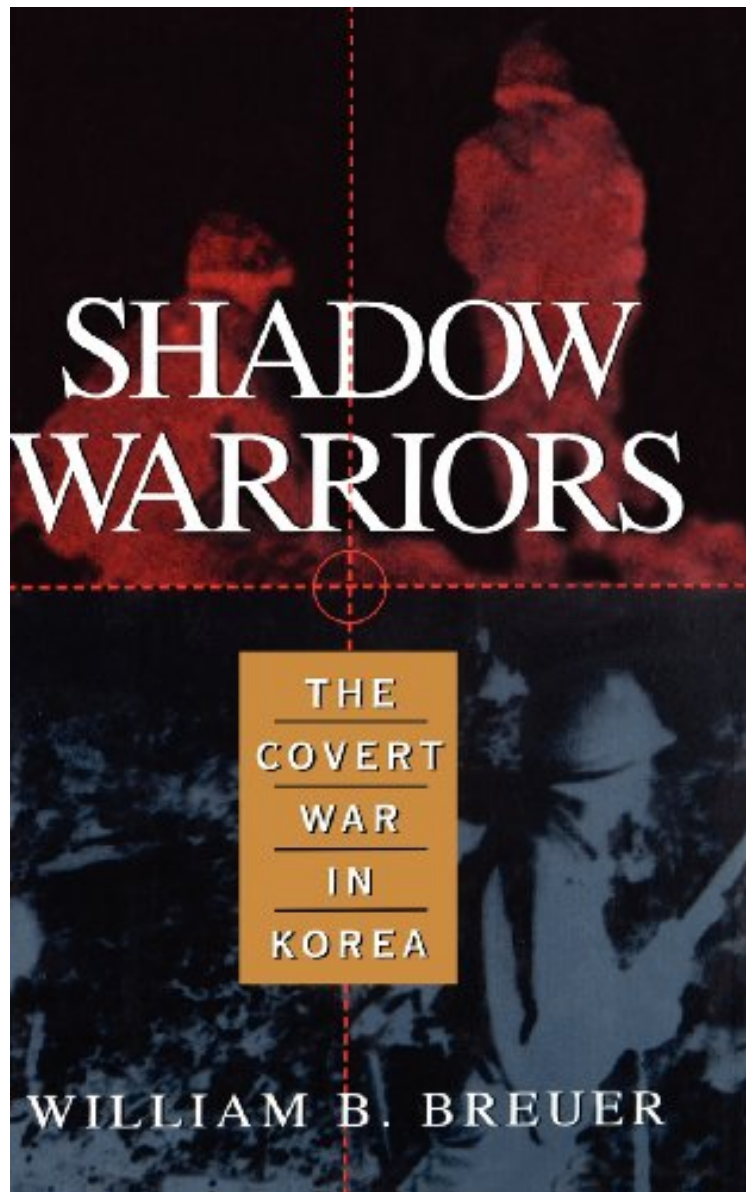


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Shadow Warriors: The Covert War in Korea

William B. Breuer

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William B. Breuer : Shadow Warriors: The Covert War in Korea before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shadow Warriors: The Covert War in Korea:

5 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Is it the truth? Who knows...By J. ChangSpecial operations in the Korean War is a new/interesting subject for me. I've read quite a bit about Vietnam and post-Vietnam special ops stuff but this was my first text on the Korean War. Unfortunately, even if what is contained in this text is true...I have serious reservations about this text. This book is written with such a slant that it almost sounds like early 80's anti-communist propaganda!!!For one thing, it constantly uses racial slurs to make the North Koreans, Chinese, Russians and the Japanese(?) sound like monsters or sub-human. It continues to wave flags about how great the Western "democratic" forces were and how evil the Communists were. Now I'm not making a judgement call here, but I think I can make up my own mind if facts are presented as objectively as possible...I'm not 2 years old and have to be told what is good or evil.If that's not enough for you, the language used to describe operations is repetitive and dull.I now see why this is "bargain price" book. Find something else. You'll thank me later.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Special Operations during the Korean ConflictBy Matthew BrennanI knew very little about the subject of special operations in Korea. This book held much new information for me. It begins with the story of a deep-behind-the-lines assassination of an NKPA general and gallops on from there. Easily readable and well organized, including footnotes and a handy index. This is a valuable piece of history.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good start into learning about the Korean WarBy E. MeehanI found this book to be a pleasant, easy read on a subject that is hardly covered in school. The language was short and sweet, chapters were a breeze to get through, and I feel like I learned something about a subject I am just starting to get into. If you look through your options on books for the Korean War, there are a plethora of biblical sized texts, which just wasn't going to do it for me.The most obnoxious part of this book was the way this author made such a big deal about certain folks (mainly British communist spies) as being homosexual. I understand that in the 1950's being homosexual was considered a mental illness by most people, but the author just seemed to go on and on about these particular people's sexuality, and their traipsing around with men. Enough already.Plus, he completely glosses over the fact that when GI's get R R they frequent prostitutes in Japan, stating something like "many attractive young women were thrilled to have fun with the American soldiers"--har har. You're not fooling me!Overall, however, I enjoyed it as a nice quick read about a very important time in history.

