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people's war did to people, can't you?)
 Would you like to know what *The Chain of Command* is about? All I can say is that Major Jefferson was a bright young man. That one day, in the Pentagon Building in Washington, he walked into a latrine and he got a bright Idea. How bright the Idea was, you will have to let Stavits tell you. But I can say that rarely will you find the manner of a book so perfectly wedded to its subject-matter.

Sgt. (once Private) Marion Har-grove has written a brilliantly appropriate foreword for this little book, and Sgt. Leonard Sansone has provided it with appropriately insane illustrations. *The Chain of Command* will stretch from here to there, and enmesh in its length millions of laughing people.
 ALVAH BESSIE.

Blow by Blow

MANY A WATCHFUL NIGHT, by John Mason Brown. Whittlesey House. \$2.75.

AT VALLEY FORGE doughty old Steuben had discovered that "the genius of this people is that one must first explain—and then give the order." John Mason Brown, dramatic critic, serving in the Navy, helped do the explaining, for he acted as a lecturer, a sort of ringside announcer giving the men of his ship a blow-by-blow description over the public address system as the fleet went into action. These broadcasts were collected into his first war book, *To All Hands*.

Many a Watchful Night covers the preparations and the background for the Normandy invasion in which he was also a participant, and ends on the first days and nights of the cross-channel attack, with comments on Americans in wartime England in between.

This book lacks the punch of *To All Hands*, but it has humor, tenderness, depth of feeling, insight, and though he uses words with velvet around the handle, Brown can be sharp. There is a witty and, in a way, a very pathetic chapter about fogbound Shaw whom not even Marx ever really made a man of; an unforgettable picture of Gen. Omar Bradley, such a welcome contrast to MacArthur; and a glowing tribute to the gallantry of the English, spoiled by this egg: "The aristocrats, though curtailed in their estates, were not worried about the future. They had possessions within themselves which they could not lose and which the country valued. Once again they had met wholeheartedly their responsibilities as the government."

Can Brown forget so quickly how they had met those responsibilities in their war-breeding appeasement of fascism? Those very aristocrats are dribbling at this very moment the seeds of another world catastrophe.

BEN FIELD.

A Traveler Reports

JOURNEY THROUGH CHAOS, by Victor Alexandrov. Foreword by Upton Sinclair. Crown. \$3.

NO ONE who has seen the Soviet film *The Road to Life* can forget the picture it presents of the "wild boys" of Civil War Russia—the hungry thieving, resourceful children of a world being torn up for repairs. Victor Alexandrov was such a boy, starving and stealing his way from the Caucasus to Finland; and he went on to become, in essence, a "wild boy" of a Europe in upheaval between two wars. Particularly vivid is his description of the Germany he starved in, in the twenties, when the Nazis made their movement attractive by offering a mark a day and free beer. He joined up but saw through the "... veil of mysticism—or, possibly, mystification—cast over ugly features in the Party's program to disguise and make them alluring. . . . I was later to gain more insight than I had at this time into proletarian methods and aims. With the advantage of that insight I can look back and recognize the superior heroism of the young men who at this time were joining, not the National Socialist, but the Democratic front."

He himself was on the side of the Democratic Front when the showdown came, and bashed in Nazi heads rather than Communist. A son of White Russian parents, who in exile made their natural alliances with reactionaries of all countries and who pinned their hopes on Denikin, he never forgot that it was the Red Army rather than the Whites who had befriended him as a boy; and as he matured he gained increasing understanding of the events through which he had passed. A man without a passport, without a license to exist, he was thrown into Polish, Italian and Greek prisons, drafted into the Greek army; he worked as a bootblack, a spy's chauffeur, a seaman, a cabdriver, and finally as a journalist in Greece and later in France, Spain and Czechoslovakia, where he witnessed the strangling of Loyalist Spain and the Munich-death of Czechoslovakia.

The story Alexandrov has to tell helps us to understand much of what is happening in Europe today. Whether

all the adventures described in the first person singular actually happened to him is not important; his romance with the beautiful Polish countess, for instance, has a few too many coincidences and international twists to be credible. However, the story is vital and revealing, and if its Hollywood touches help get it to a few thousand extra readers, perhaps it's all to the good.

BETTY MILLARD.

Jim Crow at the Front

THE NEGRO IN THE ARMED FORCES, by Seymour J. Schoenfeld. Associated Publishers, Washington. \$1.10.

THIS is a significant little volume. It makes a clear-cut demand for the "complete integration of the Negro in the armed forces," and it comes from the pen of a Lieutenant-Commander in the Navy of the United States, with a supporting and forthright introduction by a Colonel in the Marine Corps—Evans Fordyce Carlson—and an enthusiastic blurb by an American cabinet member—Henry A. Wallace.

The author summarizes succinctly and correctly the findings of the best historical, anthropological, and sociological researches on the Negro. He adds confirmatory and most interesting data from his own personal experiences derived from twenty-two months' service aboard a combat-loaded transport ("Jim Crow," he writes, "never rides a landing craft to an enemy beach"), and so, inevitably, comes to his unequivocal demand for absolute equality in the rights, duties and privileges of the Negro soldier, sailor and marine.

Very considerable advances were made along these lines in the course of the war against fascism (some of which are enumerated here), most notably the use of mixed units in the front lines in the days of the Bulge and the smashing offensive that followed. These came because of necessity and agitation. The advances must be held and expanded. The necessity remains and will remain. Let us not neglect the agitation. Lieutenant-Commander Schoenfeld has provided additional ammunition.

HERBERT APTHEKER.

The Nazis in Poland

CALL US TO WITNESS: a Polish Chronicle, by Hania and Gaither Warfield. Ziff-Davis. \$3.

AN AMERICAN Methodist preacher and his Polish-born wife describe their experiences in Poland, Soviet Russia and Germany, in the crucial pe-

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