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Decisive Battles of the Korean War: An Infantry Company Commander's View of the War's Most Critical Engagements

Sherman W. Pratt

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Sherman W. Pratt : Decisive Battles of the Korean War: An Infantry Company Commander's View of the War's Most Critical Engagements before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Decisive Battles of the Korean War: An Infantry Company Commander's View of the War's Most Critical Engagements:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Unique PersonBy WWII sonSherman Pratt was a friend. We were years apart, but Sherman respected the opinions of others. In all of our emails, letters and personal conversations he always expressed his feelings without trying to convince you that he was right. He recently passed away at the age of 90. Anyone who knew him will miss his honesty and friendship. When Sherman felt strongly about an issue he respectfully fought to win. This book was based on his opinions from the point-of-view of someone who definitely was never a lounge chair, Monday Morning Quarterback (as most of us are). Agree or not, you've got to respect him . Anyone who is fortunate enough to purchase this limited quantity edition will not be disappointed. We'll miss you , Sherm. LH8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Infantryman's view of life in HellBy R. BridgesIn Vietnam, we often spoke of seeing the "wolf" while Civil War veterans saw the "elephant". While the canine and pachyderm can't fully describe combat, they symbolize the enigmatic aspect of it. Anyone who has been in combat can't describe it and neither can those who haven't been in combat understand it. Sherman Pratt's book comes closest to

bridging that gap between understanding and explaining the unexplainable than any book I have read. The Korean War was a cold, violent, physically demanding war for both sides. Pratt's thesis is that certain battles were watershed events that shaped the outcome of the war. Pratt's description of life on the front lines is accurate and gives the layman an idea of what it was like to fight the Chinese human wave attacks. After serving in WWII in Africa and Europe, Pratt reported to the famed 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division and was told he could kick up his heels in a staff job. He volunteered to take a rifle company from the Naktong River line to North Korea and back south after the Chinese intervention. I can find little fault with the book other than some typographical errors and with some illustrations. The photographs are excellent and while they are obviously snapshots, they depict war as it was in 1951. I felt some battles were not told in sufficient detail such as the Twin Tunnels battle but Pratt is obviously keeping with his theme of Decisive Battles of the Korean War. Pratt has strong opinions about his fellow officers and is most charitable with his superiors who made grievous errors. I highly recommend this book to anyone wanting to know the infantryman's view of combat.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I was there

By Richard C. MacGill

I met Captain Pratt as a replacement following the huge losses at Kunu-ri. A third platoon was being created, and he gave this green pfc a job as a squad leader. This was a man universally respected by his troops. The regular army guys were downright awed he had stayed "in" after world war II and gone to law school. I was hit at Chip-yong-ni but came back to duty. He welcomed me back but was sympathetic when shrapnel in my knee severely limited me. I was eventually profiled off the line. Many years later, I saw Capt. Pratt's name in a news story and was able to contact him via email. We had a lively correspondence for several years. I can only say that this was one memorable, honest and caring human being that I still respect to the hilt all these years later. He did loan me a copy of the book but had me return it as it was the last extra one he had. If anyone from Baker sees this, please contact me at rmacgill@SBCglobal.net.

Sherman Pratt's *Decisive Battles of the Korean War* is an authentic reconstruction of the Korean conflict, written by a participant. Highlighting battles that he feels were particularly critical in determining the war's eventual outcome, Pratt's feisty observations will either be warmly embraced or vigorously opposed by fellow veterans. *Decisive Battles of the Korean War* is profusely with with photos, illustrations, and maps. With the new Korean Veterans memorial now a reality, there is renewed interest in what was for too long aptly named, "The Forgotten War". -- Midwest Book