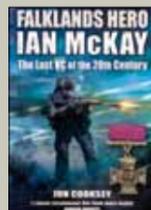


# RECONNOITRING READING

## Falklands Hero: Ian McKay

by Jon Cooksey

THIS book charts the life of Victoria Cross winner Sgt Ian McKay from childhood through joining The Parachute Regiment and deployments in Northern Ireland – including Bloody Sunday – to his final heroic feat during the Falklands War. It's worth wading through the excess, trivial detail of the first few chapters to get to the subject's actions against Argentine forces, where **Jon Cooksey's** style loses its self-indulgent, meandering tone and becomes a good, gripping narrative of events. Wait for the paperback.

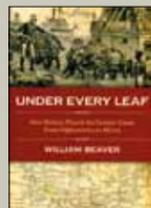


## Capt Laura Mazzara, Int Corps

## Under Every Leaf

by William Beaver

CHRONICLING the establishment of the Intelligence Division during the last quarter of the 19th century, this book should not be judged by its cover. While well researched, *Under Every Leaf* is nothing like the rollicking good read full of espionage and adventure promised by its blurb. Attempting to cover a vast swathe of the British Empire, far too many characters and complex subject matter, this book is written by a military historian for military historians and will probably hold no interest for those outside of this sphere.

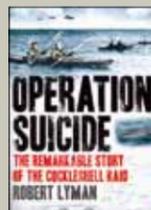


## Sgt Wallace Stephenson, Int Corps

## Operation Suicide

by Robert Lyman

A DETAILED analysis of the 1942 Cockleshell Heroes raid into Bordeaux Harbour, this title examines how such sorties were borne out of Churchill's desire to get on the front foot. *Operation Suicide* is at its best when discussing the human aspects of the endeavour but concentrates too much on the equipment considerations. To criticise this labour of love is, however, churlish; it serves its subject well. What this title sets out, very clearly, is how the bravery of such raiders kept morale up, frustrated the Germans and contributed towards Allied victory.

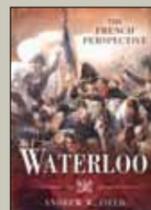


## Maj Inigo Jones, MoD Main Building

## Waterloo: The French Perspective

by Andrew Field

IT was about time a new book on the "Jonny Francois" view of Waterloo was published. I have a number of titles on the Napoleonic wars but this is very impressive. It is obviously the result of a labour of love, involving meticulous research and a great deal of effort by **Andrew Field**. Too many previous offerings on the subject fail to provide the French perspective and do not deal with the sorts of issues that only a military author can. This is magnificent and highly recommended, though primarily for the Waterloo enthusiast.



## Col Patrick Crowley, PWRR

## Second World War Infantry Tactics

by Stephen Bull

THIS book bares out the old adage that technology may change but soldiers and tactics do not. **Stephen Bull** has delivered an absolute gold mine of information. Packed with detail, diagrams and data, this really is an excellent buy. Chapters on anti-tank strategies and the comparative strengths and weaknesses of German, British and US soldiers are detailed, informative and remarkably topical. Ideal reference material for any Service personnel looking for ideas when preparing a presentation or study day.

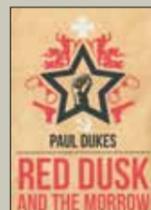


## Maj Mike Peters, AAC

## Red Dusk and the Morrow

by Paul Dukes

THIS account of the author's time in Soviet Russia – as a language teacher before the revolution and later as a member of the British intelligence service – reads as though it were a fictional spy novel. Well written and charting an incredible adventure, it is easy to forget that the characters featured in *Red Dusk and the Morrow* actually existed. Remembering that the title chronicles true events will cement readers' genuine interest in **Paul Dukes'** already engaging narrative. This is an excellent offering and a book history fans will especially enjoy.



## Craig Don, ex-RE

Interview: **Becky Clark**

**A**S the commercial world struggles to adapt to the effects of the economic crisis and defence faces up to an era of transformation, the only certainty appears to be uncertainty. But a new title by TA officer and business strategist Ivan Yardley suggests that companies could weather such turbulence by adopting the military mindset.

*From Battlefield to Boardroom* draws on the author's considerable experience commanding British soldiers and directing his own marketing company to offer insight into how the two sectors can learn from each other.

"Most businesses want an organisation that has greater empowerment and staff who are willing to take risks and make decisions," Yardley told *Soldier*. "However, they don't quite know how to put the leadership in place to create a culture that enables that. They could look to the military, which has achieved that in a robust and sustainable way on operations."

The book explores how firms could replicate the Army's front-line success by following the doctrine of mission command. Management based on shared values is presented as a credible alternative to the profit-driven behaviour that usually infiltrates the corporate world, where greed has led to a growing gap between the highest and lowest earners.

"Sound, robust leadership carries people through thick and thin," explained Yardley, who oversaw the deployment of 485 soldiers on Op Telic and various other missions as CO of 4th Battalion, The Mercian Regiment.

"You need chiefs who are going to act in a way that is good for the whole, not just the individual. It would be very difficult for any officer in the military to reward themselves 27 times more than a person further down in their organisation. If you don't maintain trust and commitment, people won't perform."

Lessons offered to Service personnel from the world of commerce may be of particular interest to those at the helm of Army 2020.

"Officers could look at how international companies operate without huge amounts of infrastructure," the Reservist commented.

"I'm not suggesting they adopt a McDonald's-style franchise but you could have some things contracted out; capabilities brought in at the last minute and temporary strategic alignments."

Although not the first title to examine how military tactics can be exploited by the corporate sector and vice versa, this author's pedigree at the operational end of both worlds should be the envy of other offerings.

Those looking for a self-help manual on how to translate battlefield experiences into a successful second career may wish to look elsewhere. But anyone involved in restructuring or wanting to understand the broader application of military theory to business will gain some useful insights.

"We have a fantastic opportunity for the first time in several hundred years to radically rethink how defence will operate, to be involved in something that's going to be much more diverse and transformational than it has been in the past," Yardley added.

The author's hope is that this vision is rewarded with thriving book sales over the coming months. ■

# BOOKS



Operational oracle: *From Battlefield To Boardroom*, published by Palgrave Macmillan and priced £26, is out now  
Main picture: Steve Dook

PICK OF THE MONTH:

# FRONT-LINE PHILOSOPHY

TA OFFICER BRINGS BATTLE WISDOM TO BUSINESS