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NEWSLETTER

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Secretariat and Newsletter

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American Committee is
affiliated with:
Comité International d'Histoire
de la 2^e Guerre Mondiale
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BUSINESS MEETING

The annual business meeting will take place on December 28, 1972, between 5:00 and 7:00, in the Jackson Room of the New Orleans Marriott Hotel. This will come right after the "OPERATION TORCH Revisited" session which will be sponsored by the American Committee as a joint program with the American Historical Association. All members are urged to attend.

Tentative Agenda

(1) Election of officers and reorganization. Proposals of the Nominating Committee will be sent out in December before the meeting.

(2) Report of the bibliography sub-committee. Janet Ziegler, chairman.

(3) Conference on World War II History, June 1973. A considerable majority voted for Washington, D. C. and approved the date June 15-16. The National Archives has offered us the use of their auditorium and facilities for the meeting. A number of proposals for sessions have been received. The following have received the most votes and comments:

1. Status, problems, needs of World War II history. This might be relatively informal. A panel might set forth some ideas, but most of the session would be devoted to discussion from the floor. Sample subjects might be:
Neglected areas in WWII studies
Problems of publication. With an average of 200 books coming out every year, what does the future hold?
Declassification of documents
Problems in teaching the war period. (The National Archives is willing to cooperate with audio-visual demonstrations during the meeting. Possibly documentary film showings could be arranged for the Thursday preceding the conference.)

1. (cont.)

Oral history and the Second World War
Current trends in interpretation

2. Problems of espionage and intelligence. Because so many books on this subject have recently appeared, it seems appropriate to give a sober judgment. How can the value of intelligence and deception be estimated?

3. The Home Front. There is danger that World War II be considered mostly in terms of military action and diplomacy. The economic, social, political implications of the war need to be considered.

4. Relations of World War I and World War II. Many have expressed interest in this topic and the possibility of exploring the influence of WWI experience on leaders of WWII; or on similarities and differences of the two conflicts.

5. "Politics and Strategy". This is the theme which the International Committee will elaborate in 1975 at the International Congress of Historical Sciences at San Francisco. Should the American Committee start preparation in terms of positions and of candidates for papers? Should there be separate sessions on Pacific problems as against the European theater?

Please send in any further suggestions and recommendations so that these may be finally tabulated before discussing the conference on the floor of the business meeting. Is it practical to hold two sessions at the same time, or, with a relatively small group, should all participants be at the same meeting?

OTHER MEETINGS

As announced in the last Newsletter, the Polish Committee is sponsoring a conference on Forced Migrations at Zamość, October 17-20. The sponsors have written that representatives from Belgium, East and West Germany, France, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and the United States will attend. There will be a meeting of the International Committee on the History of the Second World War during the conference.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Marine Corps Historical Division has available a free listing of books, pamphlets, and chronologies they have prepared or published on Corps history.

Requests for the listing, which gives titles, publication dates and "how to order" information, should be forwarded to the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code HD), Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington, D. C. 20380. Some of the listed items are available free and need not be returned.

Many of the listed case-bound volumes, which deal with Marine operations in World War II and Korea, were printed by the Government Printing Office for public sale. Practically all of these volumes are now out of print and have become collector's items. They might be available through interlibrary loan or used bookstores.

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The American, British, French and German editors of the German Foreign Ministry Documents recently announced publication of Vol. II, Series E, of the Akten zur deutschen auswärtigen Politik 1918-1945, covering the period March through June, 1942. Earlier this year, Vol. V of Series B (March through June 1927) was published. It should also be noted that the first volume of the German version of Series C has come out, dealing with the early Nazi period. It is based on the earlier English edition of that Series.

The editors of the German Documents Project also would like to call attention to the fact that editions of all volumes of their publication, past and future, are limited. Early orders, especially from research libraries, are thus advisable.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

The following annotated bibliography of Soviet Army and Military District Histories has been contributed by Mr. Michael Parrish, who has recently been appointed director of the Indiana University Public Affairs Research Library at Bloomington.

