

There are minor errors of detail in this book, such as jumbling up sources and attributing the reminiscences of one submarine officer to another. And despite an almost comprehensive bibliography of almost all other pertinent primary and secondary sources of submarine warfare in the Second World War, Sturma startlingly did not utilize Roger Dingman's *Ghost of War* (1997).

This book won't be embraced by sentimental readers of U.S. submarine history, who are used to tales of heroism in the face of great odds. But by telling this story, and telling it well, Sturma has genuinely contributed to the history of the submarine war in the Pacific and solidified his standing as the leading academic historian of U.S. submarine warfare in the Second World War.

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One Marine's War: A Combat Interpreter's Quest for Humanity in the Pacific. By Gerald A. Meehl. Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 2012. ISBN 978-1-61251-092-7. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xviii, 244. \$34.95.

Lieutenant Robert B. Sheeks, whose experiences are described in this book, was one of dozens of American Marine language officers who served in the Pacific during World War II. They worked, often in dangerous combat situations, as translators, interpreters, and interrogators, handling thousands of captured documents, questioning prisoners, and trying to persuade Japanese troops and civilians to surrender. All had received considerable Japanese language training at an intensive Navy program at the University of Colorado.

This slim volume is a detailed account of Sheeks' participation in two years of war in the Central Pacific. It is a highly personalized description of the background, training, and experiences of one individual and thus constitutes a useful complement to Roger Dingman's broader work, *Deciphering the Rising Sun: Navy and Marine Corps Codebreakers, Translators, and Interpreters in the Pacific War* (2009).

Gerald Meehl has written widely on scientific and historical subjects, including co-authorship of three books on the war against Japan. He has known Robert Sheeks for many years and based his book primarily on interviews with him and on his diary and other papers. While he tends to include a great deal of detailed material on matters not necessarily germane to his primary theme, he nevertheless offers a thoughtful portrait of a highly capable, sensitive, and innovative young man caught up in a brutal war.

Robert Sheeks spent his early years in Shanghai, where his father headed an office for an American business firm. During the Japanese invasion of the city in 1932 (the so-called "Shanghai Incident"), he witnessed the widespread brutality of Japanese soldiers against the Chinese civilians and quickly developed a bitter and lasting hatred of Japan's military.

After returning to the United States with his family, Sheeks was a sophomore at Harvard when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. His background in China and

his enrollment in a class in Chinese culture and language led to his recruitment into the Navy's new Japanese language program. After a year of intensive language training, he was commissioned in the Marine Corps, his choice of service. By mid-1943 he was translating captured Japanese documents in the South Pacific. Assigned to the 2d Marine Division, he would then participate in the invasions of Tarawa, Saipan, and Tinian.

While interrogating the few miserable Japanese captured on Tarawa, Sheeks became sensitized to the common humanity of the prisoners, and began to sympathize with their plight and to reconsider his previous enmities. He also grew increasingly concerned about the difficulty of persuading Japanese troops to surrender, rather than fight to the death or take their own lives. No matter how often he and other interpreters crawled perilously close to Japanese positions and shouted their message, they had little success. Many Marines would be killed before the recalcitrant defenders could finally be eliminated.

By now Sheeks's hatred of the Japanese had been changed into feelings of compassion and a desire to save Japanese lives no less than those of his fellow Marines. On Saipan, therefore, he devised a system of bullhorns and speakers to ensure that his shouted words were getting through the noise and tumult of battle. He combined this with air-dropped pamphlets bearing the same surrender message. These innovations led to the surrender of many hundreds of Japanese soldiers, the rescue of tens of thousands of civilians, and the avoidance of a great number of probable Marine casualties. For their work in saving both Japanese and American lives, Sheeks and three others were awarded the Bronze Star.

He and other Marine linguists also made great contributions by interrogating prisoners and translating captured documents – often retrieving them from dead Japanese bodies. *One Marine's War* touches only briefly on these activities, yet this detracts little from the overall impact of the book. It remains an impressive story of Robert Sheeks's transformative experiences and their impact on battle.

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Fatal Crossroads: The Untold Story of the Malmédy Massacre at the Battle of the Bulge. By Danny S. Parker. Boston: Da Capo, 2012. ISBN 978-0-306-81193-7. Maps. Illustrations. Appendixes. Notes. No bibliography. Index. Pp. xi, 390. \$26.00.

The German word for muddle, mix-up, and confusion is “*Durcheinander*.” Such was the terminology used by Waffen SS Lieutenant Colonel Jochen Peiper to describe, in the days after one of World War II's worst European Theater atrocities, the massacre of more than eighty American GIs, prisoners of war near the Belgian town of Malmédy. In the words of author Danny S. Parker, “He (Peiper) thought the incident was just another blot within the expected brutality of modern war. It was regrettable, even if the very tenets of National Socialism endorsed