

Voort explains in his foreword that there was a dearth of literary products relating to the early history of English maritime voyages of discovery.

Richard Eden was the first writer who brought his countrymen news regarding continental works relating to navigation at sea and the voyages of discovery when, in 1555, he reproduced P. Martyr's work **De Orbo Novo** (1511) for their information under the title of **The Decades of the Newe Worlde**.

In 1553 S. Cabot had in fact given directions that navigational observations were to be recorded daily in a logbook. As the logbook stood in relation to these navigational notes, so the ship's journal was used to record descriptions of the voyage. In this way many ship's captains including certain of the British Navy, also became authors with literary-historical abilities.

This led inter alia to the origin of maritime novels which have been described as "the vehicles of knowledge, and the last embers of history raked together to keep the navy before the eyes of the public" (p. 143).

It required the merits of a Chaumier, a Marryat, a Joseph Conrad, a Nicholas Monsarrat (**The Cruel Sea**, 1951) and those who will follow in their footsteps, to repeat once again:

**O'er the ocean we roam,
For the sea is our home . . .**

— Jan Ploeger

B. N. RECKITT: The Lindley Affair. A Diary of the Boer War. A. Brown & Sons, Hull, 1972, pp. 52.

On May 31, 1900, the 13th Battalion Imperial Yeomanry surrendered to General Piet de Wet at Lindley in the north-eastern Free State.

The author has here published the diary of his father, a trooper involved in the 'Lindley Affair,' and supplemented it with outlines of the causes and course of the Second Anglo-Boer War, along with three chapters examining the encounter from both sides and critically evaluating the episode with a view to determining responsibility for the surrender. The well-written diary, although dealing with a relatively insignificant encounter, has merit in its detailed exposition of life in the 13th during the six days of fighting which preceded the surrender. One receives an admirably clear picture of activities both in the command sector and amongst the men.

In the last chapters, the author analyses the actions both of the officers of the 13th and of General Colvile, who although not far away neglected to send aid to Spragge. Mr Reckitt avoids making a final pronouncement, inclining to the verdict that the 'Lindley Affair' was beyond the power of any one specific person on the British side to control.

This competent monograph deserves attention by all who are interested in a close-up view of a British unit in action. One is left with the wish that more of this type of short in-depth examination existed.

— R. J. Bouch