

colonial Cape" waarskynlik oordrewe is, lewer dié werk tot 'n bydrae om die komplekse sosiale en ekonomiese prosesse wat in die periode onder bespreking ontstaan en ontwikkel het en later in die industriële era neerslag gevind het te verhelder. Veral sy argument dat daar in die Kaapkolonie 'n nuwe, eiesoortige Afrikane-klas (bestaande uit verskeie subgroeperinge) ontstaan het, wie se magsbasis die beheer oor die grond en die handel was, wat as sodanig dié kolonie gedomineer het en dat dié proses tot blanke oppergesag aanleiding gegee het, sal debat uitlok. Finale uitspraak oor hierdie en ander komplekse aangeleenthede is beslis nog nie in hierdie werk gelewer nie.

Vir die belangstellende in plaaslike en streeksgeskiedenis, veral van die Kaapkolonie, is die verskyning van dié boek van meer as gewone betekenis omdat dit eksklusief oor aspekte van dié landstreek voor 1870 handel. Verskeie van die opstelle wat opgeneem is, is vir diesulkes van besondere betekenis. Voorbeelde hiervan is die twee hoofstukke in afdeling een. Hoofstuk 1 handel oor die welvaart van die Wes-Kaapse kapitalistiese heersersklas ("Gentry"), terwyl hoofstuk 2 die verspreiding van die private grondbesit in die onderskeie distrikte ontleed. Ook afdeling drie moet in hierdie verband vermeld word. Hoofstuk 5 ontleed die demografie van die blanke bevolkingselement aan die Kaap die agtiende eeu en illustreer die nulle bevolkings aanwas van dié groep duidelik. Hoofstuk 6, op sy beurt, toon aan hoe dié bevolkingsaanwas tot die snelle uitbreiding van die koloniale grense aanleiding gegee het, terwyl laasgenoemde proses weer gelei het tot die interafhanklikheid van mans en vroue op die voorposte in 'n jeugdige stadium wat weer die bevolkingsaanwas gestimuleer het.

Die werk is ryklik toegerus met tabelle en grafieke met waardevolle inligting oor ekonomiese en sosiale aspekte, asook met 'n bruikbare glossarium wat die vir die Engelssprekende "vreemde" terminologie, veral van Nederlandse herkoms verduidelik, en 'n indeks. 'n Bibliografie ontbreek, maar die afsonderlike opstelle is gedokumenteer met voldoende verwysings in die vorm van endnotas. Die feit dat die verwysings aan die einde van die boek geplaas is in plaas van onder aan die bladsy of minstens aan die einde van elke opstel, bemoeilik die gebruik daarvan. Toepaslike illustratiewe materiaal sou ook die waarde van die boek verhoog het.

Die boek is stewig gebind, die drukwerk is van 'n hoë gehalte, bladsye is so uiteengesit dat die bladspieël 'n netjiese voorkoms het en drukfoute is bykans totaal afwesig.

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Keene, John (ed) : *South Africa in World War II: A Pictorial History*. Human & Rousseau, Cape Town, 1995. ISBN 0-7981-3388-0. Price: R149-95.

Military history and the social history of war over the last few years have come on in leaps and bounds in South African historiography. Deservedly so, as this under-explored area of investigation promises rich research possibilities to both the military and social historian. The year, 1995, is of special historical importance as the world commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the Second World War which ended officially in Europe on May 8 1945. South Africa's part in the Second World War is not forgotten, neither those who fought the battles, flew the warplanes, dropped the bombs, drove the tanks, dug the trenches, healed the sick, carried the wounded and fed the soldiers. This book - a collection of essays - written by staff of the South African National Museum of

Military History was published to bring homage to those men and women that "they should be remembered for the honour they brought to the country, and...to commemorate them and their deeds".(p.15).

All the contributing authors, including the editor John Keene, are experts in their respective fields of military history and readers will discover that accounts of the war and military campaigns are given in finest detail. In the first chapter, however Sandra Mackenzie takes the reader down memory lane as she explains how thousands of Coloured, white and black soldiers were recruited and drafted into various divisions of the South African Defence Force within weeks after parliament declared war on Germany.