Soviet Army and Military District Histories

It is not known with certainty how many armies were deployed on the Soviet side during the Great Patriotic War. We do know that a number as high as "70" was used but cannot be sure that all numbers up to "70" were used. To complicate the problem, many armies were re-formed more than once, especially during the difficult period of 1941. We do have, however, more complete information about the elite units. During the war the Red Army deployed 17 guard armies (six of them tank formations) and five assault armies. Soviet unit histories have not been uncommon, but until recent years they have been mostly confined to smaller units (brigades, divisions and corps). In 1962, for the first time the history of an army (2 Tank later 2 Guard Tank) appeared in print and in recent years the tempo has picked up and several histories mostly of the elite guard units have appeared. The quality of research is good and use has been made of archival material. Lack of index, inadequate maps, and lack of tables in some of the books detract from the overall quality. Histories of military districts are a relatively new phenomenon, the first having appeared in 1968. The Soviets have been rather sensitive about the distribution of this series obviously because of the holocausts that involved the Soviet military leadership during the purges. Reading these volumes one cannot help but notice the rapid and sudden changes of command for which no reasons are given. The quality of production also varies from outstanding (History of the Kiev Military District) to poor (Siberian Military District).

Histories of Soviet Armies

Dorogami pobed. Moscow: Voenizdat. 1969. 348pp

History of the best known of Soviet tank units commanded during most of the war by P. A. Rotmistrov and V. T. Vol'skii. The Army took part in the battles of Kursk, southern Ukraine, White Russia, Baltics and East Prussia. The book, however, says nothing of this Army's predecessor, the 5 Tank Army formed in the summer of 1942 as one of the first new large armor formations and decimated by bad leadership in fighting on the approaches of Voronezh; it also says nothing about the second formation of the same Army which spearheaded the Southwest front's thrust during the Soviet counter offensive in Stalingrad.

Gvardeiskaia tankovaia. Moscow: Voenizdat. 1963. 241pp

History of the 2 Tank (later 2 Guard Tank) Army formed early in 1943, commanded during most of the war by S. I. Bogdanov, and taking part in the battles of Kursk, Ukraine, Poland and Berlin.

Ot Volgi do El'by i Pragi. Moscow: Voenizdat. 1970. 329pp

History of the 5 Guard Army (formerly 66 and 8 Reserve Army) which fought under the command of A. S. Zhadov for the major part of the war taking part in the battles of Stalingrad, southern Ukraine, Poland, central Germany and Czechoslovakia.

Ot Volgi do Pragi. Moscow: Voenizdat. 1966. 255pp

History of the 7 Guard Army (formerly 64) which under the leadership of M.S. Shumilov took part in the battles of Stalingrad, Kursk, southern Ukraine, Rumania, Hungary, Austria and Czechoslovakia.

Ot volzhskikh stepei do avstriiskikh Al'p. Moscow: Voenizdat. 256pp

History of the 4 Guard Army which took part in the battles of Kursk, Ukraine, Hungary and Austria. Unlike most other guard armies, it had an unstable leadership and among the men who commanded it include the disgraced former Marshal of the Soviet Union G. I. Kulik, and Generals I. V. Galanin, I.K. Smirnov and G. F. Zakharov.

Navstrechu pobede. Moscow: Nauk. 1970. 463pp

History of the 5 Army which includes among its editor the late Marshal N. I. Krylov which commanded it in the latter stages of the war. The book unfortunately omits the first formation of this unit, which, under the able leadership of Maj. General of Tank Troop M. I. Potapov, proved to be such a thorn in the side of German advance in the Ukraine in the early days of the war. The second formation of this Army fought mainly with the West Front and was commanded by Generals D. D. Leliushenko, L. A. Goverov, I. I. Feduninskii, Ia. T. Cherevichenko, V. S. Polenov and finally by Krylov. After fighting in many

indecisive local engagements, glory came to the Army during the White Russian campaign of summer 1944 and later in the far east against the Japanese.

Po prikazu Rodiny. Moscow: Voenizdat. 1971. 186pp

History of the 6 Guard Army, it has the added advantage of including the history of its predecessor the 21 Army. The 6 Guard Army commanded during the entire war by General I. M. Chistiakov took part in the battles of Kursk, White Russia and in the Baltics.

