

All in all, this is an extremely interesting, informative, and engaging volume, although some may be put off by the listed price. If one wants to get better insights into photographic history, as well as a better look at the aftermath of America's single bloodiest day of combat and its effects on the landscape, *Shadows of Antietam* will not disappoint and is recommended.

Stuart McClung

***Warrior Ways: Explorations in Modern Military Folklore*, edited by Eric A. Eliason and Tad Tuleja. Logan: Utah State University Press, 2012. 287 pp., \$29.95.**

This book's cover photograph of an American soldier in full combat gear with both a weapon and a guitar slung over his shoulder, plus a subtitle announcing "explorations in modern military folklore" hint at a text that might scare away readers who are used to more traditional military history writing. The back dust jacket provides additional warning by noting that the essays in this collection deal with a variety of martial folkways topics, including "slang, homosociality and transgressive humor, music, and photography, among other cultural expressions." To paraphrase the Bette Davis line from the 1950 film, *All About Eve*, "buckle up, this is going to be a bumpy [read]."

Nearly all of the contributing essayists are academics who have multiple advanced degrees and who teach at colleges or universities. Six have PhDs, and a doctorate in folklore counts. Many have authored books and articles, some are editors of professional journals, and others have leadership positions in national folklore societies and organizations. Some of the writers are veterans, and others who are not veterans have strong personal and professional ties to the military. Some credentials, however, may puzzle non-folklorist readers; one writer has taught courses in "applied anthropology, ethnography, and ritual and festival." (p. 279)

The writings focus on the modern period (20th and 21st Centuries) and mostly on the American military. They are arranged in four parts, and each selection is followed by a list of works cited. Part I, "Deploying," deals with the in-theater experiences of troops. Carol Burke's lead-off essay, "The Things They Bring to War," a thematic extension of Tim O'Brien's 1990 book on the Vietnam War, *The Things They Carried*, discusses how soldiers use a variety of charms, as well as beliefs and superstitions, as sources of personal protection. Burke writes that such things come in handy "because war is about hidden danger waiting for the opportune time to present itself." (p. 21) The

other selections in this part deal with the myths and facts about the camel spider, an arachnid common in the Middle East, and how troops react to and interact with traditional Afghan culture.

The "Sounding Off" essays in Part II are fun reads. There is a study of Jody calls, or military marching chants (think of the boot camp scene in the film *Full Metal Jacket* or the fine closing from the classic 1949 war movie, *Battleground*). Elinor Levy discusses the similarities and the disconnect between the two principal branches of military language. These are "Pentagonese" or "officialese" which originates in the Department of Defense, and the language used by troops. The author's wonderful invented term for the latter form of martial lingo is "enlistic." (p. 100) The essay also has a brief discussion of the acronyms SNAFU and FUBAR (terms which should need no further explanation to American military history readers). Part II closes with a look at how slang is used in the American sea services.

The writings in Part III, "Belonging," require careful attention. The topics are homosexuality in the military, the coping mechanisms used by military wives, and how uniformed service shapes the attitudes of anti-war activists. Military history buffs will quickly find when reading these selections that, like Dorothy, they are not in Kansas anymore. The "Remembering" selections in Part IV deal with more familiar topics. Included are a study of the impact of the "Colonel Bogey March" on popular culture (who can't whistle or hum, even badly, this catchy tune?), and observations about candid photographs taken by troops. The final essay is an often hilarious account of the many variations of the song, *The Ballad of the Green Berets*, including the good-natured parody titled *The Ballad of the Green Grammarians* aimed at participants in a Vietnam veterans' oral history folklore project. Author and co-editor Tad Tuleja calls these versions "cultural poaching." (p. 254)

Given the contributors' backgrounds, it is not surprising that parts of some essays are heavy with academic language. Some examples: "the central insight of ethnopoetics", groups that "cross-fertilize each other's folkways", "...phonological, grammatical, and lexical complexities," soldier language that is "recklessly creative and often transgressive," and "quelling the soldiers' psychological anxieties." (pp. 59, 72, 101, 112, and 233) These terms and phrases suggest that some of the writers are preaching to the folklorist choir and have little interest in reaching a wider non-academic audience.

