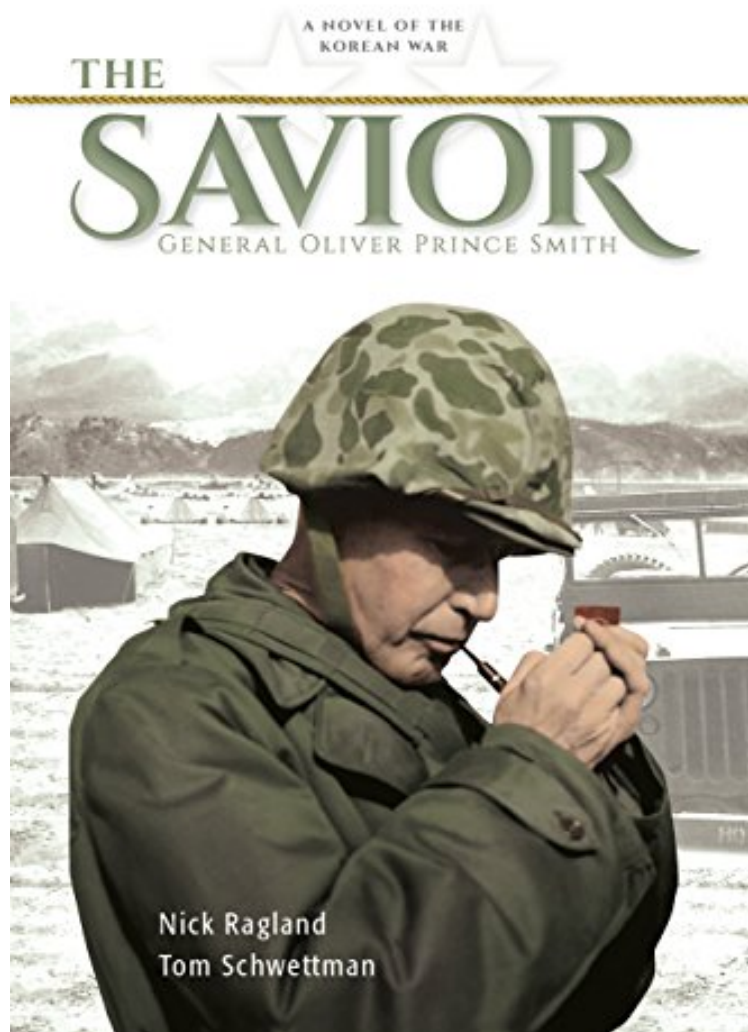


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The Savior: General Oliver Prince Smith

Nick Ragland, Tom Schwettman
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Nick Ragland, Tom Schwettman : The Savior: General Oliver Prince Smith before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Savior: General Oliver Prince Smith:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Real MarineBy Gerard J. St. JohnThis 245-page book is one of those works of historical fiction where it is difficult to discern what is factual history and what is fiction. For all that I could tell, it appears to be a factual account of the fighting at the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea during the winter of 1950. I assume that there were some parts of the story – maybe the conversations of the principals or maybe their thoughts – that could not be documented by the historical records, and so the authors called it a novel rather than a history. Either way, it is an outstanding story about an outstanding U.S. Marine, General Oliver P. Smith.O.P. Smith

was placed in command of the 1st Marine Division shortly before the Inchon landing which swung the tide of battle against the North Koreans. The First Marines were a part of the newly formed Tenth Corps (X Corps), which was under the command of General Edward Almond, who also served as General MacArthur's chief of staff. Almond ordered the X Corps to proceed immediately north to the Yalu River, the boundary between North Korea and China. O.P. suspects that they are being lured into a trap, particularly when elements of the Chinese army attack the lead units of X Corps. Despite Almond's direct orders to proceed north as quickly as possible, Smith keeps the three regiments of the First Marines as close to each other as possible, thereby maximizing the firepower of the division. As the first two Marine regiments move up the west side of the Chosin Reservoir, an army regimental combat team races up the east side of the reservoir as ordered by Almond. The weather is subzero when the Chinese attack. The army unit is destroyed. The Marine units fight off the Chinese attacks. The book describes in detail the plans made by O.P. Smith for the movement of his three regiments, and the precautions taken for their combat supplies. Critical among the logistical planning are the airfields at division headquarters and the on-site building of a critical bridge on the way out of Chosin. There are other books on the Chosin Reservoir fighting that are more colorful and exciting, but this one is the best I have seen when it comes to a practical explanation of exactly what happened. Also, there are several maps that help you understand the troop movements, and a very helpful diagram that illustrates the engineering solution to the last bridge repair. It is a very good book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Major General Smith was the Savior of the 1st Mar Div. By ScarecrowA7XI have been looking for a book that would talk about General Smith and his dealings with Almond and MacArthur. This book is it, it is a must-read for any student of history and I think it should be a must read for Recruits going through Parris Island and San Diego to become Marines. This book is not written like a normal historical fact book, but more like a fictionalized account of the difficulties that Gen. Smith had with MacArthur's yes man: General Ned Almond. It is a very easy read and does not make one feel overwhelmed with fact after fact. No matter what anyone says, General Almond NEVER should have been placed in command of X Corps. He was a lousy commander and so was MacArthur. If they would have paid attention to General Smith and his Intelligence Officers then the Chosin Campaign never would have happened the way that it did or at all. This book tells the thought process that General Smith had and the types of staff officers, officers and enlisted men that General Smith had serving below him. If it was not for these great men, the 1st Marine Division would have been annihilated deep in the Taebaek Mountain Range. If you find this book interesting then I would suggest reading "For Country and Corps" by Gail B. Shisler, Major General O.P. Smith's granddaughter. It is another superb book on a Marines General! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It Tells It Like It Was, and is: He saved the 1st Marine Division and the Xth Army Corps. By Marine, retired, Ralph Stoney Bates, Sr. These Marines pulled off a readable novel, based on the facts of the times. Very similar to my novel, "A Marine Called Gabe." My hat's off to a well researched novel. I had just finished an article on General Smith for the Marine Corps Gazette wherein many of the facts revealed in this novel were shown to be well placed. A very readable novel. Thanks Marines. Ralph Stoney Bates, Sr.

In late July of 1950, Major General Oliver Prince Smith took command of the 1st Marine Division and in September led them ashore at Inchon and recaptured Seoul. The Korean War should have been about over. The Chinese warned the Americans that if they crossed the 38th parallel they would come into the war. But General Douglas MacArthur ignored the warning and ordered the 1st Marine Division to go north to the Yalu River. On November 27, 80,000 Chinese soldiers attacked and surrounded 15,000 Marines at a place called Chosin Reservoir. The Savior is the graphic historical novel of how the quiet, reserved Major General risked his own career to save his men, leading them in a brutal 78-mile fight to the sea in sub-zero conditions. It's the fascinating, gripping saga of the most famous and successful breakout in American military history.