

BOOK REVIEWS

INSURGENCY AND COUNTER—INSURGENCY : A STUDY OF MODERN GUERILLA WARFARE

by LT. COL. V. K. ANAND,

Deep and Deep Publications, New Delhi-27, 1981 ; pp. 263 ; price : Rs. 90/-

THIS book under review has been chapterised under (1) Distinctive Features of Insurgency, (2) pre-requisites, (3) Elements of Insurgency, (4) Progression of Insurgency, (5) Basis for approach to counter-Insurgency, (6) Foundational Measures, (7) Restoratory Operations and (8) Conceptual Features. Besides, it contains four tables : (I) Operational Level of Pre-requisites in South Africa, (II) Empirical Requirement of Manpower, (III) Functional Requirement of Forces, and (IV) Overall Requirement of Manpower, and also 14 Charts outlining (1) Areas with Potential for Insurgency, (2) Pre-requisites and elements—Figurative Representation, (3) Geographical attributes, (4) Multiple goals of Insurgency, (5) Variegated struggle—Inputs and outputs, (6) Insurgent Organisation, (7) Fixed Model—Periods phases and stages, (8) Insurgency cycle, (9) Flexible Model—Modular patterns, (10) Insurgent's Refractoryness, (11) Character of Naga Insurgency, (12) Objective Responses to Attitudinal and Physical Matrices of Insurgency, (13) Progression Vs. Resources, and (14) Security Forces-Organisation.

Insurgency is as old as the State and in the past also counter-insurgency measures used to be taken, but the difference with the modern insurgencies are that the latter are more affected by socio-political ideological orientation. The present-day world is faced with two kinds of insurgency—rural and urban, and until social and economic disparities and discriminations are eradicated from different States the incidence of insurgency will remain. In modern insurgencies, which have grown very complex, not only political ideologies play an important role, but foreign powers, foreign agents and foreign money also exert a great influence. Besides, if the insurgency area becomes geographically contiguous to a big power, which is hostile to

the ruling regime against which the insurgents fight, the chance of success of the insurgents becomes more likely.

Dr. Anand has written a very useful book, analysing certain case studies and drawing his conclusions. The book contains a bibliography (some of the entries do not, however, show the date and place of publication). It deserves welcome from all those who are interested in this important subject.

B.C.

CHINA, IRAN, AND THE PERSIAN GULF

by A.H.H. ABIDI,

RADIANT Publishers, E-155 Kalkaji, New Delhi-19 ; p.p. : 352 ; price : Rs. 150-

IN this book under review, Prof. Abibi has tried to make a full-length study of the dynamics of the relations between China and the Gulf States, including Iran. "China's advance in the Gulf is a fascinating subject of study in international relations,"—he says. The author has given a historical overview first and then discussed China's growing relationship with the Gulf States during the Mao and post-Mao periods, covering political, economic and cultural fields.

International relations are conducted by sovereign states on the basis of their respective national interests, which can cause a cleavage between ideologically related states having disparate and incompatible social or political systems. According to the author, China and the Gulf States turned to each other "on account of changes in the international situation and partly because of their own respective national interests". In ideological terms, China applied the "from above" variant of Lenin's "united front" policy to make a common cause with the ruling groups of different persuasions against the "main enemy". While China had condemned Iran for its subservience to USA during the 1950s and 1960s, in the 1970 she unflinchingly backed the Shah of Iran in his armament drive and his position on the Gulf. The author has concluded that the rationale beneath the Sino-Gulf understanding was essentially political and the economic and cultural interactions were peripheral and restricted.

The book contains a map, a good bibliography and also an Index. It is an interesting study which should be read by all interested in this subject.

B.C.

**ON TO BERLIN : BATTLES OF AN AIRBORNE COMMANDER
1943-1946**

by JAMES M. GAVIN

(The Viking Press, New York, 1978 ; pp. 336, price : not mentioned.)

GEN. James M. Gavin is as well-known an author on Military subjects, as he became famous as the commander of the reputed 22nd Airborne Division which parachuted to fight in various theatres of World War II. His is the story of the odyssey, beginning in Casablanca, then passing through Tunisia, Sicily, main land Italy, Normandy, Holland, the Ardennes, and finally to the heart of Berlin. Although the concept of airborne warfare was entirely neglected in the U.S. until World War II, and while in contrast the Russians staged a number of massive drops between the two World Wars and the Germans had organised the first airborne combat division in the world, nonetheless the Americans surpassed the Germans in the tactics, equipment, organisation and training for the airborne battles within three years from 1940 to 1942. And in this the author played a leading role, and his story is full-blooded and first-hand, unlike the scholarly military histories based on archival records. What is more, this story forms a very important part of the saga of the European theatre in the Second World War, told with a great style and panache. The author, in his last chapter entitled "Berlin in Retrospect", has expressed his view in affirmative on the controversial question whether his troops should have gone for capturing Berlin or not.

