that military commanders have little control over what's going on around them. Whether it involves mobilizing to go to war, or the fact that rations and bullets are in short supply, soldiers on the ground often have to approach the situation with what they have, rather than what they wish they had. This is particularly evident when discussing the chaos of mobilization. Military commanders can seldom pick when, or where they will go to war or into battle. By selecting specific battles from each war, Camp allows the reader to see the unique challenges of each conflict. His choice of specific engagements also allows the reader to experience events in greater detail than might otherwise be possible in a book covering three wars.

Well sourced, Camp's use of in-

interviews, published documents, and Davis' own recollections provides for both a general and personal discussion of events. This book is a good starting point for a reader who wants to explore these conflicts without becoming overly bogged down in the politics surrounding events. The author's use of published accounts of the wars and individual battles discussed, enables the casual reader to explore various subjects in greater depth at leisure. Furthermore, Camp's extensive use of personal papers, interviews, and oral histories provides those who want it with a way to locate original documents and recollections of the people who were actually involved in the events, allowing them to do their own research and draw independent conclusions.

If this book has a shortcoming, it may be in the discussion of Davis' life and career outside of the warzone. Of the 36 chapters and epilogue, only six discuss in any depth his family and time outside the Marine Corps and away from the battlefield. Students of military history might not mind this, but readers wishing to examine the impact of a military career spent at war, on family life, may find this less satisfactory. Davis' wife and children are just mentioned in passing, or in the context of moving to a new assignment or heading off to another war.

Richard Camp provides us with a well-researched account of the career of General Raymond Davis, from beginning to end, across three wars. His book is well researched, and accessible to both serious students of military history, as well as those exploring these events for the first time. He also provides readers with the tools to explore the people, places, and events discussed in greater depth. While somewhat lacking in the personal exploration of the effects of a career in military service on

the family, *Three War Marine Hero* superbly illustrates the changing roles and responsibilities of a Marine Corps officer over the course of his career.

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Hugues Canuel. *The Fall and Rise of French Sea Power: France's Quest for an Independent Naval Policy, 1940–1963*. Annapolis, MD: U.S. Naval Institute Press, www.usni.org, 2021. xiv+344 pp., illustrations, map, tables. US \$54.95, UK £49.95, cloth; ISBN 978-1-6824-7616-1.

This rather unique volume is another welcome contribution to the already-published books in the excellent series from the United States Naval Institute Press entitled Studies in Naval History and Sea Power. Historian Hugues Canuel has not written a traditional naval history of the years from 1940–1963; instead, he examines French naval thinking and strategy – and its leading personalities – against the backdrop of the enormous historic challenges to French naval power in the mid-twentieth century. The book opens with the crushing defeat of France in the Second World War and the collapse of its naval power worldwide. The book concludes with the remarkable build-back of the French navy and the nation's return to the ranks of the world's naval powers.

With the German military victory in France in 1940, the French navy (*Marine nationale*) was divided between the officially neutral Vichy regime and Charles de Gaulle's Free French forces exiled in London. The author examines in great detail the conflicts and events of this French naval civil war, as well as the challenges France faced in its relationships with the United States