Also, the use of "warrior" in the title and throughout the essays is evidence that language changes and evolves. In this book, serving troops and veterans are all identified as warriors, regardless of branch, military occupational specialty (MOS), or gender. Goodbye to

doughboys, G.I. Joes, and grunts. Now labeled warriors, all active and former military personnel have been elevated to the highest level of the martial hierarchy

Readers should regard this book as offering a smorgasbord of information, ideas and opinions. Sniff or skim or even ignore some selections, but digest and ponder others — a perfect recipe for good reading.

Tom Phillips

***The Army in the Pacific: A Century of Engagement* (CMH Pub 70-120-1), by James C. McNaughton. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Army Center of Military History, 2012. 98 pp., \$13.00 softcover.**

From the arrival of Lewis and Clark at the mouth of the Columbia River in 1805 to the Obama administration's "strategic pivot" in 2011, the U.S. Army has long had an involvement in affairs in the vast regions of the Pacific Ocean. In this brochure, James C. McNaughton, previously command historian with the U.S. Army Pacific, and now a branch chief with the Center of Military History, gives an overview of the past century of the Army's presence in the Pacific. This is popular history, more than a gloss but not quite scholarly in its approach.

Although U.S. interests in the Pacific expanded after the acquisition of California in 1848 and Alaska in 1867, it was not until the war with Spain in 1898 that the Army ventured beyond the North American continent. From the Philippines, we entered the stage as a world power. Writing of active service in the first decade of the 20th Century, McNaughton notes, "Every Army chief of staff from 1903 through [1946] served in the Philippines, some more than once." (p. 11) The U.S. Army's presence in east Asia led to our involvement in World War II and the Korean Conflict, the Cold War took us to Vietnam, and the War on Terror has introduced renewed interest in the Philippines and other nations in southeast Asia.

McNaughton's narrative takes us through the whole region, from Alaska to Australia, from Hawaii to India, and the full panoply of events, from the Boxer Rebellion of 1900 through the Siberian expedition of 1918; Pearl Harbor and Bataan; the recapture of the Pacific islands, 1942-45; the Pusan Perimeter and Inchon; the Tet Offensive and the Cambodian incursion; down to continued presence in South Korea and joint exercises in the Philippines in 2011. Of the Army's involvement in Vietnam, 1961-1975, the author sadly comments, "The [Vietnam] War's bitter end was a painful personal loss for all the soldiers who had served there." (p. 75) No facet of

Army activity is overlooked, including activations and deactivations of Regular Army, Army Reserve and National Guard commands and units; establishment of ROTC programs; initiation of advisory missions; Army support during political or natural emergencies; even museum openings. Nor does McNaughton whitewash history's downside. Racial prejudice toward Asians, and drug, crime, and morale problems in the post-Vietnam Army are all duly noted.

While the author has done a deft job of condensing more than 100 years of history into fewer than 90 pages of text, a few suggestions for improvement come to mind. For one, McNaughton practically dismisses the combat operations of the 475th Infantry and 124th Cavalry Regiments in Burma in 1944-45 as "two additional regiments," (p. 34) focusing instead on the earlier activities of "Merrill's Marauders." But students of Army lineage would be happy to point out the connection between the 475th and modern Army Rangers, a connection the author could easily have made. Also, air forces, an integral part of the Army until 1947, get minimal coverage. Besides those, one minor glitch was detected: the deactivation of U.S. Army Pacific in 1974 is described (p. 73), but without subsequent mention of reactivation in 1990, although some of the command's post-1990 activities are recounted (p. 81). Finally, the absence of an index or citations for many quotations makes it hard to look up details or verify sources. A short list of titles for "Further Readings" may fill in some of the gaps.

All in all, this inexpensive publication is a worthwhile primer and acquisition for any library. This reviewer sees a future for it as ROTC or troop instructional material and is glad to have a copy for himself.

Russell K. Brown

***Faded Glory: A Century of Forgotten Texas Military Sites, Then and Now*, by Thomas E. Alexander and Dan K. Utley. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2012. 224 pp. \$29.95 softcover.**

One of a series of Texas A&M Travel Guides, *Faded Glory* goes well beyond what one would normally expect of such a publication and clearly reflects the careful research and writing of two distinguished Texas historians. Written by Thomas Alexander, author of several books on Texas military history, and by Dan Utley, former chief historian for the Texas Historical Commission, the result is a journey that blends American and Texas history with a concise but very readable account of 34 sites of military significance in the Lone Star State.