It is refreshing to see that some attention was also paid to women and their role in the war. According to Mackenzie, the South African Women's Auxiliary Services (SAWAS), a non-military, voluntary organisation was established to provide material support to those on the front. She also points to the fact that this was an opportunity for white women to prove themselves in other positions such as the industrial labour sector previously reserved only for men.(p.23) Sadly, Mackenzie however limits her discussion only to white women. Coloured women of Cape Town performed similar duties by organising themselves in several Women's Auxiliaries Services to provide material and emotional support to soldiers on the battlefield.

Of the nine chapters, five are devoted to the various military campaigns in which South African soldiers fought. The authors of these chapters provide the reader with day to day and sometimes even with hour to hour accounts of the war. To some readers, especially war veterans this might be riveting reading material while others will find it extremely mundane. Wars are not only about weapons, heavy artillery, bombs, guns, military campaigns, war strategists, army generals and world leaders. The impression one gets is that the authors of the respective chapters promote the idea that history is only about dates and events. If this is indeed so, then it must surely be condemned. War is also about people. If people play such a prominent role in the activities of war, then why neglect the social and human element? For this reason chapter eight entitled "Reluctant guests of the Third Reich" is well-worth mentioning. It differs from the other chapters in style and content and presents readers with a thought-provoking account of how prisoners of war coped with the harsh conditions in German-Italian controlled prison camps in North Africa. For these prisoners it was a different kind of war - "this was a war against boredom, hunger, frustration, the elements and psychological deprivation". (p.170) It highlights the plight of soldiers and shows how ordinary soldiers performed heroic deeds under trying circumstances. Job Masego, a soldier of the Native Military Corps, is but one case in point.(p.169) As a POW, he blew up one German supply boat with a self-made bomb and at a later stage escaped by walking several kilometres to El Alamein before meeting up with Allied troops.

The fact that mention is made of several local and regional regiments such as the Pretoria Regiment, the First City/Cape Town Highlanders, Royal Durban Light Infantry and several other local regiments shows the value of this publication to the local and regional historian.

If one accepts the dictum that every picture tells a story, then this pictorial history has a definite story to tell. Every chapter is embellished with pictures depicting the various phases of the war. Unlike other pictorial histories where the pictures often do not correspond with the texts, this book is an exception. All pictures are neatly interwoven with the written texts and give readers a close-up view of the war zones and battlefields. Moreover, pictorial

histories are generally very popular reading material and over the years came to be associated with military history.

White ex-soldiers will feel extremely proud about this publication, but black, Indian and Coloured soldiers will perhaps be disappointed, if not betrayed. Rather sadly, only one chapter out of nine is devoted to Non-European soldiers. Needless to say, the activities of black, Indian and Coloured soldiers are grossly underplayed. Written from a white perspective, this is by no means an attempt to redress the paucity in the historiography of military history concerning non-white soldiers in South African armed forces. It is a known fact that the Cape Corps and Native Military Corps played key roles in several of the campaigns, yet no mention is made of their part in any of the campaigns. By not integrating the role of non-white soldiers into the main story underscores the fact that the authors still view South African history through the lenses of race and colour. Despite its noble sentiments, *South Africa in World War II*, is thus not a true reflection of South Africa's role in the war as a nation, but rather propagating the notion of separate histories for separate people. Moreover, the fact that so little is said about Coloured soldiers in the Second World War points to the need that such a study ought to be undertaken.

Very little archival research was undertaken and the bibliography consists largely of secondary sources. In chapter seven, at least one important work was not consulted. Regret-tably, the profound doctoral thesis and several articles written by Louis Grundlingh dealing with Black soldiers in the Second World War are not found among the list of cited sources. *South Africa in World War II* is not a deep analytical study, but rather as one which tries to explain South Africa's part in the war in its simplest form to a largely non-academic audience. This study is also not what social historians recently termed a "war and society" project, but rather one which fits the "drum and trumpet" mould. If seen in this light, then this book is a most welcome addition to the growing field of military history. However, social historians working within the "war and society" paradigm will look at this work with a bit more scepticism as it does not conform to their approach which places war in its proper socio-historical context, explaining how war is seen as a tool for social transformation.

Despite these reservations, a publication of this magnitude, is always a welcome addition to any academic discipline as it not only widens our research horizons, but also has the potential to reach a wider non-military audience. Military historians, ex-soldiers, military enthusiasts and ordinary people who lived and experienced the Second World War should read this book with great interest as it brings back fond and sad memories of the War which ended fifty years ago.

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