

**The D-Day Dodgers: The Canadians in Italy, 1943-1945.** DANIEL G. DANCOCKS. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1991. 508 p. ISBN 0-7710-2544-0 \$34.95.

The fiftieth anniversary of the Second World War is upon us. New books on many aspects of the wartime experience started to find their way into bookstores about two years ago, and the end of the flow is not yet in sight. Anniversaries with "Canadian" content began last year with the Battle of Britain and continue this year with the anniversary of the tragic Hong Kong expedition. Next year we will hear about the Dieppe raid, to be followed by the invasion of Sicily and Italy, the D-Day landings in Normandy, the liberation of Holland and the final defeat of both Germany and Japan. For those involved in the Battle of the Atlantic, the anniversary is as long as the battle itself and has already featured the publication of books and memoirs on the contribution of the Royal Canadian Navy to the defeat of the German U-boat.

Dan Dancocks enters the anniversary fray with *D-Day Dodgers*, an excellent book on the invasion of Italy by Canadian and Allied Forces in July 1943 and the subsequent defeat of Italian and German forces. It is Dancocks' seventh book of popular military history. In 1983 he published *In Enemy Hands*, a history of Canadian prisoners of war, and he followed this with five books on aspects of the First World War: *Sir Arthur Currie* (1985); *Legacy of Valour* (1986); *Spearhead to Victory* (1987); *Welcome to Flanders Fields* (1988); and *The Gallant Canadians: The Story of the Tenth Canadian Infantry Battalion, 1914-1919* (1990).

In *D-Day Dodgers*, Dancocks returns to the formula that worked so successfully in his first book, a combination of oral history and archival research. Dancocks provides us with a thorough account of the war in Italy. He assesses the Italian campaign in relation to overall Allied strategy, a stark reminder that the Allies themselves could not agree on the nature and extent of operations in the Mediterranean. For Canadian forces it was a golden opportunity for long-awaited action. For three years, the Canadian Army was firmly encamped in Great Britain and, with the exception of the ill-fated despatch of troops to Hong Kong in December 1941 and participation in the disastrous Dieppe raid in August 1942, had seen no action. Yet, for all their inexperience, the army performed exceptionally well in Sicily and Italy, earning a reputation with both friends and foe as tenacious fighters.

Most impressive, however, is Dancocks' ability to combine official military documentation, especially unit war diaries, with personal reminiscences that he has collected from published and unpublished memoirs and in correspondence and interviews with veterans who participated in the Italian campaign. A large injection of anecdotal material makes for a lively account, full of human interest and alive to both the glory and the tragedy of twentieth-century warfare. Combined with Dancocks' ability to write good narrative history, the result is a highly readable and lively history of the Italian campaign that should appeal to specialist and non-specialist alike. Even complicated military operations are lucid and comprehensible, and amidst all the strategy and policy-making, the author never loses sight of the perceptions and feelings of individual soldiers, officers, and other ranks alike.

In this reviewer's opinion, *D-Day Dodgers* is Dan Dancocks' best book. Unfortunately, it is also his last book. Upon returning home to Calgary in June following a publicity tour for the book, Dan Dancocks died at the age of forty. At the time of his

death, he was preparing the manuscript for a book on the Dieppe raid. Sad and unfortunate as this may be, he leaves a legacy of well-researched and well-written books on aspects of Canadian military history. For a productive and successful writer such as Dan Dancocks, *D-Day Dodgers* is an appropriate and worthy final chapter.

**Glenn Wright**

National Archives of Canada

**Arctic Odyssey: The Diary of Diamond Jenness, Ethnologist with the Canadian Arctic Expedition in Northern Alaska and Canada, 1913-1916.** STUART E. JENNESS, ed. Canadian Museum of Civilization, 1991. xiii, 839 p. ISBN 0662-12905.

The Canadian Arctic Expedition (CAE) was an ambitious undertaking conceived by Vilhjalmur Stefansson and sponsored by the Canadian government. Tragedy in the form of the 1913 sinking of the supply vessel KARLUK reduced the scientific party by one half. Despite the setback the second party managed to assemble an astounding quantity of information about the geology, flora, fauna, and people of the western and central Arctic. One of the most prolific members of the expedition was Diamond Jenness, selected as one of the CAE anthropologists by Edward Sapir who learned of this Oxford graduate through a former classmate, Marius Barbeau. These men become legendary figures in the fields of linguistics and anthropology. A New Zealander by birth, Jenness had no previous experience in the Arctic yet signed on without hesitation. The Jenness diary begins on 20 September 1913—an earlier portion apparently was lost when the KARLUK sank—and continues in a virtually unbroken narrative until August 1916.

Stuart Jenness selected the title of the book because of the dictionary definition of “odyssey,” a series of “adventurous journeys” and because Homer’s *Odyssey* was a book *père* Jenness which held in special regard. Indeed, he had kept a copy with him on his travels with the Copper Eskimos to Victoria Island and later during his two years at the front in the First World War. *Arctic Odyssey* is indeed a book of epic proportions. Of its 837 pages, two-thirds of these are devoted to the Jenness diary. The text is supplemented by more than 200 hand-drawn maps and sketches. These illustrations provide visual representations of such diverse subjects as Inuit construction techniques, tattoos, tool or weapon design, sled styles, and landscape features. Jenness also took three hundred photographs during the course of the expedition and some forty of these are interspersed with the text. The overall effect of this marriage of narrative and images provides a vivid reminder of how life in the North has changed dramatically in a remarkably short time. Stuart Jenness, the editor and son of the diarist, has carefully listed all of his father’s contributions to the preservation of Inuit cultural history; the one hundred recordings and several books of songs of the Copper Eskimo, his catalogue of archaeological artifacts, a publication on ‘cat’s cradle’ string designs, the photographs, maps, and drawings noted above, and the journal itself. All of this research culminated in his critically acclaimed book *People of the Twilight* (1928) which captured a way of life that no longer exists.

While the book is definitely a tribute to the stamina and perseverance of Diamond Jenness, the work also demonstrates that these are characteristics shared by son Stuart. His own diligent work is reflected in the comprehensiveness of prologue, epilogue, footnotes and appendices, which exhibit the editor’s devotion not only to his subject but