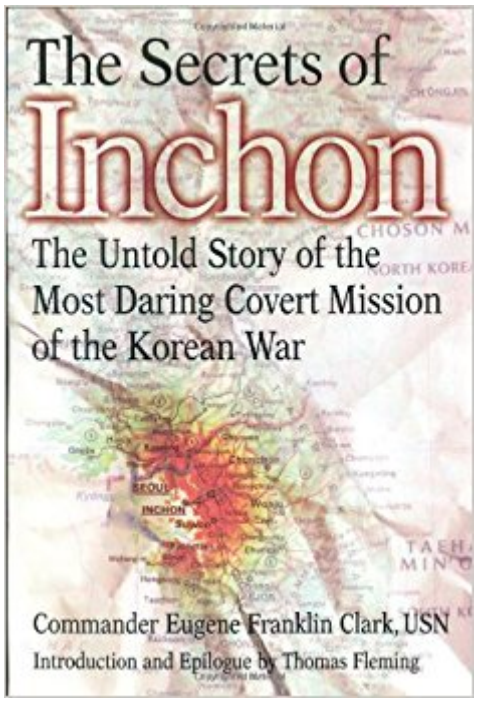
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The Secrets Of Inchon: The Untold Story Of The Most Daring Covert Mission Of The Korean War



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Synopsis

In 2000, as historian Thomas Fleming prepared an article about a crucial but little-known, covert mission of the Korean War, led by a thirty-nine-year-old naval lieutenant named Eugene Clark, Clark's widow noted that her husband had written up his own account, then put it in a safe-deposit box. Would he like to read it? Fleming would-and discovered an extraordinary document: a vividly written first-person chronicle filled with color, detail, and event, as honest and revealing a wartime narrative as he'd read in many years. In late August 1950, with North Korea on the attack, MacArthur battled his own colleagues over his plan to invade Inchon, behind enemy lines. They simply knew too little about the dangerous tides and miles of mudflats, the beaches, seawalls, and fortifications. It was suicide. MacArthur convinced them, barely, and then brought in Clark, because they did know too little. Clark had to find the answers-and in just two weeks. That was all the time there was. With two South Korean officers, Clark landed on a harbor island, but the North Koreans discovered him, and soon his intelligence-gathering became filled with firefights, night raids, hand-to-hand combat, even a miniature naval battle involving armed junks. It all culminated on the night of the invasion itself-when he and his men took over a lighthouse and lit it to guide the allied fleet. The Secrets of Inchon is a stunning account, rich with courage and humanity, infused by Clark's growing brotherhood with his newfound allies-a new classic of military history. "A classic first-person account of heroism, resolve, and ultimate triumph that will touch every American in these troubled times." (Stephen Coonts) "The Secrets of Inchon is a modern classic of military history, an astonishing first-person account that fairly crackles with drama. As we have seen so recently, heroism can come at any time-but who even suspected that this Korean War hero could write so well?" (W.E.B. Griffin)

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If Korea is America’s forgotten war, Eugene Franklin Clark is certainly one of that war’s least-known heroes. The Secrets of Inchon is his first-person account--written in 1953 and long forgotten in a safety deposit box--of his terrifying fortnight on a small island in North Korean-occupied Inchon harbor. Douglas MacArthur’s planned invasion was as fraught with peril as it was daring. The port, with 29-foot tides, was, at their ebb, protected by a mud-flat moat 6,000 yards wide in places. Without elaborate, accurate, first-hand information--which Clark was ordered to supply--about mines, fortifications, sea floor gradients, troop distribution, and other matters large and small, the operation (Clark likens it to a "fly deliberately planning to invade a spider’s web") could easily have become "an American Dunkerque." Clark’s reconnaissance included hand-to-hand gunfights, rugged interrogations, night forays in small junks, constant vigilance, exhaustingly long hours, and the cooperation of anti-Communist Koreans. The Secrets of Inchon is a commendable tale of an unfathomably obscure and daring military episode. --H. O’Billovich

