

of SOG availed themselves of these options. Overwhelmingly, they pulled mission after mission until, for the Americans, their tour was finished or, for both, their luck ran out. Many SF soldiers volunteered for successive tours in SOG, further depleting that precious finite store of luck. (Plaster himself served three tours in SOG RTs).

Because recognition was sparse except among comrades, decorations were limited, and the RT members could talk of their activities only with other SOG RT personnel, it is hard to understand their dedicated endurance save in terms of unit cohesion, loyalty to comrades and personal pride. Plaster has told this story extremely well, and these characteristics shine through without specific statement.

Although this is not a book to give Aunt Minny for Christmas (in a very few places the language is accurately salty), it is a book that any combat soldier would understand and appreciate. Clearly, it should be read by the SOG survivors and particularly by those who patiently waited for them, unable to learn just what they did. It should also be read by anyone with an interest in SF history and by any SF operator with a professional interest in SF's special-reconnaissance mission.

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Peacekeeper: The Road to Sarajevo. By Major General Lewis MacKenzie. Vancouver, B.C.: Douglas & McIntyre Publishers, 1993. ISBN: 1-55054-098-X. 345 pages. \$28.95.

Retired Canadian Major General Lewis MacKenzie is one of the world's few genuine experts in the art of peacekeeping.

MacKenzie served eight tours as

a peacekeeper in places like Gaza, Cyprus and Central America — finally serving as chief of staff of UNPROFOR and as commanding general of United Nations Forces in Sarajevo during a period of heavy fighting between Bosnian Serbs and Muslims. He definitely knows his stuff.

Perhaps just as important, MacKenzie is a good storyteller. He begins his book with a chronology of events that covers all of his peacekeeping tours — beginning with his experiences as a young lieutenant serving in Gaza. He tells his stories with humility and humor, and some of his tales are genuinely funny.

Also — and this is no small point — MacKenzie does not pull any punches: He freely speaks of the mistakes he made. Many books of this type are self-congratulatory, but MacKenzie avoids that autobiographical trap by assiduously telling the truth — no matter how much it hurts or who it offends.

In fact, MacKenzie details the often wasteful, overly bureaucratic and ineffective ways of the various U.N. directorates, and there are those in the U.N. who will take offense. The inefficiencies and

ineptitudes include the refusal on the part of U.N. politicians to accept military advice not to use Sarajevo as their headquarters; the continuing refusal of the U.N. to give peacekeeping generals the responsibility for their own budgets; the inability of the U.N. to supply even the simplest administrative materials for UNPROFOR; and the initial unwillingness of the U.N. to give soldiers heavily armed armored vehicles for their own protection. Many U.N. soldiers died as a direct result of that lack of foresight. We could use more of MacKenzie's kind of honesty.

MacKenzie's book will also give the reader a more complete understanding of events in Bosnia and the issues surrounding that country's longstanding conflict. The opportunity to see Sarajevo through MacKenzie's eyes is enlightening.

If you are interested in peacekeeping or in Bosnia, this is a great book to read. Even if you are interested in neither topic, the book is still recommended, and it will appeal to soldiers of all grades. MacKenzie is a good soldier, and he served well and faithfully under the most difficult of circumstances. His story is one that can be appreciated by anyone who has ever worn a uniform.

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