

## Books received...

**E**QUAL to the Task—History of the Royal Australian Army Service Corps. Neville Lindsay (Colonel, RAASC). Brisbane: Historia Productions, 1992. xvi + 511 pp. Colour illustrations of uniforms, badges and colour patches. Appendixes and bibliography. Name, unit, place and general indexes. ISBN 0 646 06707 9. (Obtainable from the author, c/- Historia Productions, PO Box 604, Kenmore 4069. Price \$45 plus \$7 p & h)

This is the first volume in a projected history of the Royal Australian Corps of Transport, motto 'Equal to the Task' (*Par Oneri*), and is an important contribution to Australian military history. It covers the origins of the RAASC from colonial beginnings in the Commissariat that provided for the first arrivals, through the activities of the separate military supply staffs in the States from the 1880s, to the rise and eventual replacement of the RAASC by the RACT in 1973. The RAASC went wherever troops had to be supplied, so this history also follows Australian defence forces wherever they trained or fought. A scholarly production, fascinating to dip into and a great read.

*The Devil's Garden. Solomon Islands War Diary, 1945.* Peter Pinney. Brisbane: University of Queensland Press, 1992. 227 pp. ISBN 0 7022 2397 2. Paperback, rrp \$15.95

This is the third and final volume in the trilogy of 'Johnno's illicit War Diaries', following on from *Barbarians* (New Guinea, 1943) and *The Glass Cannon* (Bougainville, 1944-45). No apologies for mentioning it in the same breath as the book above: it is based on Pinney's own illicit diaries, as a youngster of 21, and is a work of enjoyable fiction that reads as totally authentic history.

Pinney's life has been a whole library of adventure stories in itself. He joined the army in 1941, trained briefly in the Middle East with an artillery regiment, then served with an Independent Company in the Wau-

Salamaua campaign. Later he joined a Commando Squadron on Bougainville in the Solomons, where this story takes place. After the war he spent fifteen years travelling Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas on a shoestring, working in subsistence jobs when possible, sometimes on the wrong side of the law, occasionally rich, often hungry, always writing. He wrote *Dust On My Shoes* in Calcutta, *Who Wanders Alone* in Zanzibar, and *Anywhere But Here* in London.

Pooling accumulated funds, he purchased a schooner in Central America, ferried whisky and cigarettes from the Panama Free Zone to adjacent republics, lost his schooner in a gale, and became editor of a small Caribbean weekly. The French deported him from Martinique in the direction of Australia where he wrote *The Lawless and the Lotus*, *Restless Men* (north Australia), and *To Catch a Crocodile* (New Guinea). He spent five years diving for cray in Torres Strait, then sold his boat, married the cook, and wrote *Too Many Spears* with her. He began writing television scripts, took up residence in Brisbane and is still happily married to his deckie.

UQP are issuing a steady stream of excellent paperbacks at present: if you aren't already on their mailing list, this is a good time to call them.

*Career Comeback.* Jacquie Wise. Melbourne: Pitman Publishing. 217 pp. rrp. \$17.00 ISBN 0 7299 0218 8.

This book responds to requests from the trainers in DEET retraining programs, who asked for a comprehensive Australian guide which would give them a base for these programs. The book aims to:

- establish an acceptable standard for government retraining programs nationally;
- encourage individuals to have the confidence to cope with difficult situations;
- enable job applicants to be better prepared and able to compete at the highest possible levels;
- increase self awareness in applicants and encourage a deeper understanding of their personalities and motives;
- empower individuals to avoid common pitfalls and bounce back from adversity.

Who would find it useful? *Career Comeback* has been written with three levels of readership in mind:

- Job seekers who lack confidence, particularly those who have:
  - been retrenched
  - are returning to the workforce after raising a family
  - are leaving the armed forces to enter civilian life
  - are considering self-employment or

Peter Pinney (charcoal drawing by Ivor Hele, 1943, in the Australian War Memorial)



other alternatives.

- Leaders of DEET retraining programs or other career development courses.
- Career counsellors and outplacement consultants who are advising job-seekers.

Carol Kenchington, until very recently ALIA Training and Development Officer, believes the advice in this book could be of enormous relevance to many ALIA members in our largely feminised profession, as it deals with topics raised many times in the T & D survey last year. Highly recommended.

*Striking a Balance—Australia's Development and Conservation.* Core material for Earth Studies. Australian Bureau of Statistics. Canberra: AGPS, 1992. x + 285 pp. ISBN 0 642 16342 1. rrp. \$24.50

This is another in the series of initiatives by the ABS to select and present data tailored to the needs of the education sector. This attractively produced paperback contains a range of material that should assist upper secondary school studies in Geography, Earth Sciences, Environmental Studies, Economics, Business Studies Mathematics and other fields. Chapters cover Research and Data Analysis, Environment and Settlement, Population and Social Indicators, Economics and the Environment, and Environmental Statistics. There are appendixes on the Murray-Darling Basin and Regional Issues and Sources of Information in the South Pacific, SE Asia, Southern Africa and Antarctica. Throughout the book there is a skilful use of spot colour for emphasis, and there are a number of full-colour maps.

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