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THE CUTTING EDGE

Chuck Hansen, Editor

Number 5, December 1998

This is the fifth issue of the *Cutting Edge*, a periodic newsletter and "intelligence report" for current and prospective customers of *The Swords of Armageddon*. Our intention is to keep you advised of recent and little-known publications, document collections, research sources, and videotapes concerning Cold War topics, primarily nuclear weapons and weapons testing-related subjects (other Cold War subjects are also included).

RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Aldrich, Richard J. 1998. ***Espionage, Security, and Intelligence in Britain, 1945-1970***. Manchester University Press, Manchester, England (available in the U.S. through St. Martin's Press, New York). 262 p. Paper. ISBN 0-7190-4956-3.

The Public Record Office in England, the British equivalent of the U.S. national Archives and Records Administration, has within the past few years declassified and made available to scholars many important British and British/U.S. Cold War documents on a wide variety of subjects. This book is a collection of excerpted papers dealing with many aspects of U.S. and U.K. joint intelligence collection and security operations, including atomic intelligence and "spy flights."

Armistead, Edwin Leigh. 1998. ***Grease Pencils and Fluorescent Bananas: The History of Airborne Early Warning Aircraft***. Edwin Leigh Armistead, c/o Harlan Murray, 5313 Westover Lane, Virginia Beach, VA 23464. 185 p. Paper.

LCDR Armistead, an active naval officer, is a former AEW aircraft pilot, and he has written a wide-ranging history of U.S. postwar Navy and Air Force airborne early warning aircraft and their

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missions off the shores of the continental U.S., in Europe, in Southeast Asia, and in the Mideast between 1945 and the present.

Bird, Kai (ed.) 1998. ***Hiroshima's Shadow: Writings on the Denial of History and the Smithsonian Controversy***. The Pamphleteer's Press, Stony Creek, Connecticut. 584 p. Paper. ISBN 0-9630587-4-6.

A collection of essays and documents, this book examines the U.S. decision to use nuclear weapons in 1945 and the continuing controversy ever since, as recently demonstrated by the abortive attempt by the National Air and Space to provide one particular interpretation of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Boyer, Paul. 1998. ***Fallout: A Historian Reflects on America's Half-Century Encounter with Nuclear Weapons***. Ohio State University Press, Columbus, Ohio. Paper. ISBN 0-8142-0786-3.

Boyer provides a cultural interpretation of the impact of nuclear weapons on postwar American society, touching upon politics, entertainment, literature, and historical controversy.

Cathcart, Brain. 1994. ***Test of Greatness: Britain's Struggle for the Bomb***. John Murray (Publishers) Ltd., London, England. 301 p. ISBN 0-7195-5225-7.

One of the very few volumes now available on the postwar British nuclear weapons program, this book compares in its scope and detail to Lansing Lamont's 1965 book, *Day of Trinity* (Atheneum, New York). Cathcart examines the science, politics, engineering, and espionage surrounding the development of the first British nuclear device through its test in October 1952.

Chambers, William H. (ed.) 1998. ***Conference Proceedings, The Cold War and Its Implications: Locally, Nationally, and Internationally***. The Second Los Alamos International History Conference, Los Alamos, New Mexico, August 9-12, 1998. Los Alamos Historical Society, P. O. Box 43, Los Alamos, NM 87544. 467 p. Paper.

This is a collection of 49 papers and 20 abstracts of papers received and/or presented during a Cold War conference at Los Alamos last summer. The subjects range from nuclear weapons hardware to legal and sociological history; Chuck Hansen's paper, *HINDENBURG in the Bomb Bay: The transition from Liquid to Solid Fueled Thermonuclear Weapons, 1951-1954*, is included (copies of that paper are available from Chukelea Publications).

Christman, Al. 1998. ***Target Hiroshima: Deak Parsons and the Creation of the Atomic Bomb***. Naval Institute Press, Annapolis, Maryland. 305 p. ISBN 1-55750-120-3.

The late Admiral William S. "Deak" Parsons had the historical distinction of being one of the few naval officers assigned to Los Alamos during World War II, and from this beginning Parsons became one of the even fewer naval officers who advocated a nuclear

weapons role for the Navy during the immediate postwar era. Christman, whose earlier works on the Navy's China Lake naval weapons center stand as milestones in weapons history, describes the life and times of Parsons from his childhood in Chicago to his sudden and premature death upon hearing of the lifting of J. Robert Oppenheimer's security clearance in 1954.

