

1957

Book Reviews

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Recommended Citation

Book Reviews, 48 J. Crim. L. Criminology & Police Sci. 205 (1957-1958)

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BOOK REVIEWS

MILITARY JUSTICE IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES. By *Robinson O. Everett*. Military Service Publishing Co., Harrisburg, Pa., 1956. Pp. 338. \$5.00.

Since the second world war, the problems of military justice have attracted a degree of public interest rarely manifested in the past. This new attention resulted in the enactment of the Uniform Code of Military Justice of 1950 and the establishment of the United States Court of Military Appeals the following year. These important developments have produced a rapidly-expanding literature. The present volume, which is similar in purpose to several others recently published, seeks to convey the salient features of modern military law and administration to the general reader, and, at the same time, to serve as a handbook for lawyers directly concerned with the trial of courts martial and related problems.

The author, who has a considerable background in military law including a term of service as Commissioner for the Court of Military Appeals, is thoroughly familiar with the materials he treats. He succeeds in conveying a surprising amount of information in short compass, ranging through such questions as the jurisdiction and procedure of courts martial, the substantive criminal law of the military, appeal and review procedures, and a great deal more. There are even references to some interesting programs of rehabilitation involving military offenders. The discussion is simple and, apart from some minor lapses, accurate. Perhaps the greatest single defect of the volume is the failure to include the text of the Uniform Code, an omission difficult to understand or justify.

It can hardly be doubted that study of military law in operation produces insights into the more general issues of criminal justice. The problems associated with the effort to import the basic procedural decencies into the neces-

sarily-authoritarian context of military command are not overlooked by the author. Nor does he assert that they have all been happily overcome. On the whole, however, he defends the system against civilian criticism and skepticism, and asserts that civilian justice now has something to learn from military law. But the book is too brief and its objectives too limited for these issues to be thoroughly canvassed. From the purely technical side, one suspects that its chief utility will be for the lawyer who is a neophyte in military law.

Handbooks have their place, and this appears to be a good one. It is no criticism of Mr. Everett's work to say that more is needed.

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UNDERWORLD U. S. A. By *Joseph F. Dinneen*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Cudahy, 1956. Pp. 238. \$3.75.

Underworld U.S.A. is a fast moving, highly interesting story of a pickpocket, Fingers Tolland, who graduated into big time crime. During a criminal career covering a period of forty years, Tolland's record lists ninety-two arrests, of which thirty-six were for armed robbery, but he was sentenced to jail only five times. And he was caught in less than one percent of the offenses he actually committed. Tolland's career is somewhat typical of the professional criminal who makes crime pay in America.

The reasons why crime flourishes are no mystery to Joseph F. Dinneen, a veteran crime reporter. The successful racketeer secures the services of the best criminal lawyer in the community. His skills are frequently pitted against district attorneys who were selected not because of legal talents but for their political acumen. Presiding over the trial is a judge who is a product of the political system. Loopholes in the law through which the guilty escape justice