

of Honor by President Lyndon Johnson.

Weaving the fabric of a complex battle like the one that took place on Hill 65 requires numerous threads. Conetto's tenacious use of original sources — more than 30 firsthand accounts — provides the reader an exceptional view of the battle as it unfolded. His research, diligence in tracking down participants, and relentless scholarship are all worthy of great praise. Missing from this volume is a much-needed series of maps that would add immeasurably to the reader's understanding of the flow of battle. The book was inspired by his original master's thesis in 1993 and further encouraged by his professor at San Jose State University, Dr. Larry D. Englemann. That the book appeared literally on the 50th Anniversary of the Battle for Hill 65 is a tribute to Conetto's own sense of history and a celebration of his personal efforts to tell a story that he needed to tell on behalf of himself and those who fought on Hill 65.

The most poignant chapters in *The Hump* are those devoted to Conetto's own life from aspiring childhood where he was "...entranced with the concepts of honor, sacrifice, daring, courage, glory, patriotism, and military tradition" to his lifelong struggle with PTSD. After his initial obligation that included his service in Alpha Company, he left the Army briefly but then returned guilt-ridden that he had survived Hump while many of his close friends and fellow Soldiers had not. Following another three years that included a second tour in Vietnam with the 1st Cavalry Division including command of a rifle company, Conetto left the service for good. The second tour in Vietnam only added to the guilt and bitterness that began with Hump and has continued to this day. This book is a remarkable tribute to Conetto's courageous lifelong battle against a wicked personal enemy, PTSD.

From the perspective of 50 years, Conetto has gathered a serious collection of "lessons learned" from both the tactical/strategic to the military/political. He cites a number of authorities including COL Walt Daniel, who had commanded Alpha Company in Operation Hump, and LTG Hal Moore, who had commanded the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry in the Ia Drang. Daniel focuses on the American failure to reinforce units, which in the "search" phase made significant contact but then failed to add additional combat power to seek the total destruction of the enemy force. Moore addresses the strategic limitations placed on American forces in Vietnam by allowing sanctuary to the North Vietnamese in Laos and Cambodia. Moore cites another tragic political limitation when General Westmoreland was advised of a Chinese soldier by a 1st Cavalry Division officer and was told, "You will never mention anything about Chinese soldiers in South Vietnam! Never!"

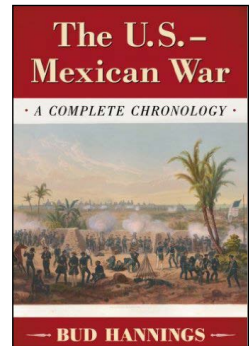
In honoring the enlisted Soldiers, NCOs, and officers in the 173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate) and the 1st Cavalry Division with whom he served, Conetto describes them as "America's finest!" He renders an equally emotional description of the politicians who "...were not of the same caliber. Many brave men gave their lives only to be sold down the river by those in Washington, D.C." In concluding, the reader finds a mature author, proud of his service and

the opportunity to have led American soldiers in combat. You cannot help but be proud of Al Conetto for this significant achievement.

MG (Retired) Cheggar served in the 173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate) from its beginning on Okinawa in 1963 and in the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry during 1965-66 including Operation Hump.

The U.S.-Mexican War: A Complete Chronology
By Bud Hannings
Jefferson, NC: McFarland,
2013, 216 pages

Reviewed by Gerald Williams



Bud Hannings' *The U.S. Mexican War: A Complete Chronology* is a historical and fascinating collection of accounts and events before and during the U.S.-Mexican War. The book is written in an easy-to-understand format with focus on important dates from Texas' independence to the Battle of Chapultepec (highly regarded as the battle ending the U.S.-Mexican War in 1847). With Hannings' focus on the war's background and events related to it, the *U.S.-Mexican War: A Complete Chronology* comes off as a strong source about the war.

The first thing noticed about Hannings' chronology of the U.S. Mexican-War is that it starts off a few years before the war in 1816. The events listed go far beyond just the battles between Mexicans and Texans. While these are at the focal point, he brings in other factors and events that give a larger perspective on the war raging from the extermination of piracy to Native Americans. Native Americans, particularly the Comanches and Creek Indians, are given special mention throughout the chronology's beginning dates. Depicted are situations of Native American raids on American towns and villages and how villagers sought to combat them.

One of the most interesting raids was an event known as the Fort Parker Massacre on 19 May 1836. Though a short passage, it inspired me to find out even more about it. This led me to reading the story of Cynthia Ann Parker, a 9-year-old victim of the raid. She was captured and soon assimilated into the Comanche, marrying a chief and bearing a son who would later become chief. When she was found years later, she could not assimilate back into American society and ran away to rejoin the Comanches.

