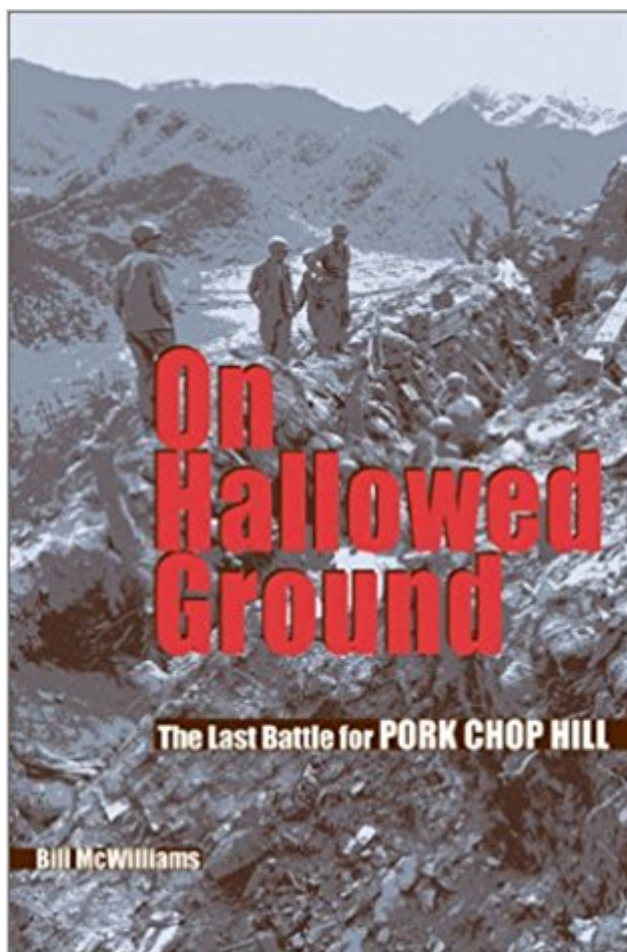


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On Hallowed Ground: The Last Battle For Pork Chop Hill



Synopsis

Foreword by Gen. Robert W. Sennewald, USA (Ret.) Evoking all the powerful emotions of a frustrating, bitter, bloody, stalemated Korean War, Bill McWilliams takes readers into the trenches and bunkers of Pork Chop Hill with the men of the 7th Infantry Division's 17th and 32nd Regiments as they withstand repeated assaults by the Chinese in July 1953. Their individual accounts of small victories and defeats, fear and valor bring alive the final battle for the hill. While a popular movie starring Gregory Peck made Pork Chop Hill a public legend, only one other book has been written about the subject and it focuses on earlier assaults. This book includes the never-before-told stories of the riflemen, machine gunners, forward observers, sergeants, platoon leaders, and medics whose heroic efforts helped hold the hill and produced two Medals of Honor and ten Distinguished Service Crosses, some awarded posthumously. The author succeeds at giving the reader both a feeling of being in the midst of the fighting and stepping back to view the bigger picture. He blends official documents, personal letters, interviews, oral histories, and other sources, to acquaint readers with the first three years of the war and prior assaults on Pork Chop and highlights the contributions made by combat support units and others to the mission. As the narrative progresses the whys of battlefield decisions become evident with an examination of the influence of national policies, protracted truce negotiations, a fledgling South Korean democracy, and the evolving American military policy of active defense, providing painful lessons for America's future struggles. Published in cooperation with the Association of the United States Army, the book pays tribute to the greatest testing ground of U.S. soldier resolve since Valley Forge.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"...a significant, poignant, detailed, very personalized, well-researched volume." -- Assembly, January/February 2004"...compelling." -- The Journal of Military History, October 2004"...loaded with detailed, first-person accounts of engagements." -- Choice, June 2004"...provides some excellent lessons for today's leaders." -- ARMY, August 2004

Bill McWilliams, a 1955 graduate of West Point and Air Force officer, flew 128 combat missions in Vietnam. A resident of Las Vegas, Nevada, he is also the author of *A Return to Glory* and numerous newspaper and magazine articles.

I've purchased several copies of this book as it contains personal experiences my father went through on Pork Chop. I've given them to relatives and close family friends who had no idea what my father did there as he never talked about it. The book contains quite a bit of narrative on troop movements, etc., that gets a little tedious, compounded by inadequate maps. With labeled maps the reader would be able to easily follow the action. The personal stories are powerful. Thank you Mr. McWilliams for the tremendous amount of research you put into writing this piece of history.

Superbly written account of the last battle for Pork Chop Hill in the Korea War. It's not just a report of strategy and tactics; more importantly, it's an intimate look at the men who fought, were wounded and died there. I served in the the Pork Chop Hill sector at the time of the battle and can vouch for the authenticity of what Bill McWilliams has so carefully and respectfully prepared for the public's understanding of the realities, the horrors, the heroics and complexities of the Korean War.

This book describes the last bloody battle of the war and it lasted through the last minute before the truce went into effect. I looked down on Pork Chop Hill the second day after after taking charge of the 81 MM mortar platoon behind Old "Bloody" Baldy just days after that battle ended. That first look told me that I never wanted to end up defending Pork Chop Hill. My good friend and fraternity brother died in that battle. His remains have never been recovered.

A gentleman in my community passed away recently. His obit stated that he was in the Battle of Pork Chop Hill, and was one of 4 survivors from his platoon. I decided to find a book to describe the

battle, and learned it was actually a couple of battles. The history and politics were interesting and I did learn a bit about the era. I recommend it to anyone who wants to research this battle.

My father was with E Co. 2/17th, 7th ID during this battle. He NEVER spoke of it except to say he had been there. This book answered most of the questions I had about the battle. The men that attacked Pork Chop Hill were as brave as anyone that waded ashore at Normandy. This is a must read for anyone that wants to know what happened at Pork Chop Hill.

This is an excellent book about Pork Chop Hill. It covers why it was important, and the events surrounding that part of the Korean War. My husband was at Pork Chop, and he wanted that time to be remembered for the sacrifices the troops made. He was able to find where he thought his foxhole was, and show the pictures to his grandchildren. This is his second copy of the book, and it may not be his last.

Good book

a "must" read for a battle with a bitter end

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