

Short Reviews of Recent Books

For The Honour of My House by Tony McClenaghan, (West Midlands : Helion and Company Ltd. and United Service Institution of India (USI), 2018), Pages 352, Price not indicated. ISBN 978-1-912390-87-8

This book is an excellent rendition of the long forgotten contribution of the Imperial Service Troops of the Indian State Forces to the Great War.

Far too long has the part played by the Indian Army and the Indian State Forces been ignored and buried by the official archivers and unofficial chroniclers of the Great War. The State Forces along with the Indian Army had taken part in the battles in France, Flanders, East Africa, Egypt, Palestine, Mesopotamia, Gallipoli, Macedonia and the North West Frontier.

It also needs to be acknowledged that the battlefields of Europe, Africa and Asia lay sodden with the blood of Indian soldiers during the First World War, and, therefore, there is no excuse for their story not to be told. Courage has no connect with creed, caste or class and it is, therefore, difficult to accept or understand the attitude of those chroniclers who failed to give credit where and when it was due.

This book fortunately endeavours to correct this omission with a special focus on the contribution and achievements of the Indian State Forces.

As has been brought out by the author, the rulers of the Indian States unitedly, whole heartedly and unequivocally contributed in great measure to the Great War with men, money, materials and animals. They not only funded their own units during the entire duration of the war but also in addition, contributed more than five million pounds sterling to the war effort and this did not include their individual contribution for the purchase of fighter aircraft, naval ships and boats, a three hundred bedded hospital ship and thousands of horses, camels and ponies for animal transport needs.

By the end of World War I, 1,15,891 officers and soldiers of the Indian State Forces had taken part in the war and 1,600 of them had been killed in action or perished due to wounds. Seven hundred and thirty nine decorations and awards were given to

personnel of the State Forces and battle honours awarded for every battle that they fought.

The Indian Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade played a decisive part in the Palestine campaign and the capture of Haifa by Jodhpur and Mysore Lancers helped to bring closure to the campaign against the Turks and indirectly to the end of the war in Europe. Their success has been commemorated by the Teen Murti War Memorial at New Delhi.

This account by Tony McClenaghan about achievements and contribution of the princely states of India to the Great War is an outcome of more than forty years of dedicated research into Indian military history in general and the history of the Princely States of India in particular. This book, therefore, is a valuable contribution to the military history of the Indian Army and the Indian State Forces and needs to be part of every library of military institutions and Indian universities.

The author needs to be commended for resurrecting the honour of the Imperial Service Troops of Princely India and placing on record their valuable contribution to World War I.

Major General Ian Cardozo, AVSM, SM (Retd)

India's Security Environment : Emerging Uncertainties and Challenges. By Satish Kumar (New Delhi: Pentagon Press LLP, 2019, Pages 231, Rs.995/- ISBN 978-93-86618-90-0)

This is a well researched compendium from the Foundation for National Security Research. Apart from the introduction and summation by Professor Satish Kumar there are ten articles of merit by scholars.

The threat from China has been well analysed by Langel. For unfathomable reasons, India, from Nehru's times has taken what can at best be described as timorous steps to counter China's bullying tactics. China is determined to obstruct India's rise as a major power at all costs. Langel's suggestion though to use Tibet and Taiwan for leverage over China is questionable as India has long accepted Chinese suzerainty over Tibet and in 1950 accepted One China Policy of People's Republic of China. It might perhaps be more advantageous to increase our collaboration with Vietnam, Japan and Australia.

The papers on Pakistan by Dutta, on Jammu and Kashmir (J and K) by Valte and the Summation by Satish Kumar examine a host of factors. Strangely, they recommend restraint on use of security forces, implementation of recommendations of interlocutors, removal of AFSPA and to take along all 'stake holders' (separatists). The Authors feel that the situation in J and K has worsened only in the last few years. None of the writers opines that radicalisation of the youth to Wahhabi Islam is confined to a few districts of the Valley and that random cases of shooting of bystanders by security forces is but collateral damage. The catalyst was the genocide of Pandits when the spineless governments at the State and Centre kept mum and were content to run with fox and hunt with the hounds. Successive CM's of J and K downplayed the display of ISIS flags and demonstrations at mosques and public places.