Semenov, G. G. Lt. General. Nastupeat udarnaia. Moscow: Voenizdat. 1970

Somewhat different in format from other army histories and appearing in the series of "Voennye memuary," the book nevertheless is basically a history of the 3 Assault Army in which the author served during the entire war. The Army took part in bitter and inconclusive campaigns as a part of the Northwest Front, but achieved final glory in the battle of Berlin. Little use is made of archival material and maps are lacking.

V nastuplenii gvardiia. Moscow: Voenizdat. 1971. 309pp

History of the 2 Guard Army who under the leadership of R. Ia. Malinovskii was responsible for stopping the German relief attempt of Stalingrad. The Army formed in Dec. 1942 on the base of the 1 Reserve Army besides the Stalingrad campaign took part in liberation of Rostov and Crimea, the Soviet summer offensive in White Russia and finally in battlefields of East Prussia. Among its commanders besides Malinovskii are Ia. G. Kreizer, G. F. Zakharov, and P. G. Chanchibadze.

Zavizion, G. T. and P. A. Kornushin. I na Tikhom okeane...Moscow: Voenizdat. 1967. 253pp

History of 6 Tank (later 6 Guard Tank) army formed in January 1944 commanded during the war by Co. General of Tank Troops A. G. Kravchenko which took part in battles in southern Ukraine, Rumania, Hungary, Austria, Czechoslovakia and later in the far east against the Japanese.

Histories of Soviet Military Districts

Istoriia pribaltiskogo voennogo okruga. Riga. 1968. 311pp

History of the Baltic Military District, not available in any open library in this country and restricted to "official" use in the USSR.

Istoriia Ural'skogo voennogo okruga. Moscow: Voenizdat. 1970 345pp

Based on archival material, this is a solid historical work on the Ural Military District except that the coverage for the Thirties is inadequate. List of command personnel is given at the end which however does not compensate for the lack of index.

Kievskii krasnoznamennyi. Kiev: Politicheskoe upravlenie KVO. 1969. 540pp

A superb and detailed study of the important Kiev Military District whose command, at least after the purges, has been a stepping stone for even higher positions. Among the commanders include Marshals of the Soviet Union S. K. Timoshenko, G. K. Zhukov, A. A. Gerchko, V. I. Chuikov, P.K. Koshevoi and I. I. Iakobovskii. The book presents the most detailed Soviet study of the early days of the war in the Ukraine accompanied by tables indicating unit and command structure starting from divisional level as well as superb maps. The book is not exported to the West and its use in the Soviet Union is restricted. The author's personal copy gives an indication for the reason behind this restriction. According to tables at the end of the book, seven out of ten men who commanded the District between 1918-1940 met "unnatural" deaths during the 1937-39 period. A complete index accompanies the book.

Krasnoznamennyi dal'nevostochnyi. Moscow: Voenizdat. 344pp

The history of the Red Banner Far East Military District, although based on archival material and containing the most detailed Soviet study of the Lake Khasas campaign, falls short of being adequate. The terrible purges carried by L. Z. Mekhlis resulting in wholesale shifts of command are not mentioned nor are the names of many of its prominent victims. Also inadequate is the coverage of Soviet forces left behind in the far east after Russia realized that Japan had no intention of attacking eastward.

Krasnoznamennii zakavkazkii. Moscow: Voenizdat. 1969. 445pp

History of Transcaucasus Military District which of course includes military activities in this area both during the Civil and the Great Patriotic War. The latter events have been covered in more detail by Marshal Grechko's study. The Thirties are not well covered for obvious reasons and an indication of inadequacies of Soviet archives can be seen on p. 144 when two men who held the important positions of the commissar of the district are only identified by their last names.

~~SECRET~~

Ordena Lenina Leningradskii voennyi okrug. Leningrad: Lenizdat. 1968

History of the Leningrad Military District, it is not available in any open library in this country and is also limited to "official" use in the USSR.

Ordena Lenina Moskovskii voennyi okrug. Voenizdat. 464pp

Not yet exported.

V plameni i slave. Ocherki istorii Sibirskogo voennogo okruga.
Novosibirsk: Zap. Sib. 1969. 431pp

The most amateurish of the history of military districts lacking cohesion and archival research. It is difficult even to find out the structure and leadership of this district which played an important part as a training and staging area for the Red Army during the war. The quality of reproduction is about par with the scholarship.

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