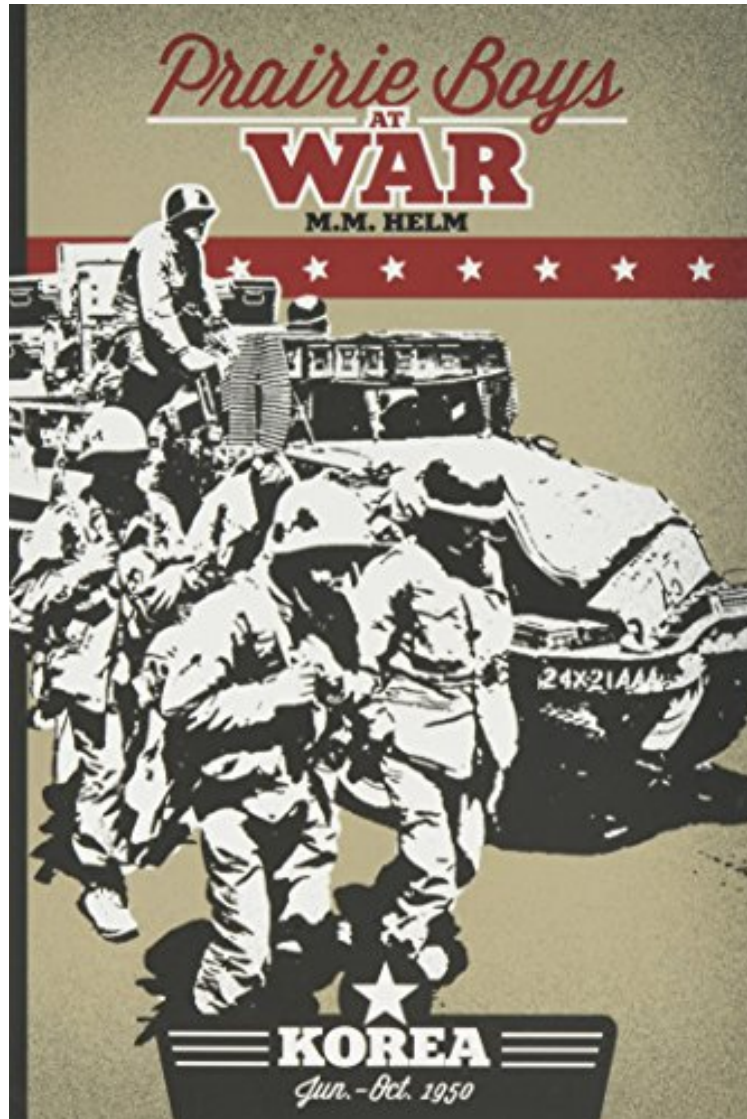


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Prairie Boys at War: Korea: Volume I: June - October 1950

M M Helm

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M M Helm : Prairie Boys at War: Korea: Volume I: June - October 1950 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Prairie Boys at War: Korea: Volume I: June - October 1950:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A War to RememberBy Robert W. MercyMerry M Helm's latest published book, Prairie Boys at War, is a magnificently drafted fast paced three part anthology that covers US military activities in Korea from June to October of 1950: Part 1: Delaying the Enemy; part 2: Holding the Naktong Perimeter and part 3: The Turnabout. It's a blood filled action packed close up story of the officers and men who persevered

against a savagely barbaric enemy that often outnumbered them at odds of fifty to one and who rarely took prisoners; and if they did it was to extract needed intelligence by their much relished and gleefully applied forms of merciless inhuman tortures, which Helm reveals throughout the text. Ms. Helm deftly alluded to other nightmarish phenomena that particularly plagued GIs during that hectic first year of the war, which was the life threatening impossibility of determining which of the civilians and South Korean soldiers they encountered were in fact 'friendly,' which as Merry reveals was too often not the case. Her kaleidoscopic and detail view of the battles and the lives of the participants are, in my estimation, on a par with the writings of the late premier historian Barbara Tuchman. Helm justly attributes the fortitude of the American GIs of that era to their having lived through the hardships of the Great Depression and WWII, which honed their collective psyche and sense of patriotic discipline. Ms. Helm also shines a light on some of the rarely revealed shady aspects of military life, i.e., the falsification of awards and battle citations and other oddities. What separates Merry Helm's text from the standard war story is her ability to unobtrusively weave into the heroic exploits of each of her highlighted riflemen, tankers, fighter pilot and artillerymen their historical family backgrounds. When one reads the mostly humble origins of those countless thousands of selfless young boys and men who knowingly sacrificed their lives for what some in retrospect may see as a dubious cause, you can't help but feel a swelling pride within your heart and a hope that our nation will always when needed provide a warrior class of soldiers with moral convictions equal to The Prairie Boys at War.

Robert Winston Mercy
Former 5th ROK Platoon
Sergeant G Co, 19th Inf., 24th Division

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Americans at War
By Tommy Lee Johnson
I'm not sure I can add anything to Robert W. Mercy's excellent review of this excellent book. When I first started it I didn't think I would recommend it as an introduction to the Korean War, but now I think that you can begin learning about the war from here. Merry Helm humanizes the participants of this war to a point where you can care about them even though their youth is a half century gone. You care about their struggles and you care about their suffering. By telling the tales of several different people she covers the early months of the war pretty thoroughly, so the story flows well. This book is not about politics or the big questions. This is the story of men who have no time for why, but must deal with the now and in that the world has not changed in the past 65 years or ever.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Linda R Hamann
Great

The Prairie Boys series is a propulsive description of the Korean War as told through the experiences of highly decorated and other combat veterans from the upper prairies. A real eye opener writes Major General ret Michael Haugen