Notwithstanding the religious, historical, cultural and military ties of yore between Nepal and India, our relationship is headed southwards. The informal economic blockade in 2015, lethargic progress of projects in Nepal and support to Madhesis has made Nepal China centric. Nepal snubbed India by not participating in BIMSTEC exercise 2018 and instead took part in a joint exercise with Chinese troops! A dynamic change is urgently needed in our Nepal policy to stem the Chinese march as Nepal is important in our security architecture.

The paper on Bangla Desh brings out clearly why good relations with that country are germane to India's security. The Land Boundary Agreement 2015 that exchanged enclaves in adverse possession of either country was indicative of high statesmanship displayed by the two Prime Ministers. It is not surprising then to see complete cooperation in defence and security issues including joint exercises of BSF, Army and the Navy for multilateral maritime search and rescue. Bangladesh has acted against ISI inspired terrorist groups planning attacks in India. More significantly, it has cancelled the Sonadia port project earlier given to China. The maturity displayed by Sheikh Hasina needs to be reciprocated and the Teesta Water sharing issue resolved soon.

The article on Sri Lanka comprehensively covers its constitutional crisis, Chinese ventures in the island nation and our strategic engagements. As Langel brings out India brokered an alliance between Sirisena and Wickremesinghe to remove

Rajapaksa who had openly favoured China. This accrued no advantage as Sirisena only increased business deals with China. Now, Hambantota is on a 99 years lease to China and work on Colombo Port City project funded by China has also commenced. It is a great pity that a country that is important in India's strategic calculus has been allowed to be weaned away by the Chinese.

Bhutan- India relations have been firm and cordial since 1949 with leaders from both sides showing great maturity. India continues to be the largest donor for Bhutan's growth and development. Hydropower projects that contribute up to 40 per cent of Bhutan's revenue have been done with Indian assistance. Bhutan has responded by helping India in counter-terrorism operations. In 1996, as Yadav brings out Chinese offer was to forsake its claim of 495 sq km between Northern Bhutan and China, for 269 sq km of land in the Doklam Plateau. Since it went against India's strategic interest Bhutan rejected the offer. India needs to keep a close watch and nurture our relationship with Bhutan.

In his paper on Maldives, Valte for some unknown reason entirely fails to mention how India gloriously saved the island nation from the clutches of brigands. In 1988, LTTE renegades together with some sea pirates had done a coup d'état and taken control of Maldives ousting President Gayoom. In a swift operation Indian military recaptured Male and restored President Gayoom to his rightful place. Maldives seems to have forgotten India's selfless act as Maldives- India relations took a nose dive later. Though the two nations have signed a crucial action plan on defence cooperation in the IOR, Maldives has signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with China. Maldives has also rescinded contract of GMR to modernize and operate the airport at Male and gave it to a Chinese company. Apparently, Maldives is not averse to play India against China.

The two papers on Indo-US Strategic Partnership and Indo-Russia Partnership have been well conceived and analysed. Though Russia remains the largest supplier of defence armaments and Brahmos is a good example of joint collaboration, USA remains a major supplier too. Indo- Russian Partnership, unlike Indo-US Partnership is at times mired in time delays and cost-overruns.

Prof Satish Kumar identifies uncertainty and unpredictability for the instability in a polycentric world. Be that as it may, in

today's world it is perhaps more important for a nation to maximise harmonious relations in the immediate neighbourhood and keep a sharp lookout in its own backyard to checkmate inimical forces before banking on strong alliances in distant lands.

This is a useful volume comprising thoughtful essays on subjects that will evince interest in thinkers and analysts alike.

Major General Ashok Joshi, VSM (Retd)

Pakistan's Internal Security Challenges and the Army's Ability to Overcome Them. By Brigadier Shaman Chodha (Delhi: Vlj Books Pvt Ltd, 2019) pp 270, Price Rs. 995/- ISBN 978-93-8816-86-2.

