

'... it is vital that proper care and attention is taken for success depends on this. The saying that we judge a man by the company he keeps can be changed in this context to: 'You can judge a company by the men it keeps.'

Wrn Calvin Smit

Warning and Response by Julian Critchley. Leo Cooper, 1978. 123p. R10,40.

Julian Critchley is the Conservative MP for Aldershot. Although the subtitle of the book reads: 'A study of surprise attack in the 20th century and an analysis of its lessons for the future,' and although the author illustrates his thesis by citing examples of surprise attack in the various wars since 1939, the essence of this work is concern for the Central European front of NATO. For years, NATO'S plans have been based on the assumption that there would be a period of warning resulting from the deterioration of the international situation and overt activity on the part of the Warsaw Pact forces. Critchley examines the ability of NATO to predict and to respond to the Soviet — Warsaw Pact threat; he believes that NATO's defence must be credible without reliance upon warning, that warning signs are invariably misinterpreted, disbelieved and filtered by the preconceptions of the politicians. Not even the ability to read the enemy's codes is a guarantee of learning his intentions. He concludes that the warning of attack is bound to be ambiguous and suggests that in order to prevent war NATO must restore tactical nuclear deterrence in Europe.

I recommend this book unreservedly to the military reader interested in the past and the

current crises in terms of intelligence and the surprise attack.

Col V. C. Muller

Patton's Third Army at war, by George Forty. Ian Allan, 1978. 192p. R13,70.

In a series of accounts written by the men who 'were there', the reader follows General George S. Patton and his Third Army through the North West European campaign of 1944 and 1945.

The book is in no way a detailed history of Third Army's accomplishments but Forty succeeds through a wealth of photos and historical narrative, to knit together a story of how the individuals, those in the front line, fought their war.

It is a story of team work, of armour, infantry and aircraft working together with tremendous drive. They gave a new dimension to the current concept of the role of armour in warfare. They only needed one general order — to seek out the enemy, trap and destroy him; this they did, driving on in fair weather and foul, across good going and bad. It is also the story of a triumph of administration as thousands of trucks carried forward the supplies so vital to keep an Army of that size moving and fighting. This was *blitzkrieg* at its best and much of Third Army's greatness, their driving force, their will to win, they owed to their commander. This book is recommended as a condensed biography of General Patton and a lesson in mobile warfare.

Col V. C. Muller