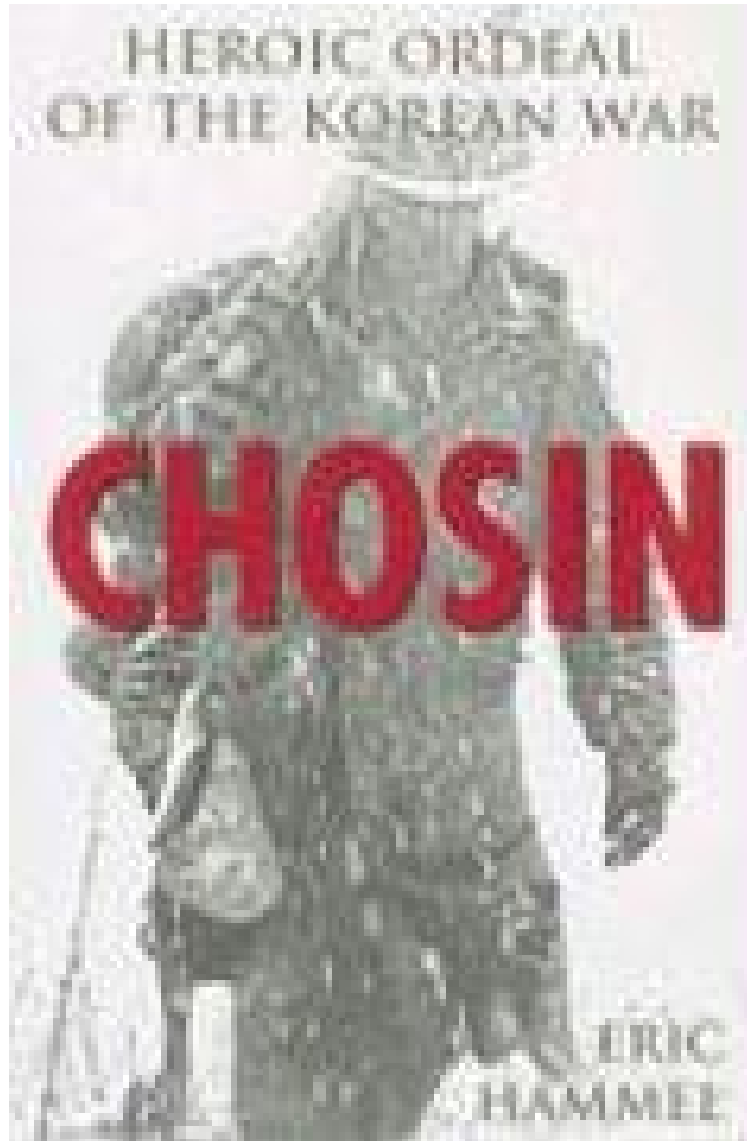


(Mobile pdf) Chosin: Heroic Ordeal of the Korean War

Chosin: Heroic Ordeal of the Korean War

Eric Hammel

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Eric Hammel : Chosin: Heroic Ordeal of the Korean War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Chosin: Heroic Ordeal of the Korean War:

26 of 27 people found the following review helpful. An in depth tactical account of the battleBy A CustomerI was with Able Co. 5th Marines, 1st MarDiv, and was wounded during this battle. Naturally, I was very interested in how a military historian saw it. Eric Hammil has done a thorough job of recounting the minute by minute and day by day events of the Chosin Reservoir battle. For one engaged, war becomes about a 10 square yard arena. You only see a

small part and are emotionally involved with a very small group. The big picture is not available. Only from talking with others who were there can one begin to understand what happened. Hammil has done an excellent job. He covers it from the view of the individuals engaged, and from the overview of those who were in command. Excellent reading for anyone who is interested in how battles are won and lost. I could almost smell the cordite again when I read it. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great, except for Army side....By Jeffrey J. WeberHammel does a great job of recounting effectively the Marine breakout from the Chosin Reservoir. It's obvious that he used the citations from many of the Medals of Honor and Navy Crosses that were awarded to add detail. The maps, though few, are nevertheless very helpful, and the TOO of the First Marine Division is a great addition. A great, exciting, and generally accurate read. The only criticism I have is that Hammel's account is somewhat insulting towards the U.S. Army troops on the other side of the Reservoir. I think part of this is because the U.S. Army itself had somewhat buried that story, and there were few good sources available. Apart from that criticism, it's an extremely worthwhile book. To get the full story, read this, and then Roy Appleman's fantastic "East of Chosin" for balance. 4 of 11 people found the following review helpful. UnfoundedBy A CustomerThis is yet another book on the Chosin campaign. My gripe with the book deals with the portrayal of the army units on the east side of the reservoir, whom Hammel seems to have worked into the book in a slap-dash manner. I believe he hastily added these occasional glimpses without much interest, as their portrayal is riddled with inaccuracies. For example, he falls into the same trap that Mr Martin Russ ('Breakout') has in his research involving Captain Ed Stamford, the marine tac-air controller attached to the army. The supposedly jaundiced view Stamford has of the "doggies'" ineptitude actually stems from an "as-told-to" article in which Stamford basically was interviewed by a marine writer for a dubious magazine article published in 'Catholic Digest' and 'Blue Book' magazines. Stamford was greatly annoyed by it and didn't want it used as a source, and he hadn't cleared it for publication. He said he was incensed by its tone and rhetoric. Hammel lists this article in his bibliography. He obviously didn't interview Stamford; that's part of the reason for the negative portrayal, and partly why legions of casual readers on the subject think the US Army behaved in a less than honorable manner. This book came out years ago, probably before the more authoritative works on the subject were released. His book was interesting, though, for the list of Navy Cross recipients in the appendix. I would recommend the official USMC history by Montross and Canzona, which is actually a volume of its Korean war history, and 'Escaping the Trap' by Roy Appleman.

It was 1950, a brutally cold November in North Korea, and the war seemed all but over. And then a force of nearly 70,000 Chinese "volunteers" crossed the Yalu River, encircling the 30,000 United Nations troops at the Chosin Reservoir. The epic story of what followed--one of the iconic battles in Marine history--is told for the first time in gut-level detail in this book. From the point of view of the men in the foxholes and tanks, outposts and command posts, Chosin offers a harrowing, firsthand account of the 1st Marine Division's breakout battle against overwhelming Chinese forces in the bitter North Korean winter. Seasoned military historian Eric Hammel describes the errors and miscalculations by American higher-ups that left the division strung out at the end of a narrow road scores of miles from the sea. Then he plunges into the action: the massing of Chinese forces; the punishing climate and terrain; the high-level over-confidence that crippled the American command; and the onset of the overpowering Chinese assault. His account provides a wealth of tactical and human detail and small unit action: from an intelligence officer's efforts to make sense of conflicting reports, to engineers improvising a bridge from logs and snow, from Marines marching to POW camps, to a battle-weary messenger's discovery of headquarter staff safely ensconced behind friendly lines, settling down in formal dress to a full-course dinner. The result is the most complete book ever written on this heroic battle, a masterful narrative from the perspective of those who fought. Previously published under the same title by Vanguard Press, 1981, ISBN - 081490856X; and by Presidio Press, 1990, ISBN - 089141782.

From the Back Cover "Leaves the reader in awe of the feat of arms."—Infantry Magazine