

Resources You Can Use

Serving Two Masters: The Development of American Military Chaplaincy 1860-1920 by Richard M. Budd. University of Nebraska Press. Lincoln, Nebraska, 202 pages, 2002. Reviewed by LT Youssef H. Aboul-Enein, MSC, USN

This is an important book on American military chaplaincy. Richard Budd is a Lutheran minister and Reserve Navy chaplain. His articles have appeared in previous editions of *The Navy Chaplain* and this is his first book. *Serving Two Masters* is an enjoyable and readable history of chaplains in the American military. Readers will discover how America, influenced by England, felt that each regiment needed a clergyman, a British policy solidified in 1660 during the Stuart Restoration. American chaplains, however, go back further—the first being Samuel Stone of Hartford, Connecticut. Stone would accompany colonial militia on expeditions during the Pequot Wars of 1637. The Continental Congress authorized chaplains in the Army on 29 July 1775, and in the Navy that November. The Congress assumed that each warship would have its own chaplain, with a naval vessel being considered the equivalent of a regiment.

This book chronicles a long and hard road for military chaplains navigating through the issues of politics, fair pay, the wearing of uniforms and rank until professional recognition as a corps came after the American Civil War. Chaplain Budd does a wonderful job presenting this struggle with historical anecdotes. In one instance, President James Polk appointed two Roman Catholic chaplains to calm fears fueled by Mexican propagandists that America wanted to spread Protestantism throughout the Americas. The real test of chaplains came during the American Civil War. Both sides had clergy assigned and the issues of pay, non-combatant status, the bearing of arms in war and the chaplaincy as a profession came to the forefront.

During the Civil War, and prior to the United States becoming a signatory to the Geneva Conventions in 1878, chaplains of both sides were captured and released on the spot. So important were military clergy that Confederate General Braxton Bragg wrote Union General Henry Halleck to suggest the most expeditious release of chaplains in captivity.

Civil War chaplains' duties and adventures were varied and interesting. Some served as aides-de-camp, handling the correspondence of Union generals in the field. Others rode out with soldiers' pay, distributing cash to their families. One chaplain is reported to have carried \$65,000 in his clothes, boots and saddles for distribution to soldiers' families along the Ohio Valley.

Certainly the most unique assignment given a Union chaplain was when General Grant appointed Chaplain John Eaton to be in charge of "contraband" affairs in his department. Grant felt that Eaton could be compassionate towards newly emancipated slaves. He did his job so well that he resigned the chaplaincy and took command of black regiments in 1863. By the war's end, he was a brigadier general.

I cannot do this book justice in the space allotted for this review. Military chaplains have been instrumental in the forming of ship and post libraries, schools for military children and orphanages for foreign children. Some even spied on the adversary. We often think of chaplains giving last rites, but stories abound of how they did it while applying a tourniquet and giving whiskey to dull the pain. Richard Budd has done a great service to the Chaplain Corps, our Navy and American military chaplains, by publishing this book. It is an absolute must read for all chaplains and Religious Program Specialists.