BATTLE BEHAVIOR:
PSYCHOLOGY & SOCIOLOGY OF COMBAT

A Working Bibliography of MHI Sources

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GENERAL SOURCES


Two replies.

Reprinted from Washington Post.  On need for small unit commanders to cope with act of killing.


College of anecdotes, studies, and observations of combat environment and psychology, 18th-20th centuries.


See esp Chaps 1, 2, 7 & 13.


Analysis using three examples: Agincourt, Waterloo, and the Somme.


8 examples of panic in combat, 1743-1914.


Anticipating problems by analyzing previous catastrophic events and situations.


Problem of sleep deprivation during continuous operations (CONOPS) for artillerymen.


Interviewed.


See first 3 lectures.


Battle Behavior

Connects weapons technology to courage.


Several pertinent articles, especially pp. 186-211.

Factor not to be overlooked.


Explores effect of battle upon soldiers, units, doctrine, etc.


By former senior leader & author of AirLand doctrine; uses pertinent historical examples & analysis.


See also:
-Bibliographies on Heroes; Morale/Discipline; Medical-Mental Health; Veterans; Amicicide in Casualties; Cohesion in Units; and SLA Marshall in Biographies.

PRE-CIVIL WAR


CIVIL WAR-WORLD WAR I


Analysis of attitudes & combat behavior in firsthand accounts of 400 participants.


Vivid descriptions of battle casualties in Chap XI, "How Men Die in Battle."

WORLD WAR I

Identifies characteristics that tended to maximize front-line survival through reciprocal non-aggression.


Survey of instances of combat stress and the system in place to care for the cases.


See also:
-Section on Neurological Disorders in Bibliography on Medical WWI in Medical.
**WORLD WAR II**


Philosophical and psychological reflections on his wartime experience in Europe.

See Chap 7.

Audie Murphy as example.

Mansoor, Peter R.  “Building Blocks of Victory:  American Infantry Divisions in the War Against

Combat actions reconstructed in detail from group after-action interviews.

Classical analysis of combat behavior.  Contains his controversial assertion of low ratio
of fire.

Cowardice in Royal Air Force.

Ponting, Clive.  Armageddon: The Reality Behind the Distortions, Myths, Lies, and Illusions of World
See Chap. 7.

Steckel, Francis C.  "Morale Problems in Combat American Soldiers in WWII."  Army History

Classic sociological study of WWII soldiers.

Findings of earlier studies on observed reactions of communities to various disasters are
applied to a specific military situation:  US VII Corps massed at St Lo, 25 Jul 1944.

U.S. Dept of Army.  Army Troop Information Discussion Topics: The Soldier in Combat: Department of
the Army Pamphlet 20-135, dated Apr 1951.  9 p.  MilPub-Pams.

KOREAN WAR

   Elements of 1st Cavalry Division, notably 3/7th Cavalry.


   See especially Chap VI.

   Cowardice in Royal Air Force.

   Chiefly on technique, but including many interviews as examples.

   See Chap. 7.

Based on nearly 10,000 incidents reports of Korean combat.


**VIETNAM WAR**


Survey of infantrymen and small-unit leaders indicates higher percentages of firefight participation than earlier wars.


Analysis of published narratives.


Transcripts of 182 interviews with squad-platoon sized groups in 11 different type infantry battalions, Oct/Nov 1966.


Based on interviews with 7 war vets and one conscientious objector.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder explained.


ISRAEL


By chief psychologist of IDF during 1973 war.
NUCLEAR, CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL BEHAVIOR

On the general subject of human reactions to nuclear, biological and chemical warfare, see the following studies of the Operations Research Office:


and the following RAND working paper:


To examine widespread disaster behavior, consider the bubonic plagues of the 14th century, which decimated perhaps one-quarter of Europe's population. A highly acclaimed presentation of life in France in the midst of the plagues is Barbara W. Tuchman, A Distant Mirror: The Calamitous 14th Century (NY: Knopf, 1978; DC97.5.T82).

See also:
- Bibliographies on Chemical, Biological & Nuclear topics; Disaster Relief in Civil Aid.