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Dark Horse Six: A Memoir of the Korean War, 1950-1951

Robert D Taplett

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#2512264 in Books 2002PDF # 1 #File Name: 0932572421290 pages | File size: 49.Mb

Robert D Taplett : Dark Horse Six: A Memoir of the Korean War, 1950-1951 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dark Horse Six: A Memoir of the Korean War, 1950-1951:

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. I remember I/3/5By Bert KortegaardDark Horse Six is a remarkable book. Written by a fighting Battalion CO, the book gives insights into our Korean War Marines from rifleman to Regimental commander, from planners to assault troops, from grunt to MAG close air support.I was on Wantuck, APD 125, when we picked up I/3/5 at Pusan and took them into the assault at Green Beach at Inchon. The book gave me insights into many questions I have had for 57 years.One thing that always bothered me was why I/3/5 seemed to be conducting a little Boot Camp during the 5 days we had them aboard. Another was why, over the years, I've met many veterans from G/3/5 and H/3/5, but never any of the troops that I helped carry into the assault on our LCVPs. I now realize I/3/5 badly needed their basic weapons re-familiarization. They had been in the reserves, driving buses or pumping gas only two months before being thrown into an infantry company and facing and defeating NK veterans on Wolmi-do. And they continued to face and defeat them at the Han and at Seoul. And they went on to face 12 Chinese divisions at Chosen. About 76 days after we assaulted Inchon, a bare 20 of those 200 Marines we debarked were still standing.Dark Horse Six gives similar insights into the ordeal of G/3/5 and H/3/5; into the battle for survival of Division Recon Company; into the desperate seconds when Corsairs flew just overhead, pouring supporting fire and napalm on almost overwhelming enemy forces only yards away; into the crisis moments when life or death decisions were made and paid for by the lives of ordinary men.We are so fortunate that Col. Taplett managed to get Dark Horse

Six printed before he died. If you care about our magnificent Marine Corps, if you care about any of our sons and brothers in any of our military services who defend our nation with their lives, you will be entranced by Dark Horse Six. If you can find a copy. Semper Fi and GO NAVY! Bert Kortegaard[...] 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. SEMPER FI By Mike B. I WAS PART OF THE 3RD BATTALION 5TH MARINES IN 1950 LOVED MY C.O. WHO WROTE IT. I FOUGHT IN MANY OF THE BATTLES DESCRIBED IN THIS BOOK! I REALIZED BY THE PRICE THAT THERE WAS NOT MANY BOOKS PUBLISHED WHICH WAS TOO BAD. I BELIEVE THIS BOOK WILL BE A COLLECTORS ITEM IN THE FUTURE. SO I PLAN ON LEAVING THIS BOOK TO MY SON GRANDSON WHO WILL ALWAYS HAVE A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY SPIRIT OF THEIR FAMILY THAT GENERATION THAT SERVED THEIR COUNTRY THE CORP. SEMPER FI TO COL. TAPLETT THE 3RD Bn 5TH MARINES 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book. A must have in the Korean war... By Customer Great book. A must have in the Korean war collectors book library. It is the ultimate first hand account of the key first battles the Marines engaged the invading NKPA in and the epic fighting free of the Chinese trap that was meant to destroy the 1st Marine Division. Taplett sets the record straight on what happened

"For two miserable weeks, with temperatures hovering between 20 and 40 degrees below zero, the outnumbered allied ground troops held off a Chinese army that had been ordered to annihilate them. When the running fight ended on Dec. 11 (1950) nearly 7,000 allied troops had been killed or wounded, and many of the casualties were victims of frostbite. The Chinese suffered an estimated 30,000 casualties. Historically, only the battle of the Alamo and Custer's Last Stand matched such seemingly hopeless odds. Like the Alamo, Chosin produced its own famous battle cry. According to a Time magazine account from Dec. 18, 1950, Major Gen. Oliver P. Smith, Commander of the First Marine Division, (the very same Marine Division fighting in Iraq today), set the tone for the battle by snapping, "Retreat, hell! We're not retreating, we're just advancing in a different direction!" Dark Horse Six, is the combat memoir of Colonel Robert D. Taplett. He was the commander of one of the USMC's most famed battalions, the 3rd Battalion of the 5th Marine Regiment, during the first year of fighting in Korea. His battalion's radio call sign during the bitter fighting against the Chinese was Dark Horse. After 50 years he has decided to tell his story. He wants the deeds of his Marines put into the record. The mistakes of combat, planning and egos are here as well. His experience was on the front lines, not theorizing behind some desk. THIS IS A WARRIOR'S STORY!