

Jenny Macleod ties together five national threads into a very interesting single coherent narrative which shows how the commemoration of the Gallipoli campaigns has evolved over the past century. She also does a wonderful job of informing the reader of how the celebrations of Anzac Day have drawn Australia, New Zealand, and Turkey together in the contemporary world. I especially enjoyed (but with much sadness) her explanations of how politicians and veterans' groups have, over time, used the ceremonies in all five countries to advance their own agendas and causes. I strongly recommend Jenny Macleod's brilliant *Great Battles: Gallipoli* to readers interested in how the memorialisation of battles and campaigns informs our contemporary world.

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**Stuart Hadaway, *Pyramids and Fleshpots: The Egyptian, Senussi and Eastern Mediterranean Campaigns, 1914-16*. Stroud: The History Press, 2014. Hardback. 240pp. ISBN: 978-0-7524-9906-2. £20.00.**

In *The Last Great War* (2008), Adrian Gregory encouraged historians to climb out of the trenches of France and Flanders and move beyond the "view from the parapet." Only by looking at the war's other fronts alongside the Western Front, Gregory argued, could historians come to understand the tremendous impact of the conflict on the lives of British and Dominion soldiers. To this end, Stuart Hadaway's *Pyramids and Fleshpots* is the latest in an ever-growing body of work, some of which will be mentioned below, that looks at the British-led campaign against the Ottoman Empire in Egypt, Sinai, and Palestine.

Beginning with the military occupation of Egypt early in the war and ending with the capture of Rafah in January 1917, Hadaway's work is original in that it bypasses the campaign's later successes at Gaza, Jerusalem, and the thunderous cavalry drive to Aleppo that ended with the Ottoman Empire suing for peace. The second half of the campaign is scheduled for publication in 2016 as *From Gaza to Jerusalem*. In this volume, however, Hadaway sticks to the campaign's early days, covering garrison duty along the Suez Canal, the two failed Ottoman attempts to cross the Canal and breach the borders of Egypt, small-scale operations against rebellious Islamic fanatics in Egypt's Western Desert, Southern Arabia, and Sudan, and the arduous crossing of Sinai by the newly-formed Egyptian Expeditionary Force (EEF) in 1916.

## REVIEWS

The book does well in a number of areas. Hadaway's thorough overview of Egypt as a launching pad for operations at the Dardanelles and Salonika shines light on a mostly ignored phase of Egypt's wartime history. Arguably, Hadaway's finest moments come when he turns away from British and Dominion soldiers prowling the Canal and venturing off into Sinai, and instead looks at the colonial-style campaigns in Egypt's Western Desert against the Senussi, in the Aden Protectorate in Arabia, and against descendants of the nineteenth-century Mahdist Revolt in Darfur. Occasionally, Hadaway springs to life and offers some semblance of original insight. His levelheaded suggestion that General Sir John Maxwell deserves as much credit as General Sir Archibald Murray for laying the groundwork that led to General Sir Edmund Allenby's later successes is both timely and refreshing.

But, regrettably, these interjections are few and far between. More often than not, Hadaway sticks to a played-out script that blends straightforward, narrative military history with voices from the rank-and-file. To be clear, there is nothing particularly wrong with this recipe for military history. The bigger problem, and symptomatic of the work's ultimate failure, is that this has been done several times over. David R. Woodward's *Hell in the Holy Land* (2006) was the first to write a history of the campaign largely through the diaries and correspondence of the men who fought. More recently, Edward C. Woodfin's *Camp and Combat on the Sinai and Palestine Front* (2012) has expertly recovered the fighting experience of British, Australian, and New Zealand soldiers, while James E. Kitchen's outstanding *The British Imperial Army in the Middle East* (2014) has examined soldier morale and combat effectiveness.

Moreover, as suggested above, Hadaway's work neither offers new material in the way of untapped archival sources, nor does it challenge any of the existing historiography. Some chapters (four and five, in particular) are little more than re-packaged versions of the original two-volume official history, penned by Lieutenant-General George MacMunn and Captain Cyril Falls in 1928 and 1930. This is all the more troubling when one recalls that Hadaway's work, too, will add a second volume next year.

Ultimately, *Pyramids and Feshpots* is another, and arguably unneeded, bottom-up narrative of the war in North Africa and the Levant. While military history enthusiasts may find value in Hadaway's work as an updated and comparatively cheaper version of MacMunn's and Falls's official history, it is unlikely to find its way onto the bookshelves of First World War historians. A "groundbreaking analysis" of the war in Egypt, Sinai, and Palestine, as the dust jacket confidently (and somewhat brazenly) proclaims, it is not.

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