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Our Kind of War: Illustrated Saga of the U.S. Marine Raiders of World War II

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Additionally, the book contains only eighteen photographs and only one large area map with three inserts to support ninety years of history in a large geographic area. The closing chapter on the U.S. invasion of Panama in 1989 is an incomplete and sterile effort. The author appears to have relied mostly on news accounts for its substance. Finally, there is no conclusion! After 470 pages of relatively good work on a sensitive and still contemporary topic, there was no effort by the author to tie it all together.

Banana Wars is not the complete history of U.S. military intervention one might expect. However, it is a good effort, especially of the military role up to 1934. It has action, humor, and many "lessons learned" for the student of low-intensity conflict. After reading this book, it will be no wonder that our Latin American neighbors mistrust and fear the United States.

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Rosenquist, R.G. et al. *Our Kind of War: Illustrated Saga of the U.S. Marine Raiders of World War II*. Richmond, Va: The American Historical Foundation, 1990.

When was the last time you saw a photograph of seven members of the same battalion receiving the Navy Cross for their actions in the same operation? Well, it hap-

pened at least once, after the Makin Island raid of August 1942. Two of the recipients were navy doctors who were members of the 2nd Raider Battalion.

During their two years of existence, the four marine Raider battalions performed heroic deeds far beyond proportion to their numbers: seven of the seventy-nine Medals of Honor awarded marines during World War II went to Raiders; twelve percent of all Navy Crosses were earned by marines of the Raider battalions, and two-thirds of the army's Distinguished Service Crosses presented to marines were pinned on Raider chests.

Our Kind of War is, as the subtitle suggests, a saga. Beginning with the activation of the Raiders in January 1942 (not without a great deal of opposition from Marine Corps Headquarters), Rosenquist concludes with the occupation of Japan. By that time, the Raiders had been disbanded and redesignated, and had participated in the Guam and Okinawa campaigns as battalions of the 4th Marine Regiment. A particularly poignant event occurred in Japan when these "new" 4th Marines passed in review. The colors were held high for the surviving members of the "old" 4th Marines that had been captured in the Philippines in 1942.

Rosenquist has presented an accurate historical account of each Raider operation; these are followed

by the recollections of many of the participants. These anecdotes range from funny (the cow shot for disobeying a lawful order to halt, steaks subsequently confiscated by the medical officer), to sad—a seasoned campaigner remembering the replacement who wanted to see some action his first night in combat because it was his twenty-first birthday. He did and he died.

To the best of my knowledge the history is accurate, and the author does not overlook any problems or mistakes of the Raiders. Early on there were serious training deficiencies (such as how to get into a boat) which resulted in the abandonment on Makin Island of marines, who were subsequently beheaded by the Japanese. Coordination between units and the supporting forces was, at times, a serious problem.

In addition to combat history Rosenquist has included some interesting chapters on the Navajo code talkers, war dogs, the wide variety of weapons used, and an appropriate tribute to Sergeant Jacob Vouza of the Solomon Island Scouts and to Major Martin Clemens, who was an Australian coastwatcher.

Death was a way of life for the Raiders. Of the surprisingly numerous Raider poets quoted in the book perhaps one said it best with these words that were found written on the label of a fruit can during the fighting on Bougainville: "To you, pal, a prayer from a weary heart / How true I know the best of men must part. / Each passing pair

of eyes now lowered in sorrow / Plans vengeance as evening gives promise of tomorrow."

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Appleman, Roy E. *Ridgway Duels for Korea*. College Station, Tex.: Texas A&M Univ. Press, 1990. 665pp. \$39.50

Ridgway Duels for Korea is the fourth and final volume in Roy Appleman's history of the first year of the Korean War. It covers the period from Ridgway's assumption of command in December 1950 up to the "negotiation" phase of the war in July 1951. Drawing on contemporary and postwar interviews, correspondence, and extensive research, Appleman recounts the planning, execution, and outcome of those critical days for the Eighth Army.

After American troops had landed at Inchon in September 1950, they captured Seoul and later Pyongyang; it was to be their last victory for many months. By the end of November, General MacArthur's plan to drive north to the Chinese border and end the war had failed. Chinese troops drove the U.N. forces (mostly Americans and South Koreans) into a rapid retreat on the Chongchon River, at Chosin, Kunu-Ri, and elsewhere in the frozen hills of North Korea. Then on 23 December, Eighth Army commander Walton H. Walker was killed in a jeep accident.