

WAR, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS



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Spring 1990

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**Department of English
United States Air Force Academy
Colorado Springs, Colorado**

WLA

War, Literature, and the Arts is published semiannually by the Department of English of the United States Air Force Academy. The editors of *War, Literature, and the Arts* are accepting manuscripts of 15-30 pages which contribute to understanding either war or art, or both, by means of critical inquiry into artistic depictions of war from any culture or period. (Documentation conforms to the MLA Style Manual.)

Although critical articles are our main focus, we will consider war poetry, personal memoir, short fiction, and visual art. The opinions expressed in the journal are not necessarily those of the editors or the United States Air Force.

For subscription information, see detachable form on the last page of the journal.

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Preface

With this 1990 Spring issue of *War, Literature, and the Arts*—our second issue in two months—we move to our original schedule of publishing twice each year: Spring and Fall.

In this issue: an alert to remember a powerful, but neglected, World War II novel, Theodore Plievier's *Stalingrad*. Although Plievier is Russian, he writes his novel through the eyes of German soldiers. Graphically chronicling the terrible battle of Stalingrad, Plievier explores with us the contradictions of morality and corruption that generally attend soldiers of armies from all ages and nations.

In our second article in this issue, a Professor of English and American Film refocuses our attention on a 1982 television documentary, *The Uncounted Enemy: A Vietnam Deception*. The author examines how television can use—or misuse—artistic techniques to obscure truth, or even to distort it. The article reminds us that truth can also be a forgotten casualty of war.

Finally, this issue presents a second essay on World War II, one that re-examines Randall Jarrell's war poetry. The article demonstrates for us some of the ways in which Jarrell dealt with, personally and poetically, aspects of soldiering that reach beyond his often anthologized "The Death of the Ball Turret Gunner."

The Editors

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