This excellent book containing 33 sketch-maps and quite a number of photographs of personalities and actions, and an Index, is a must for all interested in the American airborne operations in Europe during the Second World War.

B.C.

INDIAN ARMY POST OFFICES IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR
by BRIG. D.S. VIRK

Published by The Army Postal Service Association, pp 362, Rs. 125/-

OF the various factors that effect the morale of the troops in an operational areas, mail is one of the most important. Commanders and staff are therefore always anxious that arrangements are made for the regular delivery of mail.

The Indian Post and Telegraph Department provided special post offices for field service (FPOs—Field Post Offices and BPOs—Base Post Offices) for more than 100 years before the Second World War. After World War I, it was decided that the FPO organisation

would be militarised and, during World War II, the Army Postal Service was gradually evolved. Brig. D.S. Virk, who is a retired director of the Indian Army Postal Service, has written a scholarly regimental history covering the period of this war and a couple of years after the war.

The account of the 1937 mobilisation scheme given as a part of background information of the years between the two world wars has an interesting similarity to the situation in West Asia in the early 1980s. The 1937 mobilisation scheme visualised BPOs at Peshawar and Quetta with a Base Postal Depot at Lahore; operational plans in the 1930s catered for a Russian invasion through Afghanistan. What transpired however, was the despatch of FPOs to Egypt in 1939 and by the end of 1941, postal units were deployed in the Sudan, Iraq, and Persia in the West and Malaya and Burma in the east.

The functioning of the postal units has been narrated campaign-wise with a descriptive backdrop of the operational situation to which the experiences of the personnel of the IAPS add a personal touch. For instance, Havildar B.A. Sonawane of FPO 13, writes how Warrant Officer N.B. Kelkar, the postmaster with a brigade made "a lone dash of 300 miles to Post Sudan in the FPO truck to trace and fetch the outstanding mail". On his return "he was solemnly admonished for making an unauthorised journey but the whole Brigade were rather proud of the dash and determination of their little postmaster, who was, affectionately known to all ranks as Ali Baba".

An extract from the diary of Warrant Officer Brahma Sarup Saxena of the APS is another example of fascinating quotations which make this regimental history unique. When the Allied Forces laid down their arms in Malaya on 15 Feb. 1942, Saxena made a successful bid of escape. He made his way to the Naval harbour in Singapore, swam to a boat, rowed to a small island and joined some Australian and British personnel on a steam boat which made Sumatra in 6 days and ultimately returned to India via Ceylon. There are similar interesting extracts from the Burma campaign: and retreat and the reconquest.

Technical details like mail arrangements, censorship, sorting, redirection, postal services (letters, telegrams, parcels), postal rates, concessions and postal accounts in respect of the Middle East Force, the Persia and Iraq Force and India command as well as services rendered by the APS in Italy, Greece, Malaya, Burma and with the occupation forces in Japan and SE Asia are narrated in detail.

A comprehensive and well written with very useful maps.

A.M. V

THE PROVINCE OF AGRAby **DHARMA BHANU SRIVASTAVA**

(Concept Publishing Company, New Delhi : Rs. 90/-)

THE Province of Agra, which today virtually constitutes the whole of Uttar Pradesh minus the Awadh region in the eastern part, has always had an identity which distinguished it from the rest of the State. The two are distinct cultural units which differ from each other not only in language and literature, but also in the social, cultural and economic life of the people inhabiting the respective geographical areas.

Agra City had been the capital of the Mughal Emperors, while the Agra Province had for sometime the status of a Presidency under the British—on the pattern of the Presidencies of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. Whereas there are a number of scholarly works on the history and administration of the Presidencies of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras, no serious attempt had been made at writing a scientific account of the history and administration of the Presidency of Agra, which within three years of its birth, was given the name of the North-Western Provinces. To the Agra Province was united in 1877 the principality of Awadh which had been annexed by Lord Dalhousie, and the entire area was renamed the United Provinces of Agra and Awadh by Lord Curzon in 1901. After independence, the United Provinces became Uttar Pradesh.

For the first time in 1957 an attempt was made to collate the history and describe the administration of this province from the earliest times. The original title was 'History and Administration of the North-Western Provinces'. A well-documented study, the book has been revised and brought up to date by the author in this edition, in the light of further research.

In this comprehensive work Dr. Dharma Bhanu has delved deeply into records both published and unpublished available in the country, so as to make publication as authoritative and broad-based as possible.

A publication which should serve as a permanent book of reference for the researcher interested in this particular area of the state of Uttar Pradesh. Very readable, the book contains many passages which enliven it. As the late Sir Jadunath Sarkar aptly puts in his preface to the 1957 edition, "a manual of abiding instruction to students of administration as a vital branch of political science".

SLM