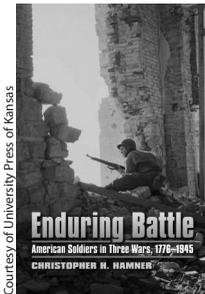


At the end of the day, an organization and its commander are evaluated based on their achievements. In this regard, the Third Army led by General George S. Patton, as measured by the US Army's statistics, was a highly effective organization. The following makes that case:

In 281 days of combat, Third Army saw 21,441 men killed, 99,224 wounded, and 16,200 missing. Non-battle casualties stood at 111,562. Patton's *Third Army* managed to seize 81,823 square miles of territory Estimated casualties among the German forces that faced Third Army in battle accounted for 47,500 killed and 115,700 wounded. In total, Third Army captured 1,280,688 German military personnel between 1 August, 1944 and 13 May 1945.

Patton's Third Army in World War II is a superb book as well as a great read; it captures the Third Army's many exploits and General Patton's accomplishments, as well as graphically depicting the human dimension of leadership and the cost of war.



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Kansas, 2011

281 pages

\$29.95

Enduring Battle: American Soldiers in Three Wars, 1776-1945

by Christopher H. Hamner

Reviewed by Robert Previdi, author of *Civilian Control versus Military Rule*

The book is an attempt to compare the combat experience of American forces in three wars: the War of Independence, Civil War, and World War II. The author's primary thesis is to explain the role of fear on the part of soldiers as the technologies of war make it an ever deadlier environment. Hamner, an assistant professor of history at George Mason University, opens with a chapter contrasting the Battle of Cowpens during the War of Independence, the Battle of Shiloh during the Civil War, and the Battle of the Hurtgen Forest during the Second World War from the combat soldier's viewpoint.

There is a great deal of interesting factology in the book, but its overall comprehension would have been greatly increased if greater attention had been applied to its editing. For example, if the paragraphs were condensed, the readability would have been markedly improved. There is little question the book makes a number of poignant observations; but in terms of supporting the author's thesis, the book is missing an overarching concept that would link the material together in a cogent manner. The result is a great deal of redundancy of facts and conclusions.

The author explores how the soldiers of the three wars experienced fear and what could be done to alleviate it. Hamner makes the point that for every soldier fear, at some point in combat, causes immobilization. A soldier can only fight so long before fear incapacitates him for combat. The reality associated with fear and overcoming it was understood by America's military

as it transitioned and adopted its training, conditioning, and leadership from the War of Independence to World War II.

Professor Hamner explains that even when the battlefield adapted to new technologies, soldiers often had a difficult time inculcating these changes. He quotes from a 1941 US Army Field Manual to make this point: “Man is the fundamental instrument in war; other instruments change but he remains relatively constant.”

Hamner believes imagination is one of the leading causes of fear and cowardice in combat. That is why, to teach individuals about the horrors of combat, soldiers received far more innovative training related to the hardships of war during World War II. The thought being that there are actions soldiers can take to decrease fear, thereby increasing their survival in combat. Most interesting is the author’s belief that training can help offset fear but it cannot eliminate it to the point where a soldier can fight indefinitely. The determination is that a man can only deal with the many aspects of fear for a limited duration.

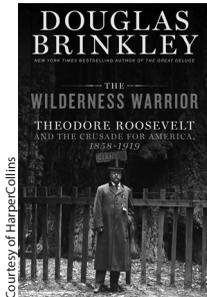
The author concludes that being shot at in combat had varying impacts as the technology changed. “The isolation of the empty battlefield [during World War II] helped encourage that sensation of being singled out and targeted specifically.” Therefore, when the battlefield was dispersed, the result was a greater focus on the individual.

According to Professor Hamner, leadership in combat is based on competence. Effective leadership can help to offset some fear—but the reality of the battlefield will eventually overwhelm the positive effect of leadership. He writes: “Combat leadership derives much of its power from the simple fact that people in stressful situations often want to be told what to do.” The main function of a leader in combat then is to take responsibility for the men being led. Leadership involves not only competence and experience but also an attitude that soldiers can believe in and identify with.

Professor Hamner uses a quote from Civil War General Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain to explain valor: “love or bond of comradeship.” He also determines there are other reasons to explain courage and persistence on the battlefield. The Americans did well in the defense of their country during the Revolutionary War because of the character and determination of men such as George Washington. Another outstanding example of such character and determination was the Finns when, against all odds, in the defense of their country, this little nation fought the Soviet Union in the Winter War of 1939-40 and in the Continuation War of 1941-44. Finland exists today because of the character, courage, and will of its people. There are a number of lessons to be learned from what the Finns accomplished.

The author references the work of S. L. A. Marshall in *Men Against Fire* to support a number of his assertions. I would recommend accepting such support with a grain of suspicion and reading John Whiteclay Chambers II’s article “S. L. A. Marshall’s Men Against Fire: New Evidence Regarding Fire Ratios” in *Parameters*’ Autumn 2003 issue.

This book has value, but it should have been condensed into a more logical form. The redundant manner of presentation detracts from its logical flow of information, readability, and understandability.



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940 pages

\$34.99

The Wilderness Warrior: Theodore Roosevelt and the Crusade for America

by Douglas Brinkley

Reviewed by Dr. William P. Leeman, Assistant Professor of History, Salve Regina University, and author of *The Long Road to Annapolis: The Founding of the Naval Academy and the Emerging American Republic*

Portraying Theodore Roosevelt as a “wilderness warrior” and employing military imagery to describe his environmentalism and crusade for conservation, Douglas Brinkley provides a detailed study of Roosevelt’s interaction with the natural world and his efforts to preserve it before and during his historic presidency. Brinkley’s Roosevelt is a great, if sometimes contradictory, champion of the American wilderness, obsessively striving to protect American wildlife while frequently indulging in big game hunting. Brinkley credits Roosevelt with launching the modern conservation movement in the United States and confirms his status as the nation’s first true environmental president.

The first 400 pages of the book examine Roosevelt’s encounters with nature and his early conservation efforts during the period before his rise to the presidency. As a child with health problems, young Roosevelt found comfort in the fresh air of the outdoors and quickly became a naturalist and wildlife enthusiast. A devoted disciple of Charles Darwin, Roosevelt first read Darwin’s classic work, *On the Origin of Species*, as a teenager and ultimately adopted Darwin’s theory of evolution through competition and struggle as his philosophy of life. Often advocating what he called “the strenuous life,” Roosevelt was convinced that true American manhood required an immersion in nature and the wilderness for ultimate fulfillment.

Perhaps the most formative experience for Roosevelt came in 1884 when, following the death of his wife and mother on the same day, Roosevelt temporarily abandoned his career in New York politics and moved west to the Dakota Territory to live a rancher’s life. This experience gave Roosevelt a new dimension to his character and public image—an elite and scholarly eastern politician, but also a frontier cowboy and big game sportsman. Roosevelt was equally comfortable in the aristocracy of New York society, the ultra-competitive world of New York politics, and the rough and pure masculine environment of the Dakota Badlands. Even his writings demonstrated this unique character. He was the author of a number of scholarly works on naval history and western expansion as well as ornithological studies, books on hunting, and accounts of his adventures in the Dakota Territory.