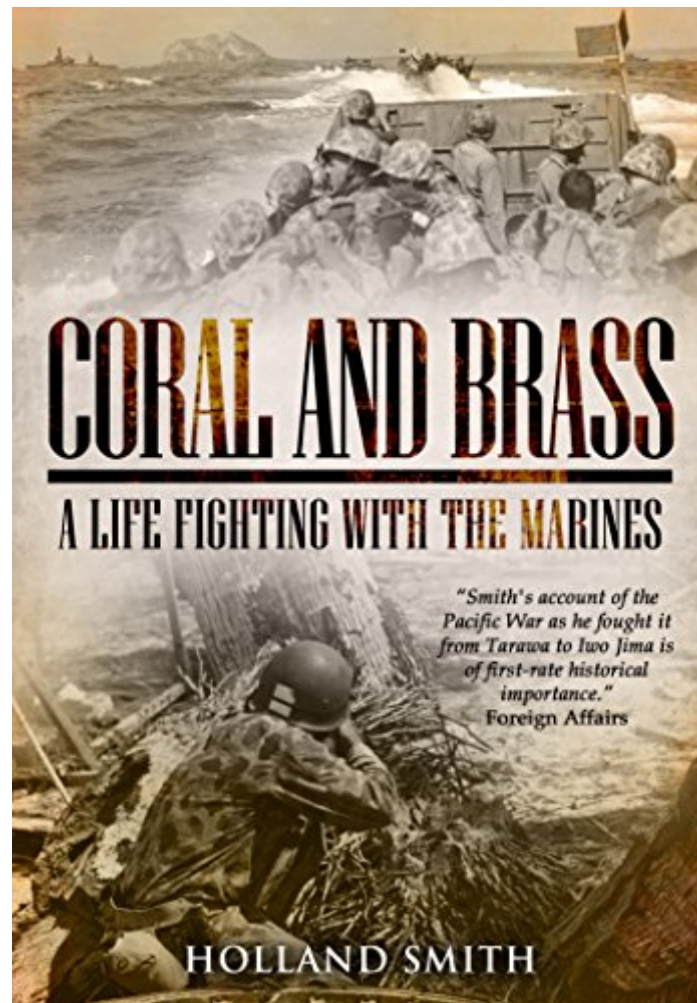




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Synopsis

“The aim of this book is twofold: first, that due credit be given to a gallant body of men, the United States Marine Corps, who in their path across the Pacific were faithful to their traditions and to their country; second, to point out the errors that were committed in World War II in such a manner that they will not be repeated in World War III • God forbid. Controversial at times, Smith never wavered in his dedication to the Marine Corps and dedicated his career in support of the men and women under his command. Recipient of four Distinguished Service Medals, he initiated and supervised the training of U.S. Marines in the art of amphibious warfare and led them across the Pacific in one of the most phenomenal military advances of all times. On many occasions, as the reader will see, he pugnaciously struggled with peers and superiors to be allowed to fight. Although constantly in the public eye towards the latter years of the war, this memoir sheds light on Smith’s private opinions on the war, the mistakes that were made on the way to victory and the difficulties between the various factions of the U.S. forces. These problems experienced particularly between the Marines, the Navy and the U.S. Army are closely examined in Smith’s memoir and he offers a unique insight into these clashes. He unceasingly, oftentimes controversially, defends the strategic importance of amphibious warfare in WWII and criticizes Naval interference in Marine tactical decisions. This autobiography also offers a glimpse of the man behind the intimidating facade, a man haunted by the sometimes unnecessary losses of Marine lives and the impact of his decisions in wartime. “He maintains throughout a manifest and unshakable belief that the United States Marines are the best land fighters in the world, and takes natural pride in his role as their long-suffering and outspoken champion.” The Alabama Review “Smith’s account of the Pacific War as he fought it from Tarawa to Iwo Jima is of first-rate historical importance.” Foreign Affairs Coral and Brass is an important first-hand account of a celebrated military tactician, a must-read for those interested in the U.S. Marine Corps, military strategy and WWII operations. Holland McTyeire “Howlin’ Mad” Smith, (April 20, 1882 – January 12, 1967) was a general in the United States Marine Corps during World War II. He is sometimes called the “father” of modern U.S. amphibious warfare. A lieutenant general when he was retired May 15, 1946 at the age of 64, he was promoted to general on the retired list for having been especially commended in combat. This book was first published in 1949. Following a long illness, General Smith died January 12, 1967 at the U.S. Naval Hospital in San Diego, California, aged 84.

