newspapers to assess public opinion in Britain and the United States. Bickham does a wonderful job of recreating popular attitudes toward the conflict. Having assessed the causes and course of the conflict Bickham provides a detailed description of the peace negotiations which brought the war to an end. His is the best analysis of the peace negotiations and the resulting Treaty of Ghent since Henry Adams’s account more than a century ago.

Apropos to the words of the historian who visited Edinburgh long ago, Bickham concludes that the new American republic won the war in the sense that its claims to independence and, crucially, to western expansion at the expense of native peoples, arguably the war’s biggest losers, were vindicated. Britain, which had committed considerable resources to the conflict, was ultimately compelled to accept and respect American sovereignty. For British North Americans in what would later become Canada the memory of the conflict, and their role in resisting invasion by the United States would play a crucial role in helping to consolidate a Canadian national identity after Confederation in 1867. That a book on a war ends with a chapter entitled, ‘Who won the War of 1812?’ is testimony indeed of the need for such a well-research, well-written study. It should find a wide readership among students of the histories of the British Empire, the early United States, and pre-Confederation Canada.

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Military historians who research strategic functions of the British army tend to overlook the significance of soldiers’ personal equipment and how it affects day-to-day operations in the field. Historically, uniforms were as much a part of a soldier’s equipment as was his weapon. Uniforms provided multifaceted benefits. Uniforms protected men from the elements and were also a key to professing allegiance. Uniforms were a device through which to unite the troops, and this unification affected the conduct of war. A united force is a stronger force. The power of the British army uniform is fully portrayed in this excellent book by Carl Franklin.

A feast for the eyes with prolific, colourful imagery, the author identifies the uniforms worn by the British army from 1751 to 1783. In overwhelming detail, the author
successfully explains who wore what, where and how, and with which accessories. The sheer amount of detail is staggering, yet it is necessary to include this as it helps the reader attain a truly comprehensive understanding of the breadth and depth of British army uniforms in the eighteenth century.

The research encompasses two wars, the Seven Years’ War and the American War of Independence, two very different conflicts fought in varying geographic regions, with different climate considerations that affected military strategy and uniforms. The book includes both visual and textual research on the numbered regiments of cavalry and infantry. Uniforms in the book are specifically depicted for a man of nominal stature and five foot nine inches tall; therefore, there is a perfect consistency in sartorial representation. The book is based on archival investigations, research into published uniform orders and regulations, contemporary illustrations, and extant articles of clothing held in museums (p. 4). This methodology makes for laborious, yet comprehensive, research.

The author has organised the book into four distinct sections, titled respectively, The Cavalry Commonalities, The Cavalry, The Infantry Commonalities, and The Infantry. In Part One: The Cavalry Commonalities, the author dedicates one chapter each to specific apparel and accessories, including, headwear; coats and jackets; buttons and lace; stocks, gloves, and shirts; netherwear; accoutrements; horse furniture; and weapons. In Part Two: The Cavalry, the author includes information on the uniforms of the Regiments of Household Cavalry and Regiments of Heavy and Light Cavalry. In Part Three: The Infantry Commonalities, the author dedicates one chapter each to specific apparel and accessories, including, headwear; coats and jackets; buttons and lace; stocks, gloves, and shirts; netherwear; infantry tartans of the Highland Regiments; accoutrements; and weapons. And lastly, in Part Four: The Infantry, the author includes information on the uniforms of the Regiments of Foot Guards and Regiments of Foot. The book also includes a series of four appendices, which offer additional data to support the preceding research.

The author’s smooth use of language is a joy to read. His descriptive passages vividly articulate the soldiers’ clothing in minute facets. For example, regarding the cut of soldiers’ breeches in 1751, the author wrote, ‘The early style had a wide angle at the crotch with a roomy but shapeless seat, while the breeches opened at a front fly and were secured by four buttons on the right side and buttonholes on the left; many were fitted with two pockets at the upper leg’ (p. 18). Filled with descriptive text like that, this book was most likely unintended to be read thoroughly, from cover to cover. Rather, it is the perfect book to dip into, as and when, here and there. It is a comprehensive reference book.

www.bjmh.org.uk
This book is extremely well researched and highlights the expanse of British army uniforms during 30 years of the eighteenth century that witnessed great military activity. The cut and colour of the army uniforms are fully illustrated to enable military historians to visually comprehend troops and their choreography in the field. This book fits nicely alongside the author’s previously published book on British Napoleonic uniforms and other books on military uniforms. Though a specialty book, the contents will have wide appeal as the time period covers two important wars of the eighteenth century, which are of interest to many different research groups, including military historians, dress historians, battlefield re-enactors, costume designers for the television and film industry, and military fiction writers.

The book offers a fresh perspective and new research that add to the debate on uniform design and relevance. There are no logical flaws to identify in this enjoyable read. The research methods utilised were appropriate and obtained more than satisfactory results. If the author had had additional time and space, it might have been rewarding to view contemporary paintings and other art historical evidence in the book to substantiate the archival evidence of published uniform regulations. Additionally, uniforms of the artillery or specialty troops, such as engineers, are excluded from the book, but it was no surprise or disappointment as from the very beginning the author had purposely conveyed the well-defined parameters of the book to cavalry and infantry uniforms, exclusively. The book incorporates an incredible visual array of British army uniforms in stunning detail, with solid sources, logical organisation, and a graphically pleasing presentation. This book would be a fine addition to the personal library of anyone who is interested in British soldiers of the eighteenth century.

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Long the great taboo of Irish history, the Irish Civil War, 1922-1923, was marked by fratricidal violence and bitter local animosities, and remains the under-researched conflict that dare not speak its name. A new generation of scholars, however, is challenging this, including Gemma Clark, whose pioneering study analyses the Civil War in terms of new sources and fresh methodology. Examining patterns of Civil War