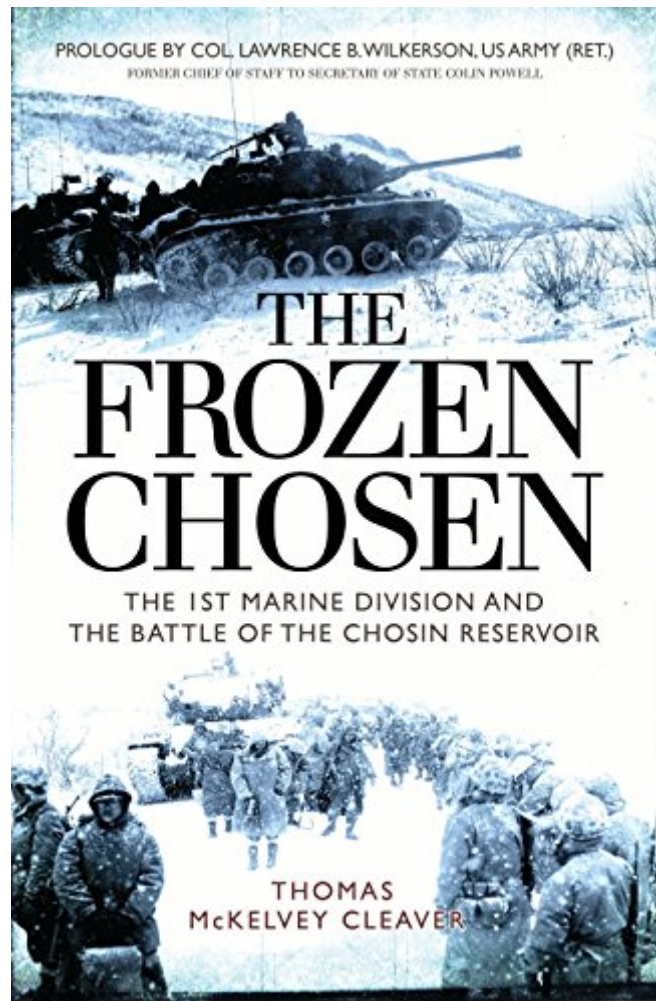


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The Frozen Chosen: The 1st Marine Division And The Battle Of The Chosin Reservoir (General Military)



Synopsis

The Frozen Chosen is an account of the breakout from the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea by the First Marine Division following the intervention of Red China in the Korean War. Fought during the worst blizzard in a century it is considered by the United States Marine Corps to be 'the Corps' Finest Hour.' Based on first-person interviews from surviving veterans, who came to be known as the Frozen Chosen, this is an incredible story of heroism and bravery in the face of overwhelming odds as a handful of Marines fought desperately against wave after wave of Chinese forces. Sometimes forced into desperate hand to hand combat, the fighting retreat from Chosin marked one of the darkest moments for Western forces in Korea, but would go on to resonate with generations of Marines as a symbol of the Marine Corps dogged determination, fighting skill and never-say-die attitude on the battlefield.

Book Information

File Size: 16762 KB

Print Length: 324 pages

Publisher: Osprey Publishing; 1 edition (July 28, 2016)

Publication Date: July 28, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01GU8JCH2

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #246,955 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #27

in Books > History > Asia > Korea > South #31 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Military > Korean War #31 in Books > History > Military > Korean War > Campaigns

Customer Reviews

The Frozen Chosen is an easy read providing a good narrative of the Korean War, particularly for someone not familiar with Korean War History and, especially, the Chosin Reservoir campaign by X Corps. The book is, however, marred in ways that detract from its overall merit. Some examples: Although the title and subtitle suggest the subject of this book is the 1st Marine Division at

the battle of the Chosin Reservoir, one has to read roughly 125 pages (of a 287 page book) before getting to arrival of the Marines in North Korea. In reality the book is a short history of the overall Korean War with an emphasis on the Marine Corps role in general and the Chosin Reservoir battle in particular. There are no footnotes or source notes so it is impossible to trace assertions made by the author. For example, the book alleges General MacArthur, in 1944, threatened to "come home and campaign for the Republican presidential nomination" if FDR didn't go along with MacArthur's plans to invade the Philippines. I've read a number of accounts of the July 1944 meeting of FDR, Nimitz and MacArthur (the only wartime meeting of MacArthur and President Roosevelt). None of those accounts suggest a threat by MacArthur to run for president if he didn't get his way. The author of Frozen Chosen could be right, but without his citing sources the reader cannot further research the assertion. There are other questionable statements of fact. For instance, the author says that when the emperor visited General MacArthur at the American Embassy after MacArthur's relief it was the first time in history that a Japanese emperor had ever visited a foreigner. That is simply not true - the emperor had paid a formal call on General MacArthur early in the occupation.

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