

## Review by CAPT Michael Field, USN (Ret.)

*Render Harmless* by Marc Liebman, Tucson: Fireship Press, 2014, 520 pages.

In his maiden novel, *Big Mother 40*, ANA member Marc Liebman suggested it would be the first in “the Josh Haman” series. The second, *Render Harmless*, has now been published, and it does not disappoint. Josh Haman and his side-kick, Marty Cabot, are at it again in another exciting adventure. There is a brief chronological gap between their heroic adventure in North Vietnam and the current tale. Haman has lost his wife, remarried and been transferred to exchange duty with the Royal Navy’s Fleet Air Arm. The story opens with Haman and his co-pilot, heir to a British title, conducting a daring rescue in heavy weather in the Irish Sea. We are then re-introduced to Josh Haman and brought up to date on his life events as the stage is set for the current adventure.

Happening in the Federal Republic of Germany at the time is a series of deadly bombings, apparently targeting Jewish businesses and American military personnel. Their source is unknown to West German authorities, and it is of great concern to U. S. military officials. Naturally, Josh Haman and Marty Cabot are hand-picked to do something about it: find out who the culprits are and *render them harmless*.

As he did earlier in *Big Mother 40*, Liebman weaves in details from both sides of the conflict, and in this case adds some very inter-

esting twists, including a plot by neo-Nazi aristocrats to return to power in Germany. He fills in the story with great detail and perspective, notably from the point of view of a Jewish citizen in the West during the 1970s.

Events take their course and Haman and Cabot prevail, but only after we have experienced a wonderful story and a high level of excitement. And yes, we do see Haman at the controls of a helicopter again late in the book.

With *Render Harmless*, Marc Liebman has confirmed that he is a gifted story-teller. The narrative has a multi-faceted and complex plot, and it is developed nicely, keeping the reader’s interest, and working its way to a tight ending. Discerning readers will be a bit distracted by the imperfect copy-editing, but this is well over-ridden by the quality of the tale.

