

## BOOK NOTICES

### GENERAL

*Nathanael Greene, Strategist of the American Revolution.* By THEODORE THAYER. New York, 1960. Twayne Publishers. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 500. \$6.95.

Inasmuch as Nathanael Greene died in 1786 just a few weeks short of forty-five, it is not surprising that his biography is primarily a history of those parts of the American Revolution in which he was involved. Since he rose from low station to be a general at thirty-four, and died three years after the war ended, his place in history stems solely from his seven years' service as a military leader.

Theodore Thayer contends that Greene was the most accomplished strategist of the war. Generally, he asserts, Greene masterminded Washington's campaigns when on hand to do so. His case for this contention is good but not conclusive. Even when Quartermaster General he continued to be Washington's principal advisor. But Greene's position as master strategist rests more securely on his conduct of the war in the South from October, 1780, when he accepted the command, until August, 1783, when he left it. Opinion is all but unanimous that he displayed masterful skill there. Almost never winning a battle, he nonetheless reconquered Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina. The pinnacle came when, having decoyed Lord Cornwallis away from his natural base at Charleston to the border of Virginia, he decided to leave him at large in Virginia, to be contained by the American forces there, and himself turned south again to begin the reconquest of the three southernmost states. This decision, his biographer says, would have become one of the greatest of the war had Cornwallis escaped entrapment at Yorktown.

Many books do not need to be written, but this one did. There has been no biography of General Greene in many decades. It offers fresh light on

all the major command decisions of the Revolution, and a good deal on the obscure business of the American supply system.

JOHN K. MAHON  
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*Following the Indian Wars. The Story of the Newspaper Correspondents Among the Indian Campaigners.* By OLIVER KNIGHT. Norman, 1960. University of Oklahoma Press. Maps. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xv, 348. \$5.95.

From 1866 to 1891 the West was the scene of more than 1000 engagements between troops and Indians, including the Battle of the Washita, Beecher's Island, and Custer's defeat on the Little Big Horn. Most of these were small affairs, not worthy of headlines. The total number of troops involved in the West never numbered more than 14,000, and their life was hard. Sensing the heroic proportions of the struggle, many editors sent correspondents to cover the campaigns. Some of them, like Henry Morton Stanley, went on to greater fame. Others, like Mark Kellogg, were killed in battle.

Oliver Knight has told the story of these correspondents ably and graphically. Well-informed on the broad story of the military campaigns, he has fitted the correspondents and their reports into their proper place. His work is an excellent addition to studies of the westward movement and to the development of American journalism.

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*The Peralta Grant. James Addison Reavis and the Barony of Arizona.* By DONALD M. POWELL. Norman, 1960. University of Oklahoma Press. Bibliography. Maps. Index. Pp. xiii, 186. \$3.75.

Reavis attempted from 1882 to 1896 to assert his claim to 7,500 square