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David H Osterhout

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OinK! Only in Korea!



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Demilitarized Zone, Republic of Korea, circa 1980.*

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David H Osterhout : Oink! Only in Korea!: Based on True Events That Happened in and Around the Demilitarized Zone, Republic of Korea Circa 1980. before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Oink! Only in Korea!: Based on True Events That Happened in and Around the Demilitarized Zone, Republic of Korea Circa 1980.:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The book is very detailed and very good. I saw good patrol leaders

and some bad ...By Stanley J. NeuI saw this book on a facebook group for Imjin Scouts, I served in Korea on the DMZ shortly after the author. His description of arriving in Korea was similar to mine. The book is very detailed and very good. I saw good patrol leaders and some bad ones just as he described them. I hope that I was a good one. His description of the DMZ was spot on, our Battalion had the Mission from September until December when we were relieved by the Manchus. Some of the same type of incidents occurred while I was there. We had KAL 007 shot down and the North Koreans tried to blow up the South Korean Government cabinet so our alerts were real, and President Reagan visited the DMZ to go to Guard post Oulette. I was on Patrol that day so I missed him, we were looking for a suspected sniper that turned out to be a farmer. so the craziness did not end after his tour. We had to burn our waste (fecal material) so that was fun. His description of Toko -Ri was just about right I am sure it has changed after 30 years but it was like a wild west town then. I have read many books on the DMZ and this is one of the best it tells of a time when the cold was hot and American soldiers were wounded and killed and very few knew of it unless you were there. Thanks Mr. Osterhout for a great read and some good and bad memories I enjoyed the book immensely. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A great peacetime war storyBy TFLReaderMy knowledge of North Korea is, sadly, limited to what I saw on The Interview and the shame of this sent me in search of some real stories about this region. I just finished author David Osterhout's "Oink! Only in Korea!" and it is a chilling and pretty eye-opening tale of what went on around the DMZ in the years that we were supposedly "at peace". The author recounts his experiences while stationed in Korea and there are some amazing stories here, along with quite a bit of humor, which made this a very enjoyable read. Recommend this one for anyone who wants some real knowledge about Korea or what it's like to be on the front lines. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. I found this book to be funny and heartbreakingBy Frank J. Hoffman(Review by Jeannie Hoffman) After being an officer in the Army for 23+ years, I found this book to be funny and heartbreaking; realistic and tough, with no holding back. I could feel myself shivering through the cold and feeling hungry, tired, and irritated at the sometime incompetence or lack of common sense of some in leadership positions. I felt the short-lived relief of a hot steam bath, and sadness for the way of life of many women near the DMZ in Korea (and elsewhere). Soldiers will identify with the events that occurred in this book and find the humor as the usual medicine military folks rely on to carry on in rough times. They will also see how one presses on through pain to take care of his comrades and complete his tasks first. Although this is a novel based on events that happened while the author was in Korea, it pulls you into each fast moving minute as extremely real, humble, and without heroics - what a movie this would make! I'd like to add that this is a good read for anyone who might like a taste of what military life is like in a danger zone, like the DMZ in Korea then, and is still to this day. Five stars - hard to put down!

In 1980, between Vietnam and Desert Storm, America was experiencing a seventeen-year period of relative peace. One of the few places a young army officer could find adventure was on the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in Korea, Freedom's Frontier. Day two after arriving in country, Lieutenant Osterhout reported to the 1st of the 9th INF at Camp Greaves, the pointy end of the spear that was the American contribution to the forces in the DMZ. Minutes after his arrival, he was in a truck on his way to Panmunjon. Later the same week he was wounded by a North Korean booby trap. Lieutenant Osterhout's daily routine was anything but ordinary: A shooting incident occurred every ten days and there were thirty-three combat deaths during the year. The casualties came from small arms fire, minefields, short rounds, and drownings, amongst others. The patrols were long and cold. The guard posts were desolate. Guarding the Freedom Bridge was unrelentingly boring, until enemy frogmen shattered the monotony. The most feared affliction was river blindness: going down to the river and getting your eyes shot out. Peace, in the DMZ, had a strange definition. However, it is an interesting story, like the ones told around the kitchen table or over drinks. When told, people become quiet, and listen. The reader will be completely entertained and amazed at what happened to one man in the Land of the Not Quite Right. Go to any bookstore and you will see racks of books about Vietnam, World War II and Iraq/Afghanistan. Noticeably missing are books about Korea. This is an exceptional military tale not only because it takes place in Korea, but it is also about a peacetime military and the sacrifices soldiers make even when they are not at war. OinK! Only in Korea! is a must read for veterans and there are millions of them who served in Korea during the time of the truce. This book brings to people a story that should be told and that will allow the lieutenant to finally lay his peacetime war to rest.

"This book was the most interesting book I have read in years." - Army Dependent "I love this book." - Army Medic "Reading this book brought back a flood of memories." - Korean Veteran "I laughed out loud." - Korean Veteran "I didn't feel like I was reading a book, rather I was listening to a story told by a friend who shares some of his deepest thoughts and unique experiences." - Retired Army Major "I found myself unable to put this book down." - Retired Army CW3 "Wonderful memoir." - Clinical Psychologist "I found this book to be funny and heartbreaking; realistic and tough, with no holding back." - Retired Army Lieutenant Colonel "This book was one of the best and most entertaining I have read in a long time." - Sergeant Veteran. "About the Author David Osterhout grew up in east Texas and graduated from Sam Houston State University with a degree in Criminal Justice, He joined the Army as an

Intelligence Officer and was stationed on the DMZ in Korea. After a career changing injury, he attended Southwest Texas State University receiving a degree in Accounting. He was hired by the Texas Department of State Health Services and worked in the administrative offices of the state hospital in San Antonio, Texas. While in San Antonio he attended Our Lady of The Lake University and received a Masters of Business Administration. Four hospitals and 32 years later, he is an Assistant Superintendent, with retirement right around the corner. After the 911 attacks on the World Trade Center, he joined the Texas State Guard and had the honor of commanding the 39th Military Police Brigade during relief operations for hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike. Colonel Osterhout is now assigned to the Texas State Guard headquarters. A two-time cancer survivor, he lives in El Paso, Texas with his wife Cheryl and his two little rescue dogs, Lucy and Wilson.