

thy are Charles B. Strozier's and George B. Forgie's psychological interpretations of Lincoln's personality and William Hanchett's painstaking and judicious examination of the circumstances surrounding Lincoln's murder.

*The Historian's Lincoln* undoubtedly fulfills its purpose as a compendium of current scholarship, familiarizing the reader with a diverse field without forcing him or her to read the full body of literature on which it is based. It fails, however, as a unified discussion of some central questions concerning the railsplitter and his place in American history. The contributions are too disparate, for example, to shed much light on the question posed by Boritt as to "whether Lincoln's ultimate commitment was to union or to liberty" (p. xv). One would suppose that Lincoln thought the two inseparable, as his fellow Whig and rhetorical role model Daniel Webster did, but even this supposition could not be tested in a forum where participants were asked to discuss their own past work rather than a set of common questions. The same consideration may also limit the book's usefulness to the general public. Though organizers hoped to make it a vehicle for transmitting the best of recent scholarship to the large lay audience for Lincolniana, it is doubtful that such an unfocused collection will have much appeal to readers who are not already immersed in historians' tribal discourse.

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*Banners in the Air: The Eighth Ohio Volunteers and the Spanish-American War.* By Curtis V. Hard. Edited by Robert H. Ferrell. (Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 1988. Pp. xiv, 147. Illustrations, maps, appendixes, notes, bibliography, index. \$22.00.)

The Spanish-American War of 1898 represented a turning point in America's relationship with the rest of the world. It foreshadowed the United States' expanding role in international affairs in the twentieth century and represented a new national self-confidence. Curtis V. Hard's personal account of the war, *Banners in the Air*, captures the enthusiasm and patriotism of thousands of National Guardsmen who rushed to join the colors after the sinking of the *Maine* in Havana Harbor. Robert H. Ferrell recently discovered Hard's unpublished manuscript in the archives of the Western Reserve Historical Society and has done a masterful job of editing the journal.

As commander of the 8th Ohio Volunteers, Hard led his men from mobilization in Ohio to eventual deployment in Cuba, where they arrived too late for action at Santiago. Nonetheless, 72 of the

1,325 men in his command perished from malaria before they could be removed and quarantined at Montauk Point on Long Island. Despite the fact that the 8th Ohio saw no combat, Hard's account is filled with interesting personal observations about important personalities and operations of the expedition. He records both his disgust with the crusty and often profane commander of the campaign, General William R. Shafter, and his sympathy for General Nelson A. Miles, commanding general of the United States Army, who was passed over for command in Cuba and given the lesser job of occupying Puerto Rico. His own second in command, Lieutenant Colonel Charles W. F. Dick, was then secretary of the Republican National Committee and later, while a member of the United States House of Representatives, authored the Dick Militia Act of 1903, which enacted federal support for state National Guards and formalized their relationship with the regular army.

Hard's prose is easy to follow and his observations, perhaps reflecting his midwestern upbringing, are refreshingly direct and concise. He was proud of his regiment and his state and entered service with the same carefree attitude as his men. Before long, however, the Ohioans saw their romantic notions of war collide with unpleasant realities of disease in the Caribbean and the muddled attempts of the War Department to cope with the rapid expansion of the army. The rush to get to Cuba and the front was followed in short order by a corresponding rush to get back to America and home.

Ferrell has done an admirable job in editing Hard's journal and has added an introduction and conclusion, a complete roster of the regiment, eleven pages of notes, a bibliography on the war itself, and a number of previously unpublished photographs of the 8th Ohio in 1898. *Banners in the Air* provides an interesting and readable eyewitness account of America's last fling with heroic warfare and first encounter with its worldwide role in the twentieth century.

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*The Great Silent Majority: Missouri's Resistance to World War I.*

By Christopher C. Gibbs. (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1988. Pp. ix, 174. Notes, illustrations, table, selected bibliography, index. \$24.00.)

American historians have usually assumed that while both apathy and opposition to the Great War existed—especially outside the urban Northeast—most citizens eventually came to support the nation's participation. Christopher C. Gibbs argues, however, that “the great silent majority” of Missourians opposed involvement