The book takes a denovo look at the present internal security situation of Pakistan. It has four chapters: Fault Lines of Pakistan; A critical Appraisal of Pakistan's National Action Plan (NAP) and Military Operation; Policy Perception for Pakistan; Implications and Recommendations for India.

Fault-lines in Pakistan broadly cover political, social and religious, economic and security issues. Religious fault lines encompass divide between Sunnis and Shias, Deobandis and Salafists. Economic fault lines are rising inequalities of income and economic opportunities. Security fault lines pertain to rift between the Army and the civil government and politicians. Many fault-lines overlap. According to the author, the overall picture is very complicated.

National Action Plan was ratified by Pakistan Parliament in May 2014. According to the author, it was a comprehensive plan which identified core issues of extremism and terrorism, suggested a road map and remedial measures, including *madrasah* reforms, curbing terrorist financing and so on. However, due to misunderstanding between the civilian government and the Army and fund constraints, NAP failed.

Pakistan's policy perceptions revolve around her relations with major powers. Decline of United States, emergence of China as an aspiring super power, resurgence of Russia, reconciliation efforts in Afghanistan and China's ambitious belt and road initiative have again put Pakistan at the centre of global pulls. US, China and Russia share concerns about Islamist extremism. The author

is of the view that Pakistan can play a role in Afghanistan reconciliation, and other issues of concern to the major powers.

The last chapter pertains to Implications and Recommendations for India. Earlier, India followed policy of restraint towards Pakistan. This restraint encouraged Pakistan to carry out ceasefire violations and terrorist infiltration. The Modi government shifted response from strategic restraint to offensive defence. However, the author feels that Pakistan is unlikely to change its policy of proxy war. Pakistan's deep state does not want peace with India, because it is a threat to the very existence of the Army. India must raise the cost of terrorism to Pakistan. India's actions should be well thought through, with target analysis and escalation appreciation.

The author has carried out a balanced analysis of Pakistan's internal security challenges, linking it with the country's flawed national ideology based on "Two Nation Theory" and its failure to develop an inclusive form of nationalism. The author has carried out appreciation of the likely future situation in Pakistan and its impact on India. He has also made logical and practical recommendations for India. The author has made a laudable effort to encapsulate analytical insights on Pakistan. It will enhance understanding of the complexities faced by Pakistan. A good reference book for scholars. It has been written in an easy to read style and makes enjoyable reading. An excellent compendium for Pakistan watchers.

Major General YK Gera (Retd)

When Military Wages Peace: Military Bands in Diplomacy, War and Statecraft. By Saad S Khan (New Delhi: Pentagon Press LLP, 2019, Pages 296, Price – Rs. 1495/-, ISBN: 9789386618726.

Dr Saad S Khan is a faculty member of the National School of Public Policy, Pakistan. Saad's work - When Military Wages Peace - must certainly rank among the first endeavours to introduce the importance of military bands in the public and private lives of humankind, in state governance and in international relations in both, war and peace. I would recommend it as a compendium, guide, authority, call it what you will, for all, in whatever position or rank, in the military band organisations anywhere. The author has greatly enhanced the existing knowledge on this little known subject.

Martial music's genre has been closely linked with the rise and fall of the great military empires. The linkage of military music to the needs of rulers and administrators, to instil spirit de corps, discipline, pride, camaraderie, passion and, most important, patriotism, was paramount and Saad has deftly traced the historical evolution with great understanding and accuracy. But most important, the author has established the *raison d'être* for the existence, establishment and retention of such a vital component of the armed forces. His support for the retention of military ensembles fundamentally rests on the belief that musical silence is a cultural death of humankind. Bands are needed to help us celebrate, mourn, honour, remember and give us pride.

Most military ensembles in continental Europe, Britain and the United States have naturally 'walked in step' with their national cultures. So then, how does Saad explain how basic, raw musicians in the Indian Subcontinent are equally adept to deliver a Mozart composition or Bollywood numbers? It all boils down to discipline and the vision of our early leaders. India's first Commander-in-Chief, General Cariappa created the Army School of Music at Pachmarhi which continues to train army musicians.

