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The Shadow Warriors of Nakano: A History of the Imperial  
Japanese Army's Elite Intelligence School (review)

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The Journal of Military History, Volume 67, Number 1, January 2003, pp.  
274-275 (Review)

Published by Society for Military History  
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1353/jmh.2003.0008>



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dane matters, never adequately training his staff or potential successors to handle increased responsibility. As a consequence, on a visit to Europe in April 1945 he received a cable from Lovett urging him to return home immediately: "since my departure AAF has been ignored in all high-level conferences." Much of that was Arnold's own fault.

Overall, this is an extremely valuable effort, even if largely because of Huston's extensive and insightful commentary. Arnold emerges as a far-sighted, determined and driven leader who pushed the AAF relentlessly to victory. This is an intensely human portrait, revealing that Arnold's disorganized but creative and frenetic mind was a source both of inspiration and confusion. This is the best account of Hap Arnold's wartime activities we are likely to see.

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*The Shadow Warriors of Nakano: A History of the Imperial Japanese Army's Elite Intelligence School.* By Stephen C. Mercado. Dulles, Va.: Brassey's, 2002. ISBN 1-57488-443-3. Map. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xix, 331. \$27.95.

Japanese military intelligence during the Second World War is an important topic infrequently investigated in-depth by western scholars. In particular, training for and the execution of Imperial Japanese clandestine operations are obscure and murky areas of study. Nevertheless, Stephen Mercado, a former Central Intelligence Agency analyst and Asia specialist, admirably assembles, focuses, and delineates a wealth of material, often Japanese-language works, to produce this insightful volume.

The Nakano School, named after its location in the Nakano area in northwestern Tokyo, was founded in 1938 for the purpose of training student soldiers in nonconventional military arts, such as subversion, espionage, and guerrilla warfare, but also in the art of intelligence gathering. At the outset the small school (there were only about 2,500 graduates by 1945) struggled for funding and recognition among Japan's large military forces. Moreover, the regular Japanese army, not unlike many foreign armies of the age, held the intelligence field in low regard.

Earlier in the war there were a few occasions when Nakano-trained "shadow warrior" graduates were given opportunities to demonstrate the potential of guerrilla tactics against stronger forces. For example, Nakano paratroopers captured oil fields in the Netherlands East Indies intact before Dutch demolition teams had a chance to destroy the refineries and oil fields. Nonetheless, only in 1943, when the war was clearly turning against Japan, did the Nakano School receive significant recognition by the Imperial Army Staff and become sought after for training commandos.

Nakano graduates, although always small in numbers, carried out

harassing operations in Burma, India, and Okinawa, among other combat zones, and inflicted generally heavier casualties on the Allies than they themselves suffered. However, everywhere the Allies grew stronger and Nakano operatives found themselves training guerrilla units for the defense of Kyushu and Tokyo. A particularly informative chapter is titled "Ending the War, Finding New Allies" (pp. 165–99). Here the author offers a rich description of how the chief of Japanese military intelligence, Lieutenant General Arisue Seizo, used his information about the Soviet Union as a bargaining chip with MacArthur's intelligence forces. The result was a special intelligence partnership that had considerable relevance during the early rounds of the Cold War. In all likelihood, this particular Japanese-American cooperation was much more admissible than the initial affair American authorities had with Japanese biological warfare specialists. Many were granted immunity from prosecution in exchange for their biological warfare data and equipment removed from the death factories on the Asian continent to Japan in August 1945.

This is an effectively written account. For instance, the author is adept at producing succinct biographical sketches of Nakano operatives before recounting their work in combat. The story of the postwar activities of Nakano veterans, particularly Lieutenant Onoda Hiroo, who did not emerge from the jungles of the Philippines to surrender until March 1974, is skillfully painted along a time line from the late 1940s when some of the veterans helped retrain the army of Chiang Kai-shek to when Onoda returned to the Philippines in the late 1990s as a most honored and welcomed guest. In sum, this is a fascinating and distinctive contribution to the literature on Japan and the Second World War.

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***Forgotten Battles: Italy's War of Liberation, 1943–1945.*** By Charles T. O'Reilly. Lanham, Md.: Lexington Books, 2001. ISBN 0-7391-0195-1. Maps. Tables. Appendixes. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 364. \$90.00.

This history of Italian military assistance to the Allies, 1943–45, presents contradictions. O'Reilly brings strengths to his book. He served as an interpreter with Italian Service Units (ISUs) in the conflict. He perfected his Italian studying and teaching in Italy. O'Reilly saw duty as a reserve counterintelligence officer during the Korean War. He has read widely in Italian-language military history. He conducted research using captured Italian military records in the National Archives and endured the frustrations attendant on utilizing the Italian army's *Ufficio Storico*.

Thus the book's rich detail and deep passion. One feels O'Reilly's fury toward denigrators of Italian efforts for the Allies. Over 90,000 died, 26,000 in organized units and 65–70,000 as partisans in Italy, the Balkans, and