

historical and travel information that supplements and enhances internet resources. As a tribute to the author's preservation work, in 1992 the path between Ypres's Lille Gate and the Ramparts Cemetery, where 198 fallen Commonwealth soldiers are interred, was named the Rose Coombs Walk. The fifteenth edition is part of her legacy and an indispensable guide for students, academics, and anyone deeply interested in seeing the sites connected to the Western Front during the Great War.

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The U.S. Army Combat Historian and Combat History Operations: World War I to the Vietnam War. By Kathryn Roe Coker and Jason Wetzel. Havertown, PA: Casemate, 2023. ISBN 978-1-6362-4329-0. Photographs. Appendices. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. vii, 196. \$234.95 (hardback).

While all U.S. military services devote uniformed personnel to the tasks of collecting, organizing, and in some manner publishing historical records of operations, the army has the largest of these programs, with the longest pedigree, befitting its large size and diverse missions. The army has employed so-called combat historians since World War I, as Kathryn Roe Coker and Jason Wetzel document in this informative study. When General John Pershing requested the formation of an historical section to document the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF), the War Department reorganized its War Plans Division to create a historical branch, and the branch maintained a small subordinate team in France after February 1918. The ranks of army combat historians in World War II included some famous names in American military history. Forrest Pogue, Hugh Cole and, of course, S. L. A. Marshall left prewar occupations in academia and the press to become combat historians and laid the groundwork for perhaps the best-known series of official histories, *The United States Army in World War II*, or the "Green Books," as they are commonly known. Altogether, World War II combat historians in Europe and the Pacific collected more than seven tons of official records on paper and conducted thousands of interviews of combat soldiers and units, many within yards of the front lines while fighting continued. With the notoriety that came from their large presence in World War II, army combat historians continued to document operations in Korea, Vietnam, and in the various conflicts and settings since, including disaster response and peacekeeping missions, wars in the Middle East, and the military response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Coker and Wetzel focus on the world wars, Korea, and Vietnam, offering a detailed look at the administrative and bureaucratic battles that shaped the army's combat history programs across the four conflicts. The continuity in this story lies in the army's demand for these materials, but also in a constant battle to control the operations and focus of combat historians. Some commands wished to employ combat historians as public-affairs officers or operations and intelligence specialists, and command preferences have tended to shape the collections, productivity, and output of historical detachments. In Vietnam, the combat-historian program turned toward what the modern military calls a lessons-learned program, in which data collected about combat tactics and procedures is turned directly back into doctrine, soldier training, and unit operations. History and lessons-learned are very different disciplines that use much of the same material, the authors aver, and one gets the sense that even today, the army struggles with these competing demands.

The U.S. Army Combat Historian is an interesting book on a little-studied topic at the intersection of military, government, and public history, but it certainly is not the last word on the subject. A critical assessment of the effectiveness of army historical detachments in assembling primary sources to inform official histories and wider scholarship would certainly be appreciated and would add depth to the authors' comprehensive reconstruction of the organization and activities of these combat historians over time. Military historians will also value a further consideration of S. L. A. Marshall's body of historical work, which spanned the entire period of this book, and which has been the subject of intense historiographical debate since at least the 1980s. The book would also benefit from additional editing to remove a distracting recurrence of passive voice and a large amount of extraneous, general historical information about the world wars, Korea, and Vietnam.

The general theme of the army's experience with historical-collection activities is a lack of unified direction and clarity about the combat historian's role. Are these soldiers mere collectors of primary sources? Are they expected to produce historical work? Are they strategists? Intelligence analysts? Lessons-learned specialists? Public affairs officers? This debate occurred constantly from the inception of the combat-history program in 1918 and continues today. The authors, who trained modern historical detachments for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, have personal experience in this arena, and have produced an overview of the topic that will be of use to government and public historians, as well as to the general

reader who is interested in how many of the iconic works of American military history came to be.

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Women in Intelligence: The Hidden History of Two World Wars. By Helen Fry. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2023. ISBN 978-0-3002-6077-9. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. ix, 435. \$35.00 (hardback).

In *Women in Intelligence*, Helen Fry investigates the work of women in Britain's intelligence services in the era of the two world wars and argues that "women served at the very heart of some of the most significant intelligence activities" (p. 6). The motivation for the study is to go beyond the popular stereotype of the seductress spy and to instead demonstrate the often unglamorous yet substantial ways in which women contributed to intelligence efforts. It does this by uncovering, to varying degrees, the stories of dozens of women of different nationalities, backgrounds, and missions, and weaving them together through measured narrative that avoids perpetrating the sexist contexts in which they operated, and which can be reflected in the archive.

This is not the first book-length study on the topic, but it is the most comprehensive one to be aimed at a general audience. Women have previously been the focus mainly of biographical work, and of a limited number of broader academic books and articles, particularly Tammy Proctor's *Female Intelligence: Women and Espionage in the First World War* (NYU Press, 2003). Such literature has already helped move the historiography beyond Mata Hari-esque stereotypes, illustrating women's complex and important contributions to intelligence. Still, stereotypes persist in popular imagination, not least due to their predominance in spy fiction. In this sense, the originality of *Women in Intelligence* lies more in the wider audience it seeks to make its argument to rather than in the argument per se.

More original is the approach this volume adopts compared to earlier work; it covers a longer period, it looks at primarily women in espionage but not exclusively, and even though there is heavy emphasis on the Security Service (MI-5), the Secret Service (SIS/MI-6), and the Special Operations Executive (SOE), the book covers other services and sections as well. As a result, while there is discussion of cases about which much is already

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