Although bands in India and Pakistan today far outnumber those in Europe, UK and US combined, quality is the major casualty. The penchant for 'indigenisation' and the absence of adequate guidance by our officer class has led to serious deterioration in the end result. Saad emphasises the importance of amalgamating march themes and there are several Indian marches and compositions that have now attained recognition.

Saad's book is a chronicle covering a niche subject in the most thorough and educative style, effectively covering every aspect, type and variation of bands ranging from the traditional military brass and pipes to mounted, orchestral, educational institutions and private entertainment groups. His style is both effective and instructive. Although music is a universal language, the end result of Dr Saad Khan's work is not for the layman. For the aficionado, however, it is a class act!

Major Karun Khanna (Retd)

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OUR ACTIVITIES

Library and Reading Room

The library holds over 68,000 books, and journals, including some books of 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, on an astonishing variety of subjects. While the principal emphasis is on strategy and defence, there are a large number of works on different vistas of Indian life. There are memoirs, biographies, recollections, diaries, journals, manuscripts for scholars and researchers. The reading room is air-conditioned, spacious and well stocked in terms of current reading material. Library was automated in 2002.

Correspondence Courses

The Institution runs regular correspondence courses for officers of the Armed Forces to assist them in preparing for promotion examinations, and for the entrance examinations to the Defence Services Staff College and Technical Staff College. Over the years, this has been a significant and well-received activity.

USI Journal

The *USI Journal* is the oldest surviving defence journal in the country and in Asia, having first appeared in 1871. In an era when there is a feeling that free expression of views by Defence personnel is not looked upon kindly by the establishment, the Journal in fact provides just such a forum, without regard to seniority and length of service in the Armed Forces, subject of course, to propriety and quality of the written work.

Centre for Strategic Studies and Simulation

The Erstwhile Centre for Research and its resources have been merged into the new Centre named as USI Centre for Strategic Studies and Simulation (USI-CS3) wef 01 January 2005. The Centre aims at conducting detailed and comprehensive enquiry, research and analyses of national and international security related issues, and gaming and simulation of strategic scenarios, to evolve options for wider discussion and consideration.

USI Centre for UN Peacekeeping (CUNPK)

The Centre was established in 2000 and functioned with USI till Aug 2014, when it moved out of USI premises and was delinked from USI. Its aims were organising workshops, seminars and training capsules for peacekeepers, observers and staff officers – both Indian and foreign. It also oversaw the practical training of Indian contingents. It functioned under a Board of Management headed by the Vice Chief of the Army Staff and worked in close coordination with the Service Headquarters and the Ministries of External Affairs and Defence. In August 2014, CUNPK moved out to the accommodation allotted by the Army HQ.

Centre for Armed Forces Historical Research (CAFHR)

The Centre was established on 01 Dec 2000 and encourages study and research into the history of the Indian Armed Forces with objectivity, covering different facets such as strategy, tactics, logistics, organisation and socio-economic aspects and their implementation.

Gold Medal Essay Competitions

Every year the Institution organises two gold medal essay competitions: one for officers below 10 years of service and the other open to all officers. These essays, the first one of which was introduced in 1871, constitute a barometer of opinion on matters that affect national security in general and the defence forces in particular.

Lt Gen SL Menezes Memorial Essay Competition

This has been instituted from 2015 on a subject related to Armed Forces Historical Research. The Essay Competition is open to all across the globe.

Lectures, Discussions and Seminars

A series of lectures, discussions and seminars on service matters, international affairs, and topics of general interest to the Services, are organised for the benefit of local members in Delhi.

MacGregor Medal

This medal is awarded to Armed Forces personnel for valuable reconnaissance and adventure activity they may have undertaken.

MEMBERSHIP

The following are eligible to become members of the Institution :

- Officers of the Armed Forces
- Class I Gazetted Officers of Group 'A' Central Services.
- Any category mentioned above will be eligible even though retired or released from the Service.
- Cadets from the NDA and Cadets from the Service Academies and Midshipmen.

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