

Hey, Mac, Where Ya Been?: Living Memories of the U.S. Marines in the Korean War

Henry Berry

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Henry Berry : Hey, Mac, Where Ya Been?: Living Memories of the U.S. Marines in the Korean War before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hey, Mac, Where Ya Been?: Living Memories of the U.S. Marines in the Korean War:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Dominic P. Good nostalgic collection. 0 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Hey, Mac, Keep Yourself Out of the Story By Mike H First, the good: author Henry Berry rightfully pays tribute to U.S. Marines (and some Navy corpsmen) who served in the Korean War, which for the most part has been forgotten. Included were some tales of bravery -- and some welcome hilarity. But aside from that, there are some serious issues that, as a journalist, I have several problems with. First, for some reason, even though the book bears his name, Berry feels it necessary to include himself in every chapter. "So and So told me." "I said this, I thought that." Cardinal sin! He could have easily kept himself out of the story and let the men do their own talking. He also gets too caught up in using first names instead of last names (sounds like today's so-called football broadcasters). Plus the reader doesn't need his opinion. Again, let the guys who did the fighting do the talking. Also, the lack of first reference was pretty bad, although not totally absent. If a Marine uses slang or a technical term, pretend the reader won't know what it is and use a glossary or an asterisk (which Berry did on occasion). It's understandable that more than 30 years after the Korean War that some of the veterans will not remember some first names or last names of some fellow Marines or the names of some hill in Korea. That's why a writer takes the time to do some painstaking

fact-checking. A good writer knows where to find these resources. If you want to read a truly incredible account of the Korean War, try John Toland's epic "In Mortal Combat 1951-53." If you want to read about the U.S. Marines in particular, you can't go wrong with "The Last Stand of Fox Company" by Bob Drury and Tom Clavin. "Hey, Mac..." may not have been bang-up, but I give credit to Berry, a former (not ex-!) Marine who saw some action at the close of World War II with the Sixth Marine Division, for paying homage to the brave men in the United States Marine Corps (and those awesome corpsmen) and their actions in Korea. Semper Fi!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An interesting book on the Korean Conflict By Thomas R. Clarke I started Mr. Berry's book with a bit of apprehension. I had my doubts as to whether his approach of interviewing numerous people, then putting those interviews into book form would work. However I soon found out that it worked very well. The various accounts of people who actually took part in the conflict were quite interesting. Some of the accounts also go into their prewar, postwar and liberty experiences. The author starts the book with an overview of the state of the US military, particularly the Marines, between WWII and Korea and their lack of preparedness. Despite the unpreparedness fighting units were quickly formed with the help of a massive call up of the Reserves. The fact that many of the troops involved in the Inchon landing had, only weeks before, been working their day jobs back in the States was quite surprising. The testimony of those who took part in the Chosin Reservoir campaign gives details on how terrible the conditions were, among other things. MacArthur's decision to send his forces into North Korea as winter set in comes under scrutiny in the book. A comparison is made to Hitler's and Napoleon's fatal decisions to attack Russia in campaigns that stretched into the winter. It's an interesting book on the Korean Conflict that I think rates 4 stars.

From Publishers Weekly A collection of gung-ho "leather-neck" anecdotes, this honors the Korean War Marine in the same informal spirit as the author's *Semper Fi, Mac*, which honored the Marine of World War II. Berry captures the cocky, stoic, aggressive persona that characterized the gyrene of an earlier generation through a series of tales (some of them a bit tall) as told either by or about Marines of several ranks. In common with almost all books about the 1950-53 war, this deals mainly with the first six months, a period far more dramatic than the final two-and-a-half years when United Nations forces and Communist armies pushed each other back and forth across the 38th Parallel. The book is more entertaining than informative, aimed principally at former Marines and their admirers, of whom there are a great many in both categories. Photos. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal \$22.95. hist

Over a period of three years, Berry interviewed some 60 Korean War veterans, most of whom had served in the front lines or with the 1st Marine Air Wing, along with one naval doctor at the Chosin Reservoir. Many of the accounts contain capsule biographies of the veterans as well as what each remembers most vividly of his experience. There is a freshness in the retelling of these experiences by men such as baseball great Ted Williams, a World War II veteran recalled to service. Historians might note that many of these memories disclaim the legend that the Marines in Korea always brought out their dead and wounded. This book can serve a number of interest levels, and is recommended for most libraries. George F. Scheck, Naval Underwater Systems Lib., Newport, R.I. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.