Coolidge, Matthew. 1998. **Nuclear Proving Grounds of the World**. Center for Land Use Interpretation, Culver City, California. 24 p. Paper.

This is a new guidebook to 35 U.S., British, French, Chinese, and Soviet nuclear test sites; each site is illustrated with a map and/or photograph and major test activities at the site are summarized. (The newest test sites in India and Pakistan may be added to a later edition.) Among the U.S. test sites are Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan.

Day, Dwayne A., John M. Logsdon, and Brian Latell (eds.) 1998. **Eye in the Sky: The Story of the CORONA Spy Satellites**. Smithsonian Institution Press, Herndon, Virginia. 303 p. ISBN 1-56098830-4.

Although this is a "Johnny come lately" to the recent rash of CORONA histories (there are now no fewer than four in print), this is the most exhaustively researched and annotated version since the 1997 Robert A. McDonald book, **Corona Between the Sun and the Earth: The First NRO Reconnaissance Eye in Space** published by the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing and reviewed in issue 2 of *The Cutting Edge*. *Eye in the Sky* includes many photos and stories heretofore unmentioned in earlier CORONA histories and it also corrects some errors in previous histories.

Gordon, Yefim and Vladimir Rigmant. 1998. **Tupolev Tu-22 'Blinder' and Tu-22M 'Backfire': Russia's Long-Range Supersonic Bombers**. Aerofax/Midland Publishing Ltd., Leicester, England. 96 p. Paper. ISBN 1-85780-065-6.

This is a comprehensive and exceedingly-well illustrated history of the development and deployment of the former Soviet Union's counterpart to the U.S. ConVAir B-58 "Hustler." This is a companion volume to the Tu-95/Tu-142 history reviewed in the January 1998 issue of *The Cutting Edge*. Highly recommended.

Gsponer, André and Jean Pierre Hurni. 1998. **The Physical Principles of Thermonuclear Explosives, Inertial Confinement Fusion, and the Quest for Fourth Generation Nuclear Weapons**. Independent Scientific Research Institute, Geneva, Switzerland. 186 p. Paper.

The authors examine the prospects of developing fourth-generation nuclear weapons in the context of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. The book includes chapters on the physical principles of thermonuclear explosives; nuclear weapons development under the

CTBT; nuclear weapons applications of inertial confinement fusion; and fourth-generation nuclear weapons. Available from ISRI, Box 30, 1211 Geneva 12, Switzerland, phone 011 41 22 346 18 10; e-mail gsponer@isri.ch.

Hevly, Bruce and John M. Findlay (eds.). 1998. ***The Atomic West***. University of Washington Press, Seattle, Washington. 286 p. paper. ISBN 0-295-97716-7.

Dedicated to the late Stanley Goldberg, whose last published work appears in this book, *Atomic West* is a collection of articles describing the impact of, and reaction to, several nuclear weapons-related projects in the western U.S. since the end of World War II, including the Hanford reservation, the WPPSS project, and proposed MX missile basing. The book contains articles by Gregg Herken, Ferenc Szasz, Bart Hacker, and Dan O'Neill, all noted nuclear weapons historians.

Hughes, Thomas P. 1998. ***Rescuing Prometheus***. Pantheon Books, New York. 372 p. ISBN 0-679-41151-8.

Hughes examines the history of four large-scale postwar U.S. scientific/technological projects, including SAGE, the air defense system which helped pioneer digital computers and led to the modern American commercial air traffic control system, and the development of the ATLAS ICBM.

Isaacs, Jeremy and Taylor Downing. 1998. ***Cold War: An Illustrated History, 1945-1991***. Little, Brown and Company, Boston, Massachusetts. 438 p. ISBN 0-316-43953-3.

This is a companion volume to the CNN television series by the same name, which is now showing through April 1999 six times a week (each episode debuts Sunday and is shown twice nightly on Sundays, Fridays, and Saturdays). The book, in which each chapter corresponds to a program episode, offers much more in-depth exposition than the TV show. The book also contains two-page summaries of Cold War films, literature, and spies.

