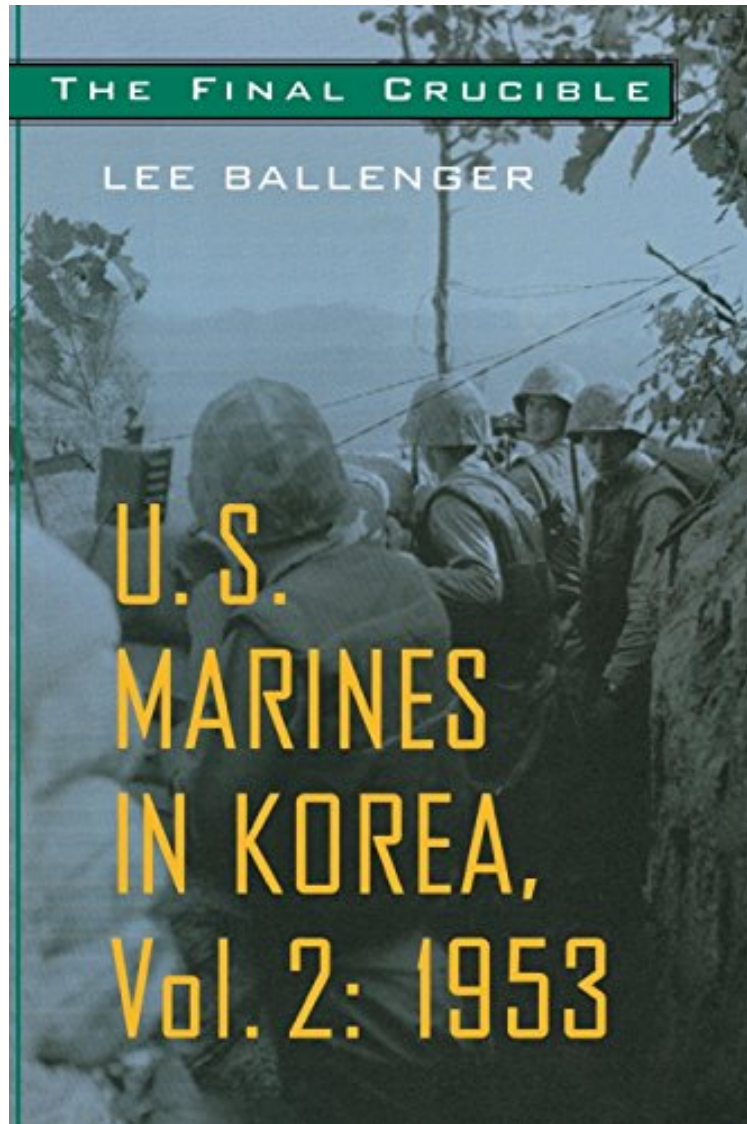


(Library ebook) The Final Crucible: U.S. Marines in Korea, Vol. 2: 1953 (History of War)

The Final Crucible: U.S. Marines in Korea, Vol. 2: 1953 (History of War)

Lee Ballenger

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The Final Crucible details the 1st Marine Division's harrowing close-quarters battles during the final seven months of the Korean War, January to July 1953. The terrible five-day Battle of the Nevada Cities in March and the Marines' bloody stand at Boulder City on the last day of the shooting war are just two of the engagements detailed here. This volume follows *The Outpost War: U.S. Marines in Korea, Vol. 1: 1952*.

From BooklistIn his second volume on marine operations during the Korean War's last years, Ballenger continues to be a military historian equally useful to the scholar and the casual buff. The fighting centered on outposts, as each side sought to obtain the best positions to influence the peace negotiations through numerous small operations, occasional larger ones, and many raids, patrols, and outbursts of harassing fire. Highlighted in this volume are one of the largest raids, of Ungok; the bloody ambush at Gray Rock; the long fight for a complex of outposts named after Nevada cities; and the worst battle of 1953, for Boulder City--the last marine engagement in Korea. Ballenger continues to provide model accounts of small-unit actions, to enlighten readers on the value of tanks in infantry support (a high-velocity tank gun is good backup), and to be none too charitable toward what is described as the army's tendency to leave the marines holding the bag. Like its companion, *The Outpost War* (2000), this is a nearly indispensable Korean War history. Roland GreenCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved "Ballenger well balances strategic analyses and vivid battle narratives." -- Booklist"Some of the best descriptive passages of small unit combat . . . a valuable contribution." -- Publishers Weekly"Very worthwhile reading." -- LeatherneckAbout the AuthorLee Ballenger served in U.S. Marine Corps reconnaissance and tank units during the Korean War. He is a retired police officer living in Southern California.