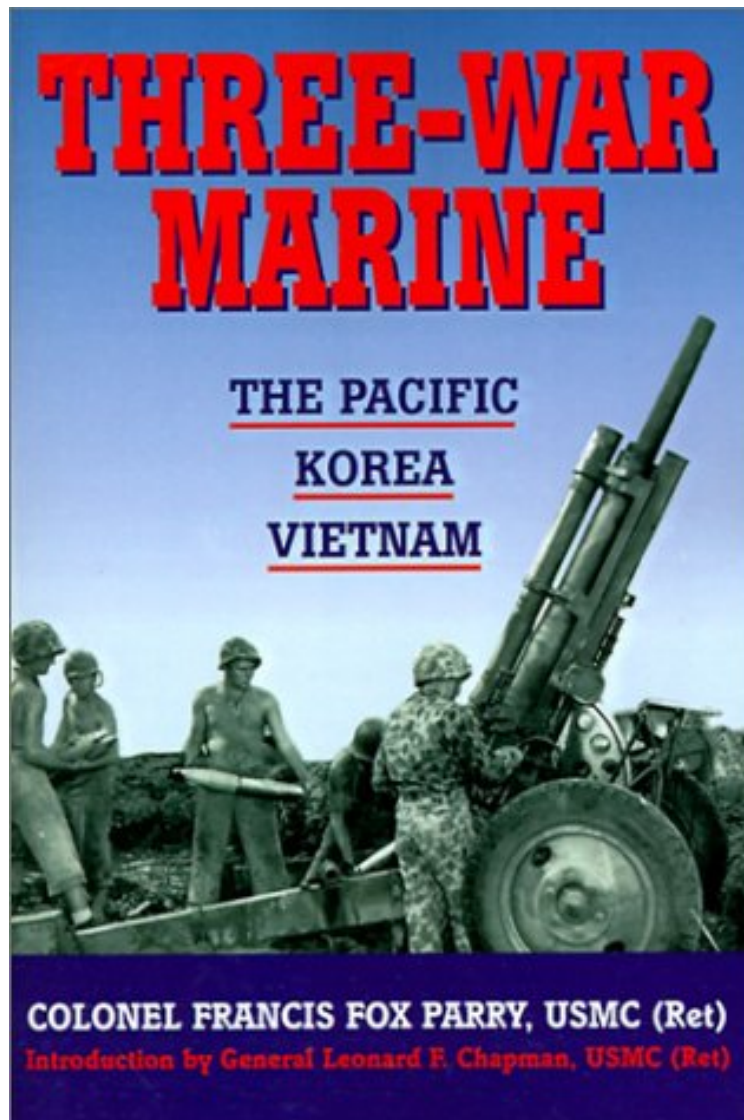


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Three-War Marine: The Pacific - Korea - Vietnam

Francis F. Parry

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Francis F. Parry : Three-War Marine: The Pacific - Korea - Vietnam before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Three-War Marine: The Pacific - Korea - Vietnam:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Unique War Memoirs By Carl Robinson Three War Marine is a war memoir that is vastly different from most. Instead of the educated man in the infantry squad (William Manchester's Goodbye Darkness) or the dashing, upper-class cavalry/paratrooper endeavor (Moshe Dayan Diary of the Sinai Campaign) this story tells the tale of a Field Artillery Career Marine Officer. The career of the author, Francis Parry takes place from World War II until the disappointing Vietnam War. Colonel Parry describes the detail and actions of

the field artillery, the emphasis on communications, gunnery, maintenance. It also includes a striking observation-Field Manuals often describe how to solve dilemmas found in combat in an easy, step-by-step fashion. His anecdotes on that point helped this reviewer in Iraq. The artillerymen in combat has a different, often more boring, experience than the infantry or armor. It is every bit as intense, but its pulse, its challenges don't make for the best storytelling. There is always the challenge of explaining the technical aspects of the artillery to laymen readers. This book also describes the less than romantic aspects of military life, the ticket punching, the BS, and the strains of marriage. A great historical resource about the American use of artillery during America's most intense 20th Century Wars. 0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Two Stars By dennisnever received

These memoirs of a retired Marine artillery officer are among the finest military autobiographies of the decade. A 1941 graduate of Annapolis, Parry served at Guadalcanal and Okinawa, commanded an artillery battalion at the Chosin Reservoir in Korea, and ended his career in a key position on General William Westmoreland's staff in Vietnam. Along the way he accumulated a wide variety of both professional and personal experiences, which he relates frankly, literately, and with a great many insights into problems ranging from military marriages to the strategic errors in Vietnam. A perceptive self-portrait of the best sort of professional soldier and a welcome profile of the U.S. Marines over a period of nearly two generations.

From Publishers Weekly Parry spent 30 years in the corps in a wide variety of assignments (climaxed by his directorship of Gen. William Westmoreland's Combat Operations Center during the Vietnam War) but was first and foremost an artillerist. In easy-to-understand terms, he explains what artillery is all about and how the big guns contributed to such campaigns as Guadalcanal and Chosin. This is also the autobiography of a man who has had many interesting experiences outside the war zone: these include early efforts to please a stern, demanding father; hell-raising days at the Naval Academy; a period in a psycho ward; and one very unusual marital problem during World War II (learning that his wife had become a Conover model and nightclub singer, he obtained emergency leave, flew from the Okinawa battlefield to New York and snatched her barely in time from the claws of show biz). Parry is a salty, tell-it-like-it-was writer whose comments on the military milieu are well worth reading. Photos. Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. From the Back Cover These memoirs of a retired Marine artillery officer are among the finest military autobiographies of the decade. A 1941 graduate of Annapolis, Parry served at Guadalcanal and Okinawa, commanded an artillery battalion at the Chosin Reservoir in Korea, and ended his career in a key position on General [William] Westmoreland's staff in Vietnam. Along the way he accumulated a wide variety of both professional and personal experiences, which he relates frankly, literately, and with a great many insights into problems ranging from military marriages to the strategic errors in Vietnam. A perceptive self-portrait of the best sort of professional soldier and a welcome profile of the U.S. Marines over a period of nearly two generations.