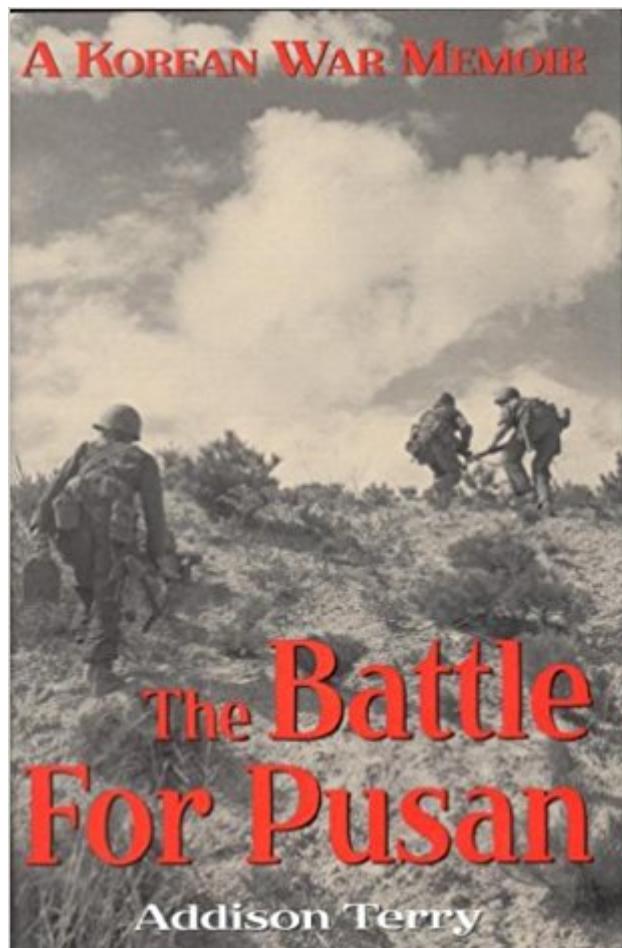


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The Battle For Pusan



Synopsis

His memoir of these perilous times makes for exciting reading, replete with the drama and sacrifice of men in combat.

Book Information

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: Presidio Press; 1 edition (March 15, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 089141701X

ISBN-13: 978-0891417019

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 14 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,752,928 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #90 in Books > History > Military > Korean War > Personal Narratives #213 in Books > History > Military > Korean War > Campaigns #980 in Books > History > Asia > Korea

Customer Reviews

Major Terry's personal account of his experience in the Korean "Police Action" put color into the black and white images many "baby-boomers" have of this war. His descriptive prose (written in the vernacular of the 50's) provides the reader with a visceral feeling of the pain and simple pleasures experienced by combat troops. This book is user-friendly with its explanation, use and application of military jargon for readers who did not serve in the armed forces.

Great book on the Korean War

As a military history told from the perspective of ground troops this is first class. It is unfortunately marred by the prejudice and misconceptions of the author who blames all problems and defeats on Washington. From what I have seen for myself, the Army is more than capable of fouling up on their own as far as logistics and other factors go. After a time or two you learn to just skip over these passages and the combat narrative is excellent and it is good value for the price being asked. But the author should refrain from politics as it is clearly over his head.

First, let me say that I was stationed in S. Korea and am familiar with and interested in its history. It

was an unusual experience reading about cities and locations that I had visited or that I knew of. Terry describes a Korea that was still reeling from the effects of the Japanese occupation. I was there in the late 70s, and it is amazing how different S. Korea was just 25 years after the devastation of WW II and the Korean War. It is a tribute to the Korean people. Terry's experiences in the Korean War are not only glimpses into the life of a grunt, but are also a look at the Korean War specifically. While reading this very easy-to-read memoir, I was struck by the foreshadowing of how the troops would be treated in the Vietnam War. In both wars, the troops were the victims of political power struggles, poor training, and a lack of supplies and equipment, including weapons and ammo. Of course the two wars differed in that the Korean War vets were not demonized; however, they were ignored and forgotten by the country at large. The Korean War is truly the forgotten war, and its veterans, the forgotten vets. Terry was an artillery forward observer, and his memoir is a thrilling story. It effectively conveys the brotherhood that forms among soldiers under constant threat of death. In addition, the memoir spectacularly demonstrates how war can be boring beyond belief one minute, and terrifying the next. Terry also shows that, for the grunt, war can be ridiculous, infuriating, disgusting, and even funny at times -- sometimes all within a few hours. Note: There is racism in the book; it is directed at the Korean people and the "all-negro" 24th Regiment. It reflects the attitudes of the 40s and 50s and will disturb modern readers. But the reader needs to keep in mind the timeframe of the book, and also remember that good did come out of the way the 24th Regiment was deprived of proper training and command. It significantly sped up the full integration of the U.S. armed forces.

I had the privilege of knowing this man, in his old age, the demeanor he exudes is completely different from the wounded and scared man he describes in the book. In my experience with the author, he was as sharp as they come, in both wit and intellect, absolutely unrepentant in his views. If he had an opinion, you would know, and likely come to share it. The book details his experiences serving the United States, a painfully crystal clear picture of what it was like to be shipped to Korea to fight a confusing war.

Terry Addison was (is?) a junior grade officer who served as an artillery observer in the early days of the Korean war. His book has a conversational feel to it; I'd wager that he dictated it to a tape machine. Addison was neither an intellectual nor a military historian -- he was a Regular Army officer who had some very interesting experiences during the war. He gives a grunts'-eye-view of a desperate conflict between the North Korean Peoples' Army and the forces of the United States and

the Republic of Korea, but as a 2nd Lt. he was, of course, unaware of the Big Picture of the battle for the perimeter. For an idea of what it was like to sit in a hole in the ground, surrounded by corpses, while well trained, motivated troops did everything in their power to kill you, this book is an excellent choice. If you want an overview of the conflict or a narrative of the events of the Battle of Pusan, this book won't be of much help. I think that the book is valuable simply because it provides the experiences of a man who fought in a war which has been very poorly documented. Addison's views on the all black 24th Regiment will anger some readers; while his opinions may be unfair, they probably reflected the general feelings of the white troops who fought beside them at the time. His description of their behavior under fire is an indictment of the officers who failed in their duty to train and discipline their men; no well led troops would have behaved as those men seem to have done. The good news was that their supposed failure in combat led to the integration of the Armed Forces.

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