

He lacked humor or sensitivity and was extremely vain, yet he was stirred by a desire to improve the lot of mankind and courageous in seeking this end. Despite his imposing physique he was a prey to nervous illness and the beating he got from Preston Brooks probably contributed to his nervous instability. He made loyal friends and bitter enemies. How he succeeded in the former no one seems to make clear. For when he leaves the pens of Schurz and his other biographers he seems always a most unpleasant person, admire his principles and his courage as one must.

The editor has done a careful and painstaking job but he was limited by Schurz' limitations and by the unfinished state of the work. The value of the essay is the fact that Schurz knew Sumner well and could thus give his work a high degree of validity.

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Federal Records of World War II. Edited by Philip M. Hamer. Vols. I, II. (Washington: The National Archives, 1950. *Civilian Agencies*, Vol. I: pp. xii, 1073; *Military Agencies*, Vol. II: pp. iii, 1061. Index. \$2.50 per volume.)

The most impressive statistic that has come my way in the course of studying the administrative aspects of World War II appeared in a newspaper story which stated that the records created by the federal war agencies alone during the years of conflict would fill a ditch ten feet wide, ten feet deep, and thirty-seven miles long. Fortunately, not all of the records were actually deposited in such a receptacle, but unfortunately they are not all now as accessible as they might have been even in the hypothetical ditch. The fact, to which anyone with the slightest experience in the use of these records can fervently testify, is that the imaginary ditch becomes transcontinental miles of footwork and an incredible variety of depositories when translated into actual research problems. The situation has improved rapidly in recent years with the constant flow of records into the National Archives, but it still remains confusing. The greatest element of confusion, until the publication of the two volumes cited above, was the absence of any sort of guide to this wilderness of paper. Even from the home base of Washington, navigation remained a trial and error process *sans* chart or compass.

The National Archives staff has been concerned with this

problem since the end of the war and, within the limits of a narrow budget, has been steadily creating order out of chaos. *Federal Records of World War II* is the ultimate victory in this offensive—a complete guide to the present whereabouts of federal wartime records. The two fat volumes, one devoted to civilian and the other to military agencies, cover not only the completed bodies of records left behind by such strictly wartime entities as the Office of Price Administration and the Combined Chiefs of Staff, but the continuing series of documents created by Congress, the federal courts, the regular administrative offices and the military departments during the war years. Even agencies as apparently remote from war as the United States Board on Geographical Names are listed. These volumes are therefore not only a guide to wartime records but to the repositories of contemporary federal records in general.

The records of 3,057 civilian and military agencies are located by these volumes. Brief histories of each agency with special emphasis on relationships to other agencies precede the records information. Bibliographical notes, citing pertinent books and periodical materials already in print, are appended to nearly every paragraph. A very thorough subject index (covering 219 pages) is furnished. The advantages of this elaborate apparatus of research should be obvious. Let us assume that a student in Indiana wishes to begin a study of "The Role of the War Dog in World War II." Sitting down in any library with these two volumes he can discover by reference to the subject index that he should consult the records of three branches of the Quartermaster Corps and the Veterinary Department of the Army Medical Corps for his source material. The descriptions of the functions of these agencies may suggest connections with other governmental departments which might be followed up. Anything important which had already been written upon his subject would appear in the bibliographies. Finally, these books will reveal that nearly all of the records which our researcher will want to see are deposited in the Kansas City Records Center, AGO. This information might prevent a fruitless journey of six hundred miles in the wrong direction. If *Federal Records of World War II* also indicated which of these records for security reasons are closed to public inspection it might save our hero an equally profitless expedition in the opposite direction. Unfortunately, this information would be far too complex and too ephemeral to include in anything but a detailed catalogue.

It might be added that these volumes under review are not such a catalogue—they are merely signposts pointing to the large depositories of federal documents. Detailed inventories of many of these records, particularly of those already transferred to the National Archives, do exist, at least in type-script, and they will carry the researcher with confidence and accuracy to his final goal.

In spite of minor faults, (the fact that much of the data, representing as it does the situation as of 1949, was obsolete before it appeared in print—the references in the index to entry rather than page numbers—a tendency toward somewhat ambiguous generalization in the descriptions of records) these volumes add immeasurably to the debt which librarians, historians, government officials, and scholars in all fields owe to the staff of the National Archives.

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The Army Air Forces in World War II. Edited by Wesley Frank Craven and James Lea Cate. Volume IV, *The Pacific: Guadalcanal to Saipan, August 1942 to July 1944.* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1950, pp. xxxii, 825. Illustrations, maps, tables, glossary, and index. \$6.00.)

Following their surprise attack at Pearl Harbor the Japanese rapidly thrust outward from the home islands. Global planning-board strategy of the Allies called for major concentration and emphasis against the European efforts of the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo axis. The seriousness of the Japanese advance was brought home to the Allied high commands, however, as their forces were constantly defeated and forced to retreat in the Asiatic-Pacific theater. Not only were such prizes as the Netherlands East Indies, the Philippines, Burma, and Singapore in enemy control, but China, Australia, and New Zealand were in imminent danger.

In mid-1942 Japanese forces established themselves in New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. The present volume is concerned with the story of the Pacific war from this twin threat to the Marianas campaign which set the stage for the Twentieth Air Force and its B-29 offensive on industrial Japan.

As in Europe, the air forces in the Asiatic-Pacific theater were engaged in a wide variety of activities. Reconnaissance,