

Books are my Bag

By Dee Ann Ray

Richard F. Miller, journalist and historian recently put together a book of speeches and analyses of them. The book is titled "Fighting Words, Persuasive Strategies for War and Politics". It is published by SB (Savas Beatie) P.O. Box 4527, El

Dorado Hills, CA 995762. Website is www.savasbeatie.com. E-mail is sales@savasbeatie.com.

Miller can be reached via E-mail at www.richardfmiller.com.

Miller is a graduate of Harvard College and Case Western Reserve University of Law. He has served four stints as an embedded journalist at sea aboard the USS Kitty Hawk, in Iraq twice and most recently at various posts in Afghanistan. He is active in historical societies and has written other books.

In citing the speeches in his book, Miller argues that human persuasion is seamless. He further states that the persuasive strategies by which humankind is recruited, trained and exhorted for war can be used in politics and business.

Miller does not address "what works" on a public podium. He does analyze actual historical examples and highlights the lessons. Speeches included in this book range from Alexander the Great to General David H. Petraeus and President Obama.

Basically Miller shows that the same speech-making strategies were used in antiquity as are used in modern times.

This book is carefully indexed for easy use. Miller draws analogies between battlefield speeches and political speeches.

The compilation of speeches offers easy access to great speeches for the reader to enjoy reading and perhaps

referencing.

There are many books of speeches, but most of them do not an analysis of the speeches included.

Miller's book can be obtained through a favorite bookstore/on-line book source or direct from the publisher through the information given earlier in this column

Publishing House Aquila Polonica, 10850 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 300, Los Angeles, CA 90024, E-mail: info@aquilapolonica.com recently issued a new book titled "303 Squadron, The Legendary Battle of Britain Fighter Squadron". It was written by Arkady Fiedler who escaped to England with other Polish citizens after Poland fell to the Nazi forces. Arkady's book is written using his contemporary observations seventy years ago.

English officials were doubtful about the Polish airmen when they arrived in the summer of 1940. The airmen were experienced pilots, but had not flown the planes used by the British RAF. The airmen spoke little English and they had only just escaped Poland as German forces crushed their country.

The Polish airmen had qualities which overcame all obstacles—they were fighters and wanted to help Great Britain. Within weeks, the Polish pilots were flying the British Hurricane Fighters, learning English and helping to win "The Battle of Britain which was regarded as a last ditch

effort to save Great Britain from German domination.

The Polish pilots of the 303 Squadron became famed because they scored the most "kills", suffered the fewest losses, were celebrated by the British public, the media and the English king for their pivotal role in saving England.

Arkady's book was originally written in the Polish language. It was published in the United Kingdom in English in 1942 and in the U.S. in 1943. A Polish edition was parachuted into Nazi occupied Poland during the war. It became a huge morale booster for occupied Poland which was suffering from brutal German oppression. This English edition is illustrated with 200 historical photographs of the brave young Polish airmen.

The photographs in this book are striking. Information about the young pilots is given so that the reader can grasp the dynamic personalities of the brave Polish pilots as they sought to save England, hoping they would eventually return to Poland for further victory.

"303 Squadron" is available through a favorite bookstore/on-line book source or direct from the publisher at the information given earlier in this column.

Both of these books offer "lest we forget" reading. Understanding history always provides more insight on current events and people

Books and reading forever!