

the selections. The volume concludes with a glossary to translate military jargon and an index.

The introductory passages themselves constitute an excellent primer on the war's history and military life. Even so, the "voices" command center stage. Beginning with chapter three, "Combat," the selections become especially intense. Often emotionally raw and profoundly moving, they expose the pain of soldiers supporting the war, opposing the war, bored or frustrated or confused or angered by it, soldiers sometimes horrified by what they saw and did and what they endured and sometimes uplifted by insights they gained into human nature and themselves. Although Wisconsin's participants, like Iowa's, did not represent a precise cross section of Americans who served in Vietnam, *Voices from Vietnam* is one of the best collections of its kind available. Anyone seeking a deeper understanding of the American military experience in Vietnam and the real costs war exacts from the people involved in it should take a look.

When the Waters Recede: Rescue and Recovery during the Great Flood, by Dan Guillory. Urbana, IL: Stormline Press (distributed by Iowa State University Press), 1996. 110 pp. Illustrations. \$14.95 paper.

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Several times Dan Guillory states that his purpose is not to recite the torrent of statistics that emerged from the Great Flood of 1993. "To make this welter of information meaningful again is the primary goal of this book, and the methodology is to seek small but telling truths from the mouths of individual survivors in four carefully chosen communities" (26). This goal ultimately is not met. Considering his objective, Guillory directs inordinate attention to a very factual overview of the flood and its background. Not until halfway through (p. 45) does he begin to fulfill his promise of examining specific towns and individual survivors of the flood along the Mississippi River. Moreover, we never learn why he selected the communities, which include Hull, Hardin and East Hardin, and Valmeyer in Illinois and several towns surrounding historic Kaskaskia in both Missouri and Illinois. The book is at its best when the author introduces the reader to individuals who live in these generally obscure places. However, he takes far too long to get to what he has promised us, taking circular and sometimes questionable excursions into topics that do not achieve his stated goals.

The book also suffers from a number of errors. Fairmont, Minnesota, for example, is identified as Fairmount. Also, the U.S. Army

Corps of Engineers had a mandate relating to internal waterways well before the Flood Control Act of 1928. The book's usefulness is further limited by the lack of bibliography or index. Regretfully, Guillory's three years of work on this book have resulted in very uneven reportage.

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