NEW MEMBERS

The following have applied for membership in our Society. If no written objection to such application be received from any member within thirty (30) days from date of publication of said notice applicant shall forthwith be admitted to membership (Art III, Sec 3 of the OMSA Constitution and By-Laws).

#3169 - Stephen J. Johnson (De Wolf #2697)
P. O. Box 103, Buffalo Creek, CO 80425

#3170 - Homer K. Levenick (Gleim #1724)
1371 Falls Road, Grafton, WI 53024

#3171 - Paul F. Kellner (Fischer #597)
RDF#5, Indian Mills - Tabernacle Road, Vinicetown, NJ 08088

#3172 - Laurens C. Hammack (Capobianco #2377)
P. O. Box 960, Oracle, AZ 85623

#3173 - Andrew R. Litherland (Joslin #1918)
c/o Spink & Son, Ltd., 5, 6, & 7 King Street, St. James', London SW1Y 6QS, England

#3174 - Charles V. Wilkerson (Secretary)
803 West Lane, Milford, DE 19963

#3175 - Joseph V. Vlcek (Secretary)
301 Langner Court, Oxon Hill, MD 20022

#3176 - Gene A. Finch (Weber #495)
939 Heather Crest, Lakeland, FL 33803

#3177 - Allen G. Lenartson (Johnson #1166)
3901 Hillborn Lane, Lansing, MI 48910

#3178 - E. Braxton Bradford, Jr. (Wilkinson #549)
4001 S. Westshore, Apt. #608, Tampa, FL 33611

#3179 - Leonard R. Spencer (Grush #2055)
3225 No. 41st Street, Omaha, NE 68111

#3180 - CPT Jan C. Chrypinski (Byrne #2258)
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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

#3095 - Marvin J. Brenner
P. O. Box 340893, Dallas, TX 75234

#2928 - Christopher M. Fagg
8 Henry Falls Street, Alawa, Darwin, N.T. 5794, Australia

#2850 - Paul Fanning
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#2209 - G. Arthur Janssen
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#2375 - Edward C. Johnson
711 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, IL 60614

#2981 - Michael J. Kareha, DMD
1526 - 49th Street, Pennsaulen, NJ 08110

#2739 - Kenneth G. Petrie
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#2663 - John R. Setzer
Box 181, Middlebourne, WV 26149

#2007 - Todd Wheatley
129 Emerson Street, #9, Palo Alto, CA 94301

REINSTATMENT

#2466 - Michael A. Sundock (Secretary)
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Respectfully submitted,

JOHN E. LELLE - Secretary
BOOK REVIEW

Foreign Legions of the Third Reich: Volume 1, Norway, Denmark, France, by David Littlejohn. R. J. Bender Publishing Co. P. O. Box 234, San Jose, California 95123; 1979.

6" x 9", hardcover, 208 pages, 523 photos & illustrations, $15.95

A copy of this book has been donated to the society by the publisher and this review has been requested by the Librarian.

When David Littlejohn's The Patriotic Traitors was published in 1972, you got the impression that some kind of tug-of-war had gone on between him and the book company. The book was supposed to be a "history of collaboration in German occupied Europe." But the writer kept mentioning all this weird stuff like medals, badges, armbands, flags, uniforms, and other flea market paraphernalia. He just couldn't stick to business, so the publishers shoved as much of the trivia as they could into notes at the end of the book and threw up their hands. The Patriotic Traitors didn't exactly elbow its way into the bestseller lists.

Now, with Foreign Legions of the Third Reich, it looks like Littlejohn has gotten to publish the kind of book he had in mind back in '72. Rarely are collectors treated to this kind of ground-breaking work. Over three hundred medals, badges, members' pins, insignia, and other items of regalia worn by the political, military, and para-military "Quislings" of Norway, Denmark, and France are shown and discussed. A large number of the illustrations are in color. Such diverse organizations as the Hird Factory Guards, Schalburg Corps, Vichy Labor Service, and the German-Arabian Demonstration Unit have been given space.

