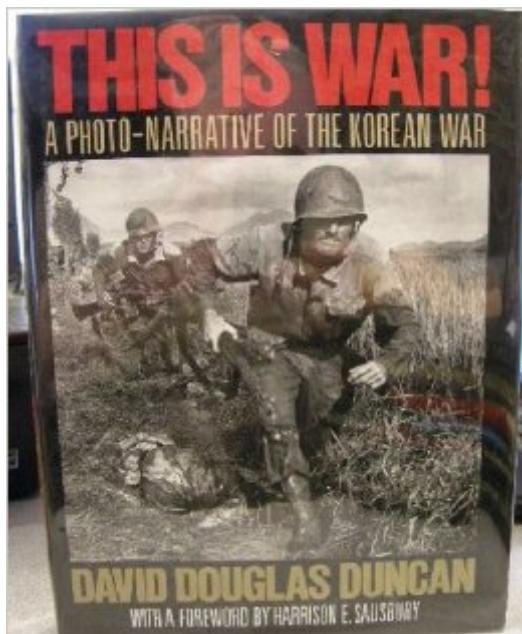


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This Is War!: A Photo-Narrative Of The Korean War



Synopsis

Published to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Korean War, this book contains combat photographs forming a narrative of courage, grimness, ordeal and loyalty. It follows a group of marines through a series of battles, and contains text to explain the circumstances of each photograph.

Book Information

Hardcover: 192 pages

Publisher: Little Brown & Company (July 1990)

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Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 9.2 x 12.2 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (23 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #409,890 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 in Books > History > Asia > Korea > South #73 in Books > History > Asia > Korea > North #133 in Books > History > Military > Korean War

Customer Reviews

This is THE most unforgettable view of the first days of the then called "Police Action" in Korea. Author Duncan lived with the men and portrayed all the comraderie, terror and fear that they did. His work makes an indelable image in our mind & is easy to grasp the magnatude of it. My now deceased husband was one of those young Marines and one of the walking wounded who lived in pain his whole life. He treasured this book and knew the subjects. He found it a way to bury his emotions and go on with a "normal" lifestyle. This book had to help Truman change and understand it was not a simple mop-up action....but This WAS War! Although out of print, my family is trying to get copies to pass on to their children to help us better understand their father. It is especially appropriate at this time when attention is being given the Korean Conflict's 50th anniversary. I wish they would reprint it and distribute a copy to all high school and college libraries.

This book was originally published in 1951 on the one year anniversary of the onset of the Korean War. Life Magazine photographer David Douglas Duncan was working in Tokyo when the war began. Within a few days, he was taking photographs on the rapidly changing front line. This book is

a compilation of combat photos that he took during the first few months of the war. There are many memorable photos of battles around the Pusan Perimeter, the return to Seoul and the epic retreat from the Chosin Reservoir. Duncan was a Marine combat veteran of the Second World War. His connection to the Marines on the ground is shown in the remarkable empathy of his photographs. Duncan was not afraid to get up really close to the combat. His close up portraits of exhausted Marines during the Chosin retreat are some of the most memorable images of the Korean War. This is a work of not only remarkable war photography but also of portraiture. If that were not enough, the text that accompanies the photographs is also a great example of combat reportage. This is an excellent book and I give it my highest recommendation.

These pictures show much of what this war was about at that time. What it cannot do is show what -40F temps can do to those who had to suffer in it without proper boots and equipment. M2 Carbines would jam after the first shot, if you could get even that shot off. Sleeping bags were pretty thin and you had to sleep with all your clothing. I slept even with my boots on. I was a corpsman and saw the damage due to frostbite. Many lost their feet due to it. There were more than a few who flew out of their sleeping bags to fight only in their socks! One had little warning at night when the Chinese would attack. I had to hold morphine syringes in my mouth to keep them from freezing. Those Marines were the toughest bunch I had ever had the pleasure to meet. When the 5th Marines marched into Koto Ri, they were actually singing the Marine Corps Hymn!

My father, who was an artillery Captain in the Philippines during WWII, frequently pulled this book off the shelf to show me what war was like. He said that it was as close as you could get without actually being there. He died before he could see "Saving Private Ryan," but I think he would still say so even after seeing the movie.

The book arrived quickly and well packaged. The orginal cover was missing, but I knew that when I purchased it. The book, otherwise was like new. My dad is deceased and this book was in his collection. His picture is actually in it. One of my nephews wanted the book so I gave him my dad's and ordered this one. It is a great depiction of the war in pictures. There is much emotion attached to it for me personally and I would highly recommend this for anyone's collection.

Awesome book ... I learned about it from the man on the cover ... First Sgt. Beauford Haynie (USMC - Retired) ... a must have for any true American that loves the USA and supports our Troops ... no

matter the War ... no matter the Enemy ... no matter the Commander in Chief ... War is War ... a Picture is Worth a Thousand Words ...

The leading Marine on the cover of this book is my father and the man behind with the BAR was a member of his fire team. My father told me about his experiences in Korea from the Pusan Perimeter to the Inchon landing ending with the Chosin Reservoir and his long recovery from his injuries. This book will help keep my father's memory and experiences alive for my family's children and grandchildren. My father knew Mr. Duncan and enjoyed his company during these times.

Duncan provides an excellent reminder of what the Korean War was. My uncle was an artilleryman with the Army and recounts seeing trucks full of dead, frozen soldiers and marines coming back from the Chosen Reservoir. This book puts his service into greater context. Anyone with a curiosity as to what war means needs to have this book.

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