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**BOOKS and REVIEWS**

**The Big War**  
By Anton Myrer. 463pp. New York. Appleton Century Crofts  
Reviewed by DONALD YATES

Anton Myrer's second novel is a detailed and moving account of a squad of marines in the South Pacific during the second world war.

"The Big War," according to Myrer, was composed in an attempt to create a modern day Iliad. Over the space of 463 pages Myrer does, in effect, arouse the same sense of the pointlessness of battle, of needless agony, which stamps the Homeric epic.

We are shown the far-reaching consequences of the engagement of a group of men in battle by tracing back to their homes and to their origins, the individual, singular lives that war has forced them to place on the block.

THUS, THE tragedies of the battlefield and of the home are eloquently amassed in argument against the violence of mortal combat.

Myrer's is a noble work, composed in terms which vividly portray both the experience and the moral lesson he has undertaken to present.

**Bay of the Damned**  
By Warren Carrier. 253 pp. New York. The John Day Company. \$2.95.

Reviewed by ROBIN R. BAHR

At best the story of an ex-racketeer turned good might make fast, light, and somewhat individual reading. However, this reviewer found such a story entitled "Bay of the Damned" unexciting and mostly flat.

When Mike Epsom, one-time king of Miami's underworld, testified before a Senate racket committee, his bridges were burned. The syndicate set out to get him. Mike's former partner, a man named Rinaldi, was sent from Chicago to wipe him out.

THE STORY BEGINS with a warning to Mike of Rinaldi's mission, and the action covers the attempts of both men to find the other first.

The chase is considerably complicated by the intrusion of Mike's daughter, Anna, who, having also learned of Rinaldi and his intent, rushes into the thick of things to save her father.

Rather than suspenseful and dramatic, the action is almost ludicrous as the two men chase each other in true keystone cop fashion. Finally, having found one another, both men fumble guns so that the victim becomes the aggressor, the aggressor the victim and then back again.

**WHY?**

At some time or another she asks everyone "Do you believe in God?" This seems to be the author's attempt to lend a philosophical note to the story and give depth to the characters. However, the result is neither deep, philosophical, or real.

On the whole the book might make a grade B Hollywood movie, and that is not very good.

**Women Wear Veils**

Veils were worn in ancient Greece to distinguish free women from slaves. Moslem women wore veils—and still do—because they believed it immodest to show their faces in public, but no more in the harem. Medieval women wore veils of linen and silk, shot through with gold thread, to enhance their beauty.

Early in this century muslin, lace, gauze or net veils attached to the hat were protection against dust, light or wind. Women today wear veils for added glamor according to the dictates of fashion. Copyright 1957, John Emery Ent.

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**DOWN TO EARTH**  
By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

**John Delza's Garden Has 'New Look'**

Just had occasion to visit the Letha and John Dolza home in Fenton. The family is well known in Birmingham due to the young people attending the Cranbrook schools and Mr. Dolza being well known in automotive science.

The "new" home is one of the pioneer structures in that area and the new look in landscaping would provide a study for any garden designer.

MRS. DOLZA realized that each exit must be interesting. We are apt to carry along our rear eyes as orphans and unrelated to the splendor within the house and the foundation planning for the public to view. Each exit here had interest each season of the year.

In the immediate rear of the home there were many changes of elevation and they were emphasized by a careful placing of broken concrete to take care of banks which are generally "butched off" by automatic mowers.

Where the roof line needed lowering to provide a restful line they had built stunning brick walls and different levels to carry out the foundation line.

Mr. Dolza decided he wanted an interesting pool to accommodate a fine piece of sculpturing from Italy so he selected a location in over half shade, made the desired contour, removed the soil and lined the bottom with tar building paper.

NEXT HE PLACED three pieces of wide pyrofilm plastic over the tar paper surface. Now around the edge were placed interesting boulders with interesting plants naturalizing the setting. There you have the Dolza ornamental pool. A shady location was selected due to the deterioration of the plastic in full sun, and he doesn't expect any trouble with the winter season.

The pool can be cleaned of leaves just like a swimming pool, with a vacuum cleaner made for that purpose.

He won't be able to grow water lilies in the pool due to lack of sun but I have seen some beauties which will have an electric light under their plate-like leaves and those lilies give you service for years.

THE OTHER DAY at Al Godner's home garden (he is a local nurseryman) I noticed that his

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