With stories like these, Hannings seeks to give the full scope of the U.S.-Mexican War. It wasn't just a war between the U.S. and Mexican authorities but the natives as well. Although some recordings have more information than others, one can easily find more information about the event thanks to a plethora of material found online or in books. There are also some events listed surrounding the war that have little to do with the war but are still important enough

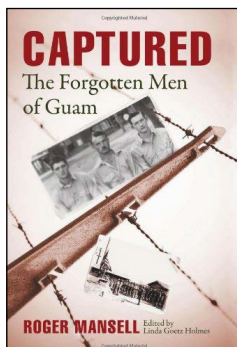
to know such as President Van Buren's address in 1838 about not assisting Canadian rebels against the British government.

The major events of the war, however, are very detailed. For example, Hannings' descriptions of the defense of Fort Texas in 1846 list each officer who fought during the battle, which lasted 3-6 May. He also details the positions of the garrison, cavalry, and infantry with respect to both U.S. and Mexican armies. This attention to detail is drawn from his many sources and compiled into one elaborate description of battles fought before and during the U.S.-Mexican War. Injuries and casualties are also listed for each battle.

While the scope of Hannings' chronology is wide, I would have liked to see more details regarding the occupation of the West and its policy on slavery.

Hannings' detailed list of events comes from an impressive collection of texts that paint an accurate history of life before and during the U.S.-Mexican War. I found that this book is a must-read for any historian or teacher who wants to know more about the battles and events of the U.S.-Mexican War. While the book is organized quite well, I wouldn't recommend it to anyone new to the U.S.-Mexican's war history, as it could use a little more background to introduce newer readers. I would treat this as a companion book to read with other source material in order to get an even wider scope of the U.S.-Mexican War. Overall, this book was an entertaining read.

Captured: The Forgotten Men of Guam
 By Roger Mansell, edited by
 Linda Goetz Holmes
 Annapolis, MD: Naval
 Institute Press, 2012, 228 pages
 Reviewed by LTC (Retired)
 Rick Baillergeon



Upon until his passing in October 2010, Roger Mansell dedicated countless hours in researching the experiences of American World War II prisoners of war (POWs) in the Pacific. His efforts continue to touch the lives of many people. This has included assisting in finding the remains of POWs, linking

up survivors of POW camps with each other, and providing family members with information on their loved ones who had been POWs. His research continues to be utilized on the website he developed, which is still active today — <http://www.mansell.com/pow-index.html>.

Prior to his death, Mansell was near completion on a book tied to his efforts. With the manuscript complete, what was now needed was someone with subject matter expertise to edit it. That someone was Linda Goetz Holmes. Clearly, Holmes possessed the expertise with many books published on POWs held in Japan during World War II. Her knowledge of the subject and past experience in publishing her own works were instrumental in bringing *Captured* to fruition.

The inspiration for *Captured* began when Mansell started his research of POWs in the Pacific. In his acknowledgments section he states, "As I gathered more stories, I realized no one had written much about the military and civilian personnel captured on Guam in the early days of the Pacific war; this became my mission for the next 10 years." Without question, Mansell achieves this mission and fills a void in our understanding of this area within World War II.

Within *Captured*, Mansell tells the story of the Guam POWs in significant detail — time spent in Guam prior to the Japanese invasion, their actions during the attack, their capture and subsequent movement to the POW camps in Japan, their years in captivity, and their ultimate release from the camps following Japan's surrender. Readers will obviously not truly understand what the POWs experienced, but they certainly obtain an appreciation of it.

The key ingredients in accomplishing this are the outstanding organizational skills and writing ability of Mansell (with the support of Holmes). First, the organization of the volume is superb. I have read several prior books of this genre where the author had difficulty connecting events, which made the volume a bit confusing to read. This is not the case in *Captured*. Mansell and Holmes have expertly developed a chronological flow which makes it effortless to follow the story of the Guam POWs.

The writing within *Captured* is exceptional. What is readily apparent is the ability of Mansell to express the wide spectrum of emotions through the complete ordeal of the Guam POWs. He captures the unthinkable lows of their captivity to the incredible highs of their release. In between, there is no sugarcoating or understating of anything the POWs experienced.

Have you read a book lately that you think would be of interest to the Infantry community and want to submit a review? Or are you interested in being a book reviewer for *INFANTRY*? Send us an email at: usarmy.benning.tradoc.mbx.infantry-magazine@mail.mil or call (706) 545-2350.