

Historical Articles of Interest/ Book Reviews

A submission from a Captain Alex Ivanchishin:

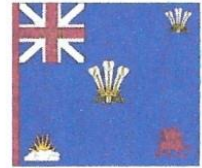
The British Are Coming, by Rick Atkinson.

A new trilogy series published mid 2019 by renowned author Rick Atkinson chronicles the American Revolution. Atkinson wrote a previous trilogy on WW2 which won him a Pulitzer Prize. His same writing style and story-telling are evident in this first volume as well. Volume one of the trilogy covers Lexington to Princeton, 1775-1777. The two future volumes will cover the rest of the northern/early war period and then ending with the southern campaign/late war period in volume three.

I'm not a professional book reviewer; but I found the first volume extremely well written and captivating...yes captivating cause it captured my interest throughout. Atkinson's writing style is detailed describing people, places and things and a great storyteller gathering anecdotes on key figures, common folk, rank and file soldiery from primary sources (dairies, letters, etc.) and impeccable research. His telling of events seemingly put you there in time and place. First-hand accounts are interspersed through the story. You get some insight into what it must have been like during the struggle from both side's perspectives.

A friend of mine thought that there seemed to be an amount of superfluous detail in the book he thought was "filler" to make it a heftier volume. I absolutely disagreed. For example, he didn't see a need for all the detail about meat, salt, powder, cartridge paper, lead, flints, salt-peter to name a few things that were discussed in describing challenges of supply and logistics facing both armies. I thought these kinds of details, not much written about in this way, were very important to the story. An eye opening revelation about salt-peter and how Americans overcame that critical shortage.

So besides a great rundown of events, battles and the myriad of interpersonal relationships among key characters on both sides so aptly described, the real value



is in the storytelling and details of the people, places and things that made the war what it was. Good, solid, and balanced account of the war. Easy reading with chapters that aren't too long and plenty of maps for situational awareness. Already looking forward to see how the rest of the war turns out. More detailed reviews can be found online...just Google it. You won't be disappointed with this book.

Comment Section

2020 is here so unpack your uniform items and get ready to combat the rebels.

The Winter / Spring / Early Summer is our busy time – from Hillsborough to Guilford Courthouse to Mount Vernon – the majority of our events will be in the next 3-5 months – I look forward to campaigning with everyone this year. The unit has seen some changes to include promotions and new members – I look forward to another exceptional year with the Southern Company !!

Ich Dien

J. Eric Spaar