Jackson, Robert. 1998. ***High Cold War: Strategic Air Reconnaissance and the Electronic Intelligence War***. Patrick Stephens Limited, Somerset, England. 176 p. ISBN 1-85260-584-7.

This is a brief overview of U.S. and Royal Air Force photo and electronic reconnaissance activities since the end of World War II; it includes background history on these activities during World War II and incident reports of many USAF and Navy aircraft attacked by Soviet and Soviet satellite country fighters.

Mandales, Dr. Mark D. 1998. ***The Development of the B-52 and Jet Propulsion: A Case Study in Organizational Innovation***. Air University Press, Maxwell Air Force base, Alabama. 191 p. Paper.

This is primarily a case study of the development of the B-52, especially the adaptation of jet engines to the airframe. Mandeles analyzes the organizational and engineering problems and solutions that led to what has become the U.S. Air Force's longest-serving (43 years) strategic bomber.

Moynihan, Daniel Patrick. 1998. ***Secrecy The American Experience***. Yale University Press, New Haven, Connecticut. 262 p. ISBN 0-300-07756-4.

This study by the retiring senator from New York should be read by every classification/declassification officer in the U.S. government. Moynihan examines the extremely deleterious impact of post-World War II government secrecy on U.S. domestic and foreign policy, including nuclear weapons espionage.

Oliver, Kendrick. 1998. ***Kennedy, MacMillan and the Nuclear Test-Ban Debate, 1961-63***. Macmillan Press Limited, London, England (available in the U.S. through St. Martin's Press, New York). 252 p. ISBN 0-312-17599-X.

The author, a lecturer in later-modern American history at the University of Southampton, describes the Anglo-American political maneuvers that led to the Limited Test Ban Treaty in 1963.

O'Neal, Michael. 1990. ***President Truman and the Atomic Bomb***. Greenhaven Press, San Diego, California. 110 p. ISBN 0-89908-079-0.

This is one of the very few children's' books (written at middle school level) which describes the early history of U.S. atomic weapons and the wartime decision to use them and the postwar controversy surrounding their use (the canceled Smithsonian exhibit of 1995 has spawned a plethora of titles on these subjects).

Paulsen, Maj. Richard A., USAF. 1994. ***The Role of U.S. Nuclear Weapons in the Post-Cold War Era***. Air University Press, Maxwell AFB, Alabama. 189 p. Paper.

Paulsen examines the nuclear force capabilities to provide the U.S. with a credible deterrent in the multipolar threat environment following the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. His recommendations address a broad range of issues that focus on developing a coherent nuclear strategy in the face of development of weapons of mass destruction by many Third World countries.

Pedlow, Gregory W. and Donald E. Welzenbach. 1998. ***The CIA and the U-2 Program, 1954-1974***. History Staff, Center for the Study of Intelligence, Central Intelligence Agency. 333 p. Paper.

This study was originally written in 1992 for internal use only under the title *The Central Intelligence Agency and Overhead Reconnaissance: The U-2 and OXCART Programs, 1954-1974* and the declassified version covering the U-2 program only has been heavily redacted, starting with the table of contents. Some of the

redactions include previously-published information, including excerpts from a biography of Dwight Eisenhower. Nonetheless, this is a valuable addition to Cold War historical literature.

Schwartz, Stephen I.(ed.), et. al. 1998. **Atomic Audit: The Costs and Consequences of U.S. Nuclear Weapons Since 1940**. Brookings Institution Press, Washington, D.C. 680 p. Paper. ISBN 0-8157-7773-6.

As mentioned in issues 2, 3, and 4 of *The Cutting Edge*, this exhaustive study examines many military, economic, social, and political aspects of the U.S. development, production, testing, deployment, and retirement of U.S. nuclear weapons since 1940. Excerpts from the book, and a lengthy review, appeared in the September/October 1998 issue of *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*.

Serber, Robert, with Robert P. Crease. 1998. **Peace & War: Reminiscences of a Life on the Frontiers of Science**. Columbia University Press, New York. 241 p. ISBN 0-231-10546-0.

The late Robert Serber died in 1997 before this autobiography was published. The book describes Serber's life from his Philadelphia childhood to his wartime stint at Los Alamos and his postwar scientific research residencies at Berkeley, Columbia, Brookhaven, and New York. Serber will probably be best remembered for his *Los Alamos Primer*, the first technical paper to be published at the fledgling laboratory in 1943.

