

recommend that they look into the possibility of selling the units separately instead of requiring purchasers to buy the entire set.

**Grace Hyam**  
Manuscript Division  
Public Archives of Canada

**In All Respects Ready: The Merchant Navy and the Battle of the Atlantic, 1939-1945.** FREDERICK B. WATT. Scarborough: Prentice-Hall, 1985. 222 p. ISBN 0-13-453648-7 pa; 0-13-453630-4 cl. \$19.95.

In this memoir, F.B. Watt recounts the origins and activities of the Naval Boarding Service (NBS) during the Second World War. The NBS was responsible for ensuring that merchant vessels carrying essential war supplies between Canada and Britain were prepared for the long and dangerous trek across the North Atlantic. As the name implies, the NBS personnel boarded merchant ships prior to their departure from Halifax, inspected the hold to ensure the proper and safe storage of cargo, and assessed the morale and ability of captain and crew. The Boarding Service was initially established at Halifax, the main convoy assembly point in Canada, but by the middle years of the war the service was also instituted at Sydney and Vancouver.

Watt's memoirs are not, however, a thorough or complete history of the merchant navy in the Battle of the Atlantic as the subtitle promises. A large portion of the book is devoted to the early years of the boarding service and Watt's personal involvement in its success and expansion; the final two years of the war are dealt with quickly and in little detail. In spite of this, Watt adds to our knowledge of the merchant fleet in the Second World War — he paints a good picture of the tensions and dangers faced by masters and mates as they left port on yet another fearsome crossing of the Atlantic, and he is convincing. The boarding service was not glamorous war work, but it was definitely essential.

**The King's Yard: An Illustrated History of the Halifax Dockyard.** MARILYN GURNEY SMITH. Halifax: Nimbus Publishing, 1985. 56 p. ISBN 0-920852-44-0 \$9.95 pa.

This is a small book consisting of seventy-two illustrations, mainly photographs, documenting the history of the Halifax dockyard from the mid-nineteenth century to the present day. The author describes briefly the history of each of the structures in the yard including the residences, magazines, wharves, hospital, and so on. This is set in context with a very general overview of Canadian naval history. There are a number of typographical errors that mar the text and the narrative portions could have been edited more carefully. In spite of this, the illustrations make for good visual history and underscore the need for a fully documented history of this important naval facility.

**Gunshield Graffiti: Unofficial Badges of Canada's Wartime Navy.** THOMAS G. LYNCH and JAMES B. LAMB. Halifax: Nimbus Publishing, 1984. 144 p. ISBN 0-920852-27-0 \$12.95 pa.

During the Second World War, an unusual art form developed among the ships of the Royal Canadian Navy. For reasons which are now obscure, the practice of painting

“unofficial” ships’ badges on the gunshields started in 1941 and spread rapidly from ship to ship. The badge was often a cartoon-like painting depicting an imaginative interpretation of the ship’s name. For example, H.M.C.S. *Drumheller* was adorned with a devil figure sitting in flames while pounding away at a drum!

With the gunshields now gone, the authors have had to rely on photographs from public and private collections to compile this collection of ships’ badges. The illustrations, over 120 in number, are black and white only, and feature a brief explanation of the badge. The book also includes a short introduction in which the origins, significance, and fate of gunshield graffiti are explained. Lynch and Lamb succeed in throwing some light on a small corner of Canadian naval history by documenting this unique form of popular art.

**The Canadian Military Experience 1867-1983: A Bibliography.** O.A. COOKE. Ottawa: Department of National Defence, 1984. 329 p. ISBN 0-660-52649-2 \$11.95 pa.

Compiled by Owen Cooke of the Directorate of History, Department of National Defence, this extensive bibliography lists published books on Canada’s military history since 1867. This edition is a revised and much enlarged version of one which first appeared in 1979. The bibliography includes about 2500 different entries divided into six categories, and within each category into three or four chronological periods: bibliographies; defence policy and general works; separate sections for naval, land, and air forces, 1867-1967; and a final section on the Armed Forces since 1968. The book is indexed in a very useful manner by services, branches, formations, and units for quick reference. Articles, theses, and published works relating to the pre-Confederation period have not been included nor has poetry and fiction. A comprehensive military history bibliography encompassing all forms of literature would be too massive an undertaking, but perhaps a selection of the most important works in these fields could be included in any future edition. The present edition is, nonetheless, a valuable addition to the reference shelf.

**Glenn T. Wright**  
Federal Archives Division  
Public Archives of Canada

**The Canadian City: Essays in Urban and Social History.** GILBERT A. STELTER and ALAN F.J. ARTIBISE, eds. Ottawa: Carleton University Press, 1984. 503 p. ISBN 0-88629-018-X \$14.95 pa.

This collection of essays on urban society is an enlarged and revised edition of an earlier volume published in 1977. A number of the essays are reprints from various journals while others were prepared expressly for this publication. In this edition, there is new emphasis on subjects such as the family, social structure, immigration, and religion. Other sections are dedicated to urban growth, physical environment, and urban reform and government. The editors have provided new introductions to each section and while discarding four earlier essays, have added eight new ones for a total of twenty. Also deleted is a section devoted to a selection of recent publications in Canadian urban history.