Conflicting Images



rom Washington crossing the Delaware to MacArthur wading ashore in the Philippines, pictures of war have served to inform, inspire, and instruct the American public," writes Jonathan Heller in the introduction to War & Conflict: Select Images From the National Archives, 1765-1970, a 355-page volume published by the National Archives and Records Administration.

Heller, archivist in the still picture branch of the National Archives, spent six months poring through tens of thousands of photographs, slides, and pieces of artwork to select the 1,500 images that appear in the book.

The publication is the first of its kind for the National Archives, which began acquiring permanently valuable pictorial records of the federal government in 1935. The still picture branch holds almost six million visual materials. Military acquisitions, among the Archives' largest collections, span every war, from the Revolutionary to Vietnam.

Edited by Heller, who earned his master's in library science from SU's School of Information Studies in 1983, and designed by Serene Feldman Werblood, a 1967 graduate of SU's College of Visual and Performing Arts, War & Conflict doubles as a catalog of sorts. Most images are available to the public at a nominal cost. For information on obtaining the book or reproductions from it, contact the National Archives Still Picture Branch, Washington, D.C. 20408.

-RENÉE GEARHART LEVY

Above, American howitzers shell German forces retreating near Carenton, France. July 11, 1944. Right, gunboat, altered from a ferryboat, on Pamunkey River. Probably the Commodore Perry, ca. 1864-65. Matthew Brady Collection.