Praise for *The Great Raid on Cabanatuan* ""An exciting narrative presented by a first-rate storyteller."" --Publishers Weekly
Acclaim for *Feuding Allies* ""An absorbing look at the impact of Alliance politics on the outcome of WW II."" --Kirkus Reviews

From Publishers WeeklyOn the eve of its invasion of South Korea in June 1950, North Korea employed a trick so clever as to prompt comparisons to the Trojans and their wooden horse. Through a complex scheme involving false defectors to South Korea, North Korea created such a compelling diversion that Western military officials ignored obvious signs of the impending attack. Here, the vastly prolific Breuer (last year's *Feuding Allies*, etc.) shows that the "Trojan horse" episode was but one of scores of covert missions conducted by the U.S., China and both Koreas around the time of the conflict. Interweaving fresh material and much that is already known of the "forgotten war," he packs his absorbing text with colorful yarns about such missions as a U.S. Army official's attempt to infiltrate North Korea and kidnap a corpse so that he might test it for signs of the plague. But Breuer includes nuggets of key information as well, including details of the secretive Joint Services Operation, which ran American clandestine ops in Korea?making this as suitable for serious students of history as for fans of cloak-and-dagger mayhem, military-style. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalMilitary historian Breuer (J. Edgar Hoover and His G-Men, Greenwood, 1995) offers the first history of covert activity during the Korean War. His Gcoverage ranges from clandestine missions behind enemy lines to espionage, the early evolution of the CIA, and Communist and allied propaganda programs. Firsthand interviews preserve the memory of incidents that would otherwise have been forgotten in history. The only other volume to devote any detailed coverage to this topic is Rod Paschall's *Witness to War: Korea* (LJ 6/1/95). Recommended for Korean War collections, not because of any special merit but because it is the only volume currently available on this topic.Richard S. Nowicki, Emerson Vocational H.S., Buffalo, N.Y.Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Kirkus sIn an engrossing tale of unsung heroes and high-risk missions, military historian Breuer (*Feuding Allies*, 1995, etc.) penetrates the little-known espionage, propaganda, and guerilla operations of the Korean war. When well-equipped, Soviet trained North Korean troops crossed the 38th parallel on June 15, 1950, in what Breuer calls a ``second Pearl Harbor," the overmatched South Korean defenders were quickly driven into a small pocket in southeastern Korea called the Pusan Peninsula. There they held fast, with the emergency support of newly arrived (but inexperienced) American troops. The covert war began almost immediately. General Douglas MacArthur's special warfare unit spread disinformation before his surprise landing at Inchon in the enemy rear. Army and CIA units trained many South Koreans and sent them North to spy and to carry out guerrilla operations, often with great success. Yet the North Koreans and their Chinese allies had their covert victories, too. Communist forces often seemed to know when and where the UN forces would attack. Breuer tracks these leaks back to the highly placed British traitors Philby, Burgess, and MacLean, who sent copies of US plans to

Moscow. And the Communist propaganda machine lied so effectively about American "atrocities" that some countries demanded investigations, while, Breuer reveals, the Communist military tortured and killed POWs (including Americans) and civilians. While China and the Soviet Union were officially neutral in the war's early days, Breuer finds that Chinese and Soviet soldiers and airmen (with their equipment and supplies) were covertly available to the North Koreans, as they were later to the Communists in North Vietnam. Built on personal interviews and sound secondary research, Breuer's account should please both students of modern military history and espionage enthusiasts. (30 photos, maps) -- Copyright ©1996, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.