Sontag, Sherry and Christopher Drew with Annette Lawrence Drew. 1998. **Blind Man's Bluff: The Untold Story of American Submarine Espionage**. 353 p. ISBN 1-891620-08-8.

One recent aspect of covert U.S. submarine actions came to light in 1985 when the *Washington Post* revealed that the U.S. Navy had been tapping an undersea communications cable in the Sea of Okhotsk. That episode, and Project Jennifer, the recovery of portions of a Soviet submarine in 1974, are described at length in this controversial new book, so sensitive that the Navy has reportedly warned all its personnel not to comment about it to the press. The book also includes many other adventures of the *USS Parche*, *USS Halibut*, *USS Seawolf*, and the NR-1, the Navy's primary "spy" and hydrophone maintenance submarines. The authors present a very credible scenario for the loss of the *USS Scorpion* in 1968.

Wallace, Harold D. Jr. 1997. **Wallops Station and the Creation of an American Space Program**. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 167 p. Paper.

This short history of one of NASA's important space flight research centers focuses on the years between 1957 and 1966 and looks mainly at the political, administrative, and social history

aspects of the base, while still covering the manned and unmanned space and aeronautical research projects at Wallops during the late 1950s and early 1960s.

RECENT ARTICLES OF INTEREST

The French Atomic Energy Commission, Directorate of Military Applications, has published ***The Genesis of French Nuclear Weapons and their Evolution***, a paper originally presented at a colloquium at the Sorbonne on January 24-25, 1989. Copies are available from Shelton Enterprises, Inc., 1327 Culebra Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903.

The November 1998 issue of ***American Heritage*** features an article entitled "Dr. Strangelove's Children" by Phil Patton which describes the life of an Air Force "brat" during the Cold War growing up on Strategic Air Command bases.

RECENT VIDEOS OF INTEREST

The Department of Energy has released a descriptive catalog of the first 71 newly-declassified Atomic Energy Commission films; the directory, entitled ***U.S. Department of Energy, Albuquerque Operations Office Film Declassification Project Video Tape Fact Sheets*** and dated June 1998, is available from the Coordination & Information Center of Bechtel Nevada in Las Vegas, phone either 1-887-DOE-FILM (toll free) or (702) 295-1628, or fax (702) 295-1624 or e-mail cic@nv.doe.gov for copies of the directory. Another dozen or so films have reportedly been declassified and are awaiting release in the near future.

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS & DOCUMENT COLLECTIONS

The follow-on to the Necah Furman's 1990 Sandia Corporation history is still being written in Albuquerque; the second volume will encompass the period of 1956 to 1974. The editors now estimate that this work will not be completed for another three to four years.

Soviet physicist Gennady Gorelick has reportedly written a "scientific biography" of the late Andrei Sakharov; the book is being published by W. H. Freeman and Company in New York and should be available soon. It reportedly contains "explosive things about the Soviet H-bomb and its debt to espionage." The ISBN is 0-7167-3045-6.

Mary Palevsky Granados has interviewed for publication a number of U.S. physicists who worked with her father on the Manhattan Project; the book reportedly deals with how she came to terms with her father's wartime work. The University of California is the reported publisher of this book.

RESEARCH SERVICES

The National Security Archive in Washington, D.C. has issued a 358 fiche collection comprising 20,474 pages of text in 1,441 documents. Subjects covered include historical studies of weapon systems; nuclear weapons production and testing; nuclear strategy, including war games and war plans; delivery vehicle development, deployment and testing; nuclear operations, including nuclear alert programs and flights of U.S. weapons over allied territory; deployment of nuclear weapons to Canada and Europe; nuclear forces command, control, and communications; and warning and defense against Soviet attacks. A 1,225 page catalog and guidebook is also included with the fiche.

The National Security Archive has a World Wide Web site at <http://www.seas.gwu.edu/nsarchive>. A descriptive brochure is available from Chadwyck-Healey at (800) 752-0515 or (703) 683-4890; Chadwyck-Healey's website is at <http://www.chadwyck.com>. (A lengthy review of this document collection appears in the November/December 1998 issue of *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*.)