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Buckner poured over twice as many troops on to the beach in the same length of time. . . The truth is that on D-Day, an average of more than 21,000 men were landed on four of the five Normandy beaches, the exception being Omaha beach, where the Americans were delayed by bitter opposition. By night-fall, some 90,000 British, Canadian and American troops, together with thousands of vehicles and thousands of tons of supplies were ashore. At the end of the 28th day, more than one million men had been landed.

A chapter devoted to the war-time expansion of the American Navy concludes with the remarkable statement that the "United Kingdom needed roughly a century and a-quarter, from 1660 to 1783, including nine wars, three of which were global, to become the preponderant sea power and to establish the British Empire. The United States became the preponderant sea power between 1941 and 1945. . ." Nowhere does Captain Puleston give any measure of the immensity of the total war effort of the United Kingdom which, in August, 1945, had 5,100,000 men and women deployed in the armed forces, backed by 3,900,000 men and women producing munitions. There is no mention of the contributions of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India and other Empire countries to the Allied cause.

The accounts of operations are cluttered with the names of American admirals, generals, and others of lower ranks. British leaders are treated with scant courtesy. Admiral of the Fleet Sir Dudley Pound, who carried an immense burden as First Sea Lord with signal success for nearly six years, is given a casual mention; and Admiral Cunningham makes a fleeting appearance here and there. The only reference in the book to the organiser of the Dunkirk evacuation and planner of Normandy is in a three-paragraph account of the former operation—"the commander of this improvised regatta, Vice-Admiral Bertram Ramsay, was knighted for his service." For Captain Puleston's purposes, Admirals Tovey, Vian and Fraser simply did not exist. The only reference to the British Pacific Fleet, which is not named as such, is a four-line paragraph about the "British Fast Carrier Force under Vice-Admiral Rawlings."

Captain Puleston hopes that "this book may be regarded as a postscript to the volumes of Mahan." It is a vain and foolish hope. —S.D.W.

A POET IN LOVE

MOUNT IDA. By Monk Gibbon. Jonathon Cape, London.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY is one of the most difficult literary forms, and it is never more difficult than when a writer decides that he must tell his readers about what would be known in Hollywood as his "love-life." If he tells everything, he makes himself seem rather a terrible fellow, although he may be no worse than his neighbour, who prefers to be reticent; and if he tells only part of the truth he is likely to select the evidence which supports his conception of himself as an interesting and colourful person. Or if he wants to be candid in an artistic way he may exaggerate small matters until the reader is able to believe that a modest flirtation was really

a desperate affair which would have to be compared with nothing less than Dante's infatuation for Beatrice.

Monk Gibbon is careful to indicate the mild nature of his interest in the three young women who are examined exhaustively in *Mount Ida*. He explains that he was still chaste when he married, so that readers who wonder what can be the outcome of his earnest pursuit of beauty have no need to suspect that the ultimate truth has been withheld. And indeed, at the end of a long book it is easy enough to believe that the author's satisfactions have been strictly aesthetic. He meets his first young woman at a school for boys. The second is encountered in Rome, and the third in an Austrian resort devoted to winter sports. All three are beautiful, and the pleasure the young man feels in their company is provided mainly by the sensation of being a little, but not very much, in love with them.

He is really in love with beauty, and although in one case he goes so far as to exchange kisses, he retains his self-control; and it seems likely that this restraint is not imposed upon him simply by the fact that he intends to marry someone else. His interest is in feeling the attraction grow upon him, and perhaps in watching it grow upon the girl

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