Of special interest to collectors of orders and medals is data on decorations of the French (Vichy) State from 1940 to 1945, the Marshal Petain Staff Badge, Schalburg Cross, Cross of the Danish Volunteer Battalion in Finland, North Schleswig Youth Achievement Badge, Danish National Socialist Party Badges of Honor, Norwegian "Front Sister's" Badge, Norwegian Police decoration, Front Soldier's Badge for Norwegians serving on the eastern front, Honor Badge of the Kvinnehird (woman's branch of the Quisling's party), and a Glider Pilot's Badge for the Quisling party flying section.

All of this is first-rate stuff. The series is to include four volumes, covering the "volunteers" of Holland, Belgium, Italy, Spain, central and southern Europe, as well as the "Eastern People" of the Euro-Asian border, including the Baltic and Finland. The author is soliciting contributions for the projected volumes and corrections to the one in print. No doubt O.M.S.A. members have data that would be welcomed.

Not so welcome will be the comments of reviewers and readers who like a little proof with their pudding. Littlejohn admits to having been "seriously restricted by the shortage of published documentation..." That he has not listed those that were used, in footnotes and a bibliography, will be frustrating to other researchers. Even the casual reader may tear his hair when he discovers there is no table of contents or index. Try to find today, for example, that paragraph you were reading yesterday about the Military War Police of La Pallice, without some kind of listing of contents. C'est impossible!

In The Patriotic Traitors Littlejohn chided Europeans for trying to sweep the dirty laundry of collaboration under the historical
carpet. Just as expected, it has been a lumpy and rather obvious mess and Littlejohn said that he was out to "redress the imbalance." Now, in Foreign Legions he seems to have abandoned the revisionist's role, saying of the legionaires that "It need only be said that many regarded themselves not so much as fighting for Hitler as against Stalin and the menace of communism..." That old chestnut has been pitched out before and (switching to a metaphor of another species) it's the single off-color apple in the barrel; a swan song offered by apologists of Nazism so often in the last thirty years that the historian George H. Stein called it the "myth of a European Army." [see The Waffen SS: Hitler's Elite Guard at War, Cornell University Press, 1966] Some have gone so far as to claim that the legions of the armed SS were the forerunners of NATO. Wrote Stein: "a romantic legend has been created which, in its simplest form, portrays the Waffen SS of the later war years as a multinational European army composed of idealists fighting to preserve western civilization from the onslaught of ' Asiatic Bolshevism'... The legend ... is patent nonsense."

Whatever the historical verdict about the politics of collaboration during W.W.II, David Littlejohn's Foreign Legions of the Third Reich is a major contribution to the field of regalia collecting. It may turn out that this series is the single most significant publishing effort for collectors of this area since Littlejohn and C. M. Dodkins brought the collecting of German awards out of the dark ages with Orders, Decorations, Medals, and Badges of the Third Reich. -- VerKuilen B. Ager

IDENTIFICATION: 80-3-5 -

BY: VERKUILEN AGER


Generally listed as the Soviet/Red Chinese Friendship Medal. This anachronism seems to exist in several variations. I have an example that appears to be a bit more oval and is suspended from a gold chain with a bar for fastening in a buttonhole.

IDENTIFICATION: 80-3-6 -

BY: CONTRIBUTORS BELOW


All contributors agree: This is a U.S. War Department Award for 6 Months Satisfactory Civilian Service in the Army Air Force. Similar awards (all ribbons only) existed for service with the Army Service Forces; Army Ground Forces; War Department General Staff; and Office of the Secretary of War. The basic ribbons were the same (dark blue with three horizontal dotted white threads), but each department was distinguished by a different center device indicating assignment. The awards were Authorized by Act of Congress, July 1, 1943, for faithful and meritorious service for wear by civilian employees of the War Department.

BY: BRIAN G. CANNON; MILT NEWELL; JOHN J. GISETTO, SR.; J. VICTOR JEFFREYS; W. J. WINTER AND THOSE LISTED BELOW:

HOYTE C. EVANS adds ... Other ribbons were given for 10- and 25-years of civilian service by adding a vertical white stripe at each end for 10 years, and vertical red and white stripes at each end for 25 years.

JOHN E. LELLE adds ... Exceptional Civilian Service Beyond the Call of Duty was indicated by addition of a gold wreath attached over the face of the ribbon. Meritorious Civilian Service in the Line