

In the process of articulating such an analysis, Fischer eschews other options. Perhaps Washington, in reality a rigid disciplinarian smart enough to listen when the right people presented ideas, simply received better advice than Cornwallis. Perhaps he outgenerated Cornwallis because he had divined the latter's aggressiveness in field, which was as much a matter of successfully reading an opponent as listening to the commentary emanating from war councils. Many such explanatory possibilities exist, but Fischer prefers to use his own caricatures to contend that a whole new American "way of war," denoted by "boldness and prudence, flexibility and opportunism, initiative and tempo, speed and concentration, force multipliers, and intelligence" emerged from the campaign (p. 375). Not addressing the large body of published literature on the American way of war, Fischer offers no explanation regarding how Washington learned so quickly, and then applied universally, the core components of the American military tradition. In the end, this kind of commentary is representative of many points of analysis that fail to convince in this otherwise major reconsideration of the campaign that yielded the remarkable rebel victories at Trenton and Princeton.

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Brian Lockman, with additional text by Dan Cupper. *World War II In Their Own Words: An Oral History of Pennsylvania's Veterans*. (Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 2005. Pp. 272, 10 maps, bibliography, index, resources. \$19.95 pb).

Each week, hundreds of World War II veterans pass on and their experiences during that conflict are gone forever. It is important to preserve the veterans' stories about World War II and *World War II In Their Own Words* keeps those war memories alive. This collection of oral histories is the print companion to the Pennsylvania Cable Network series about Pennsylvania World War II veterans.

The thirty-plus accounts describe the necessary daily tasks that insured Allied victory in World War II. These ranged from bombing missions and paratrooper operations to supplying the Chinese-Burma-India theater with vital war material. Some veterans discussed their involvement in major engagements such as the Battle of the Bulge, Okinawa, and Pearl Harbor. Photos of veterans today and when they served, along with a short description of their pre-war lives, begins each selection. A short concluding paragraph

recounts their post-war lives. These personal narratives are just as important as the official record because they often complement the scholarly histories and provide further insight into the typical soldier's World War II. They make World War II, for the post-war generations, more than television images and help paint a more complete portrait of the American GI. For these individuals, the war did not stop between the big battles and these brave men and women daily dealt with terror, fatigue, and loss. The veteran's narratives also sheds light on why millions of Americans became involved in the war effort and the simple, humble way in which they accomplished their tasks.

The most difficult part about conducting oral history interviews is ensuring that the subject's facts are accurate. Some forget important details or put them "out of place" after so many years. The authors, however, did an excellent job keeping their facts straight. Further, they authenticated each veteran's account by incorporating the varied information boxes into many of the narratives. Nevertheless, the oral histories presented in *World War II In Their Own Words* do not provide a complete record of the veterans' experiences, but a summary of their service to their country. Yet, the stories should inspire the reader to learn more about World War II and even compel the reader to ask older relatives about their war experiences. *World War II In Their Own Words* serves as an excellent work with which to begin a study of many aspects of World War II. Those studying the air war, ground combat, prisoners-of-war, or the general theaters of war will find useful information throughout the book. Additional material discusses weapons, campaigns, and some the leaders mentioned in the text. A World War II timeline, additional maps, bibliography, and a section on further reading provides ample information for students, scholars, and casual readers alike.

*World War II In Their Own Words* does contain some minor grammatical errors, such as not capitalizing proper nouns, but these errors are few and far between. Though there is only one narrative from a woman, an Army nurse, it includes a good mix of soldiers, sailors, airmen, and other branches of service. The narratives are also fairly balanced between the European and Pacific theaters. *World War II In Their Own Words* stands as a testament to the courage, bravery, and sacrifice of the "Greatest Generation" and to the men and women who served throughout the Second World War.

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