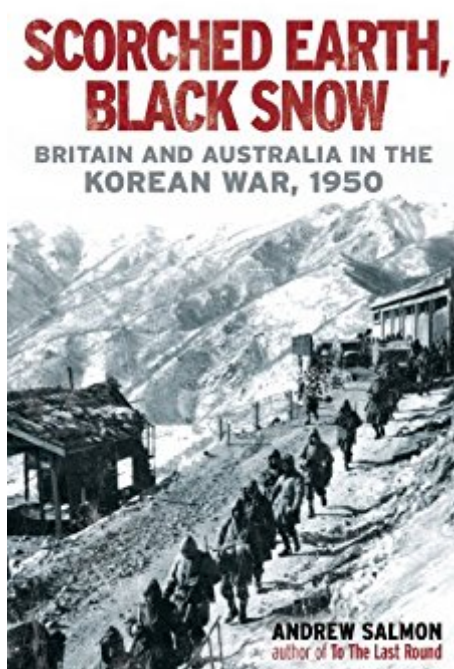


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Scorched Earth, Black Snow: The First Year Of The Korean War



Synopsis

The first year of the Korean War was a tumultuous series of epic battles, ending in a legendary and harrowing retreat. In the summer of 1950, British and Australian troops were dispatched to fight with UN forces in the savage struggle against communism in Korea. After both triumph and tragedy while breaking out of the "Pusan Perimeter," 27th Brigade -- the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and the Middlesex battalions, soon joined by the Royal Australians -- spearheaded the UN drive north. After a spectacular series of battles, victory beckoned. 27th Brigade was halted to allow the Americans the glory of reaching the Chinese border. But across the rugged border, in a shock counter-offensive, China stormed south. In a desperate action, 27th Brigade fought its way out of the trap, to join the UN Command on a harrowing, 200-mile 'bug out.' And across the peninsula, surrounded by eight enemy divisions in terrain higher than Cassino and temperatures colder than Stalingrad, 41 Commando fought alongside US Marines at Chosin Reservoir -- 'Hellfire Valley', the most nightmarish battle fought by American or British troops in living memory -- and escaped annihilation by a hair's breadth.

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Customer Reviews

Andrew Salmon's "Scorched Earth Black Snow" should be read by every young Army and Marine Corps officer and NCO. It is a history, a tactical reader, and a collection of veterans' reminiscences. It is also a warning as to what can happen when military forces are unprepared. Korea is often called the 'forgotten' war, and there was good reason for many to forget it. The victorious U.S. military machine of five years previously had been dismantled. The American public paid little attention to the state of its Armed Forces. There was still a draft, as Japan and Germany were still under military occupation, and the Cold War was underway. Yet the United States deemed Korea outside its sphere of interest. Indeed, just prior to Mao Zhe-dong's victory, the U.S. had withdrawn the last of its combat troops from Korea, leaving only a small military advisory effort. So when the most modern indigenous army in East Asia streamed across the 38th Parallel, the reaction was surprise and anger. U.S. forces were rushed to the Peninsula where the public expected they would make short work of the North Koreans. That they did not. Indeed, they were driven back, fleeing for their lives. Greater disasters were yet to come. There were a lot of events portrayed in Salmon's book that many American veterans would prefer to forget. We, the public, should not. Scorched Earth starts with one of the best moments, as a victorious U.N. Army is driving north, and the enemy is fleeing as fast as he can, but not quite as fast as enveloping U.N. forces. The 27th Commonwealth Brigade has pushed up past Sariwon, the last major town before Pyongyang. Ordered to pull back south, the British, Scot, and Australian battalions run into a North Korean regiment traveling north.

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