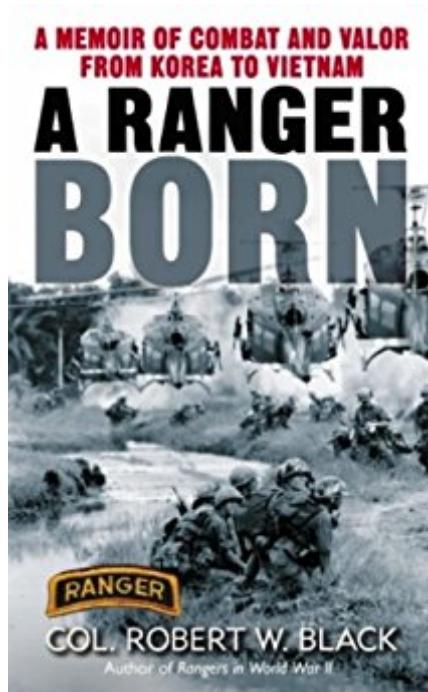


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A Ranger Born: A Memoir Of Combat And Valor From Korea To Vietnam



Synopsis

Even as a boy growing up amid the green hills of rural Pennsylvania, Robert W. Black knew he was destined to become a Ranger. With their three-hundred-year history of peerless courage and independence of spirit, Rangers are a uniquely American brand of soldier, one foot in the military, one in the wildernessâ "and that is what fired Blackâ ™s imagination. In this searing, inspiring memoir, Black recounts how he devoted himself, body and soul, to his proud service as an elite U. S. Army Ranger in Korea and Vietnamâ "and what those years have taught him about himself, his country, and our future. Born at the start of the Great Depression, Black grew up on a farm at a time of great hardship but also tremendous national determination. He was a kid who toughened up fast, who learned the hard way to rely on his strength and his wits, who saw the country go to war with Germany and Japan and wept because he was too young to serve. As soon as the army would take him, Black enlisted. And as soon as he could muscle his way in, he became a Ranger. As a private first class in the 82d Airborne Division headquarters, Black withstood the humiliations of enlisted service in the peacetime brown-shoe army. When the Korean War began, he volunteered and trained to be an Airborne Ranger. In Korea, this young warrior, his mind and body bursting with the lusts of adolescence, grew up fast, literally in the line of fire. In clean, vivid prose, Black describes the hell of giving his all for a country that lacked the political resolve to give its all to a war against the North Koreans and the Chinese. If Korea was frustrating, Vietnam was maddening. The heart of this book is devoted to the years of action that Black saw in Long An Province starting in 1967. Black writes of the perplexity of collaborating with South Vietnamese officers whose culture and motives he never fully understood; he conjures up the sudden shock of the Tet Offensive and the daily horror of seeing fellow soldiers and innocent civilians slaughteredâ "sometimes by stray bullets, often by carelessness or treachery. Vietnam challenged everything Black had come to believe in and left him totally unprepared for the hostility he would face when he returned to a war-weary America. Written with extraordinary candor and passion, *A Ranger Born* is the memoir of a man who dedicated the best of his life to everything that is great and enduring about America. At once intimate in its revelations and universal in its themes, it is a book with profound relevance to our own troubled time in history. From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

I do not know how it happened, but I ended up buying a large number of these kind of books about Vietnam, and for some reason the largest number were all about rangers. I usually prefer a variety of combat MOS, be that any branch of the armed forces, for I have found that all units have incredible stories to tell. There is not one branch of the military that I consider less than the other, but I must admit that the specially trained units, such as the rangers, always end up in the middle of the heaviest combat situations. I enjoyed this book, would not say is at the top of the heap where great writers and books are concerned, but it delivers a story line that is interesting enough to want to read on. The fact remains that these authors, who happen to be directly involved in the kind of conflicts one prefers to read about, and not have to face in person, are men of great courage, so all my respect and admiration for them is always in place. 3.5 Stars.

Excellent account of our servicemen's HEROISM and VALOR in Korea and Vietnam wars. Should be made into a movie!!! Ranger Black gives us a firsthand account of overwhelming numbers of CHINESE and North Koreans readying the attack on our unsuspecting units. Then he takes us into his daily account of his "advisory" type role; a remote Vietnamese\ American fire base Neighboring a village where he and others work to promote better living conditions there. This is a great firsthand account of our soldiers in Vietnam. You will learn details not in the censored \cleaned up history

books. Great writing style from a Pennsylvania farm boy's perspective.

While admitting I am a personal friend of Ranger Bob Black, and very fortunate to be so. I had the opportunity to see this work before it went to print. Let there be no mistake, Ranger Robert Black is RANGER through and through. He also happens to be the foremost and most learned Ranger historian alive today. His previous works are invaluable to all Ranger historians who search for Ranger history from WWII and Korea. He is a stickler for detail and very thorough. He is a member of the Ranger Hall of Fame at Fort Benning, Georgia. This review is about his latest work however and I want to return to that subject. I just want to let you know a bit about the author. He is a man's man and well respected among Rangers of all eras. Because of the short duration of the Korean War and the short life of these elite soldiers of the Airborne Ranger Companies of Korea, much has been forgotten about their service and sacrifices. Ranger Black's book, "A Ranger Born", revives these memories and educates many who never really knew of the many obstacles and terrible conditions these men fought in. He takes us on a journey through his young life to the man he is today. Through two wars, including his service in the Vietnam War. Once I started reading it, it was hard to put down and that is a true measure of a book, isn't it ?? I read a lot of military history books, fiction and non-fiction, and I would put this book up there with the good ones as easily readable and entertaining. It is quite informative too, for those interested in the inner workings of a military advisor to the ARVN Army. I'd like to thank you Bob for sharing your story and your memories. Rangers Lead the Way !! Terry B. Roderick Co. P (RANGER) 75th Inf. RVN , Past President, 75th Ranger Regiment Association (1998-2000)

A good down to earth book to read

Unlike the technical, detailed Ranger books written by Col. Black, this one is from a personal standpoint and draws you into the story from page one until the last word is read. The book starts with Col. Black as a child and the desire to be a Ranger is obvious; to what it takes to qualify for Ranger training; what it takes to endure the training and what drives a Ranger to stay a Ranger. A story about being an American in the war ravaged country of Korea and Viet Nam. You read about betrayal, unrequited love, the guts and glory of war; the survival of war, and at times with a sense of humor. You laugh, you cry. It grips your heart; it grips your soul, but most of all it makes you proud to be an American; proud to have men of his caliber fighting for your freedom and that of our Country.

One of the most interesting non-fiction book have read in a while.

An excellent account of Bob Black's career in the Rangers.

A humorous yet real account of the Vietnam experience. Pretty sure even an REMF,,(LOL),,,would enjoy this book. Enjoyed very much.

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