Prolific historian Fleming (The Officers’ Wives, etc.) was researching an article on Inchon when he interviewed the widow of Clark, a naval officer on General MacArthur’s intelligence staff who died in 1998, about his role in intelligence gathering for the amphibious landing at Inchon Harbor an operation that turned the tide of the Korean War. She in turn produced the manuscript of this book from a safe deposit box, and the result is this workmanlike yet compelling memoir, written in the early ’50s, soon after Clark’s return. Clark volunteered for a mission that eventually included a naval skirmish between Korean junks, a commando raid on a communist-held island to capture prisoners and free imprisoned civilians, an infantry engagement with communist infiltrators, and Clark’s takeover of a harbor lighthouse to light the fleet’s way for the eventual invasion. Sympathetic observations on Korean culture are augmented by misconceptions, and extensive descriptions of tactics and reconstructed dialogue can be wearing. Yet this is a self-effacing account that openly acknowledges mistakes and misgivings, and Clark, who studied law at Princeton, learned Japanese and was eventually awarded the Silver Star, an oak leaf cluster and the Navy Cross, has considerable powers of observation that are apparent throughout. The use of "covert" in the subtitle is a bit puzzling, since the North Koreans were aware of Clark’s presence in Inchon Harbor the entire time he was there, but this is a solid memoir of an important Korean War battle. Copyright

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Eugene Franklin Clark was an Army Aide to General McArthur during WW II. He was attached to the General in Japan after the War.I Because the US Army had no information about the waters and the people in the Inchon area, Clark was sent to reconnoiter the area.This extremely interesting story was unknown until the death of Commander Clark. Clark wrote up daily journals while he had only 2 weeks to identify hazards and safe sailing in the waters off Inchon,Korea. His family found his journals in his lockbox at his bank shortly after his death. This book has more details than any TV program about there Invasion of Inchon. I have bought 5 copies to share with friends. You can find this book at a very low price on .

This book is a brilliant first person account of a daring covert mission. It is set in the days leading up to MacArthur’s landings at Inchon. it is all the more remarkable because it was not written for mass publication but as a report to the author’s superiors. It is written with the clear detached unsentimental style of an official document. Yet the author somehow manages through his prose style to deliver a completely compelling narrative that you will drive through.Some will see racism in the manner the author describes the Koreans he deals with; that would be a mistake and applying standards of today. He honestly describes what he observes and how he interacts with the Koreans. His observations may be culturally insensitive but they do not come from bias.Read this book! I have no doubt you will enjoy it.

This book is a factual account of the efforts of Commander Eugene Franklin Clark USN in support of General MacArthurs invasion at Inchon to retake Seoul South Korea. The book was mentioned as a footnote in a story of The Corps "Retreat Hell" by W.E.B. Griffin. The story by Mr. Griffin seemed to push the envelope of audacity and courage in fiction but the reference to the Secrets of Inchon in the story led me to purchase the book. The factual story is amazing and well worth the read.

A true story of heroism. I loved reading this account.

I’m really not qualified to rate this book because Eugene Franklion Clark was my Dad. I will say that my mom, brother and I were breathlessly awaiting each page of this book as it came off the typewriter in the den of our rented house in Arlington, Virginia in the fall of 1951. We had returned from Japan that summer. We had, of course, not been aware of my Dad’s spy missions while we

were in Japan.I miss my Dad, He was bright, witty, modest and a great Dad.

Interesting book about a little known factor of Koren War(Police Action) that allow MacArthur to carry out his invasion of Inchon. This action is why the invasion was a success, allowing for the liberation of South Korea.

Fascinating story that reads like fiction even though it really happened. I was too young for Korea but served with many veterans of that war--I bet very few know what Commander Clark accomplished to make the landing successful.

Very readable. True story but better than most fiction.

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