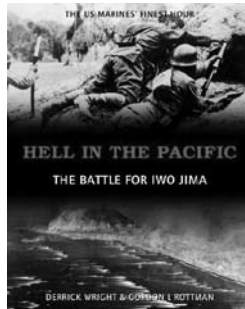


# BOOKS IN BRIEF

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***Hell in the Pacific: The Battle for Iwo Jima*, by Gordon L. Rottman and Derrick Wright** (ISBN 978-1-84603-335-3, Osprey Publishing, 443 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016, Web site: [www.ospreypublishing.com](http://www.ospreypublishing.com), phone 866.620.6941, e-mail [info@ospreydirect.com](mailto:info@ospreydirect.com).



Softcover, 7-1/2" x 9-3/4", 224 pages, 96 black-and-white and 24 color photos and drawings, 5 color maps, 2008, \$27.95).

*Hell in the Pacific* is a hardcover repackaging of large sections of three previous Osprey books: Derrick Wright's *Iwo Jima 1945 (Campaign No. 81)*, and Gordon L. Rottman's two books, *Japanese Infantryman 1937-45 (Warrior 95)* and *US Marine Rifleman 1939-45 (Warrior 112)*. The section on the Iwo Jima campaign is a brief summary of the February-March 1945 battle for the island, with information on the opposing forces and a day-by-day recap of the progress of the fighting. Appendices include a list of Medal of Honor recipients, a U.S. order of battle down to the battalion level and a list of Japanese commanders, and essays on the U.S. flag raisings and the Marine Corps Memorial. The two parts dealing with the U.S. Marine riflemen and Japanese infantrymen are broad in scope, and examine the typical lives of the respective warriors, from conscription or enlistment through training, indoctrination, and combat service. These sections also cover uniforms, weapons, and equipment. Finally, there are sections describing typical campaigns: for the Japanese, north China and Saipan; for the marines, Roi-Namur.

At less than half the combined price of the three previous books that constitute *Hell in the Pacific*, and with the added bonus of being in hardcover format with a dustjacket, this volume would make for a bargain for readers who don't already have its previously published constituents.—*Thomas R. Kailbourn*

***The Devil Dogs at Belleau Wood: U.S. Marines in World War I*, by Dick Camp** (ISBN 978-0-7603-3189-7, Zenith Press, 400 First Avenue North, Suite 300, Minneapolis, MN 554015, phone: 800.826.6600, Web site: [www.zenithpress.com](http://www.zenithpress.com).

Softcover, 8-1/4" x 10-1/2", 127 pages, 154 black-and-white and 12 color illustrations, 9 maps, 2008, \$19.95).

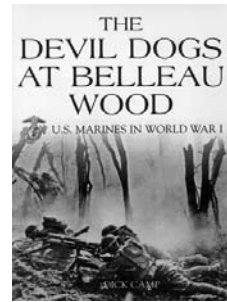
Following decades of fighting in America's small wars, largely as a police force, the U.S. Marine Corps was thrust into the vortex of major, frontline combat in World War I. During the German spring offensive of 1918, the 4th Marine Brigade (comprising the 5th and 6th Regiments and the 6th Machine Gun Battalion) set the tone for the USMC as a world-class fighting organization.

*The Devil Dogs at Belleau Wood* relates the history of the Leathernecks in World War I up to the end of the battle for Belleau Wood in late June 1918. Author Dick Camp, the author of several excellent books on the USMC in the twentieth century, recounts how the Corps was almost tripled in force with the U.S. entry into the war. He then provides a satisfying account of the 4th Marine Brigade's combat record in the spring of 1918, when it first held the Allied lines on the Marne River and then their offensive against stubborn German resistance in Belleau Wood through most of the month of June. Through a seamless melding of his own narrative and the voices of marines who served in the war (including several whom Camp personally interviewed), he demonstrates how the marines earned the nickname the Germans grudgingly accorded them: *Teufelhunde*, or "devil dogs".

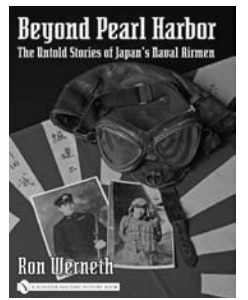
This book is attractively produced and includes drawings, maps, and color paintings made during or shortly after the war, and many wartime photographs. An index and bibliography are included.

The record of the Marine Corps in the war up to their capture of Belleau Wood is a stellar one, but the book ends abruptly at that point, and there was much more to the subsequent story of the Devil Dogs in WWI. This reviewer hopes that the seeming subtitle of this work, U.S. Marines in World War I, is instead a series title, indicating at least another volume to follow, recounting the rest of the Marine Corps' story in the war.—*George Schmidt*

***Beyond Pearl Harbor: The Untold Stories of Japan's Naval Airmen*, by Ron Werneth**



(ISBN 978-0-7643-2932-6, Schiffer Publishing Ltd., 4880 Lower Valley Rd., Atglen, PA 19310, phone: 610.593.1777, e-mail: [Info@schifferbooks.com](mailto:Info@schifferbooks.com), Web site: [www.schifferbooks.com](http://www.schifferbooks.com), or available direct from the author at [www.beyondpearlharbor.com](http://www.beyondpearlharbor.com). Hardcover, 8-1/2" x 11", 288 pages, 182 black-and-white photos, 43 color photos, 4 maps, 2008, \$59.95).



A decade ago, researcher/writer Ron Werneth saw a large gap in the historical record of WWII: the story of the Japanese naval airmen. He set out decisively to correct that deficiency. Over an eight year period, he researched the existing references, established residence in Japan, and worked persistently to establish the contacts and friendships necessary under Japanese etiquette to gain introductions to surviving airmen. His hard work paid off in the form of in-depth interviews with numerous pilots and crewmen and access to some of their personal war diaries and photographs. The result is this brilliant and unique collection of personal accounts.

The personal narratives showcased in this book come largely from pilots, with several accounts from air crewmen, including an aviation mechanic who was a torpedo specialist on the Akagi. Aside from some of his own narrative sections explaining historical points or filling in the blanks, Werneth lets the aviators tell their own stories. The subjects include six carrier bomber aviators, eight from carrier attack (torpedo bomber) units, and three fighter pilots. Their narratives recount their life stories from their early years through their naval training, combat service, postwar activities, and reflections on the war and their role in it.

Wartime portraits of the subjects in uniform, including studio sittings and candid photos, are included for each person, making this book a treasure trove for collectors and researchers of Imperial Japanese Navy militaria. Also included is a wealth of archival photos, excellently reproduced, depicting the ships, aircraft, and combat engagements described in the narratives.

A slight problem exists with the first printing of the book, in that about a quarter of the endnotes were inadvertently omitted during printing—and the notes are quite substantial, and researchers will find them essential for a thorough study of this book. Reportedly, the publisher is working to rectify the problem in subsequent printings, and the author will make copies of the missing notes available on request.

*Beyond Pearl Harbor* is a landmark book in the study of the air war in the Pacific in WWII. Author Werneth deserves great credit for pursuing and completing his quest to collect and publish the stories of some of the last surviving Japanese naval airmen of that war.—*Thomas R. Kailbourn*