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Customer Reviews

Three cheers for the Red, White and Blue! Providing a bird's eye view of our military in action, this book helped me understand so much of what my dad talked about, and his sentiments for all those old warships and airplanes we visited growing up. My dad, a veteran of WWII, never talked much about the war, but he had an unmistakable fondness for his victories there, and an undeniable respect for those who served. His patriotism lives on, as does his memory since he has passed some 20 years ago. Being educated through this book about how the Marines went through their growing pains to become a full fledged branch of our military was fascinating! At times I felt like Mr. Smith was a bit harsh in his telling of the story, particularly when he opposed or compared the Marines to other branches in the military, but it is easy to overlook since he had a front row seat in two world wars I will only read about. Clearly, Mr. Smith also played a major role in the Marine Corps from it's infancy through today, helping this division of our military go through some major growing pains, all while fighting too many harrowing battles in both world wars. It is with great respect and honor that I salute Mr. Smith for sharing this amazing bit of history with us, and I sincerely hope many people will read this book, as it will provide new insight into making America great again. We

truly are the greatest nation on earth!

I was in the amphibious Navy during the Vietnam War and was personally part of many assaults into enemy territory. At the time, I served aboard the newest Amphibious Landing Dock (LPD) in the U.S. Navy and can relate to Howling Mad Smith's writings. I wish I had read this book during that era; it would have given me greater insight into those that went before me. It would have given me a better understanding of the hurdles they had to overcome to provide the foundation on which amphibious warfare is based. I am sure that General Smith would appreciate what has been built on his legacy with modern helicopters, both transport and gunships, and the many advances made in amphibious tanks and armored personal carriers, as well as, the ships that carry them into battle and support them throughout their campaigns. Thank you General Smith and all the Marines that have put their lives on the line to defend America and have bravely attacked formerly impregnable beachheads with courage, small arms, equipment, leadership, but most of all, for your personal sacrifice and service.

Good read by a great Marine who cared about his men and women in the Corps. As a former Marine myself this is the kind of leadership that is a must. General Chesty Puller is another incredible leader he always lead by example by leading from the front and genuinely cared for his men thru actions not just words. Still if you want a great book about Marines purchase the books below. You will not be dissatisfied or disappointed. Islands of the Damned: A Marine at War in the Pacific By R.V. Burgin. Voices of the Pacific: Untold Stories from the Marine Heroes of World War II By Adam Makos and Marcus Brotherton. Lastly In my opinion the BEST. With the Old Breed: At Peleliu and Okinawa, By Eugene Sledge, Books

This book is a classic because General Smith takes the reader behind the scenes of what it takes to prepare Marines for battle. The planning, the training, and in-fighting to get support from other top military leaders, who didn't have his vision or his genius, is a testament to the great Marine General. I highly recommend this book to all.

I really enjoyed this book. I'm kind of a history buff but have not read that much on the Pacific theater of WW 2. This was well written. Had lots of stuff that I'd never heard about before, and also gave me more detail on some things that I had heard of. It is written from the perspective of a Marine, not a historian, which I liked (there is a place for both). There was a lot of information, but

not overwhelmingly so. I think that Holland Smith or whoever helped him did a really good job of editing and condensing.

This book is an excellent account of the birth of the Fleet Marine Force and the man most responsible for its growth. General Holland M. Smith was a true visionary where Amphibious Warfare is concerned. His drive, knowledge and persistence were instrumental in the development of the organization still used today by the Corps.

Great perspective, coming from the General himself, glad I read this. If you want to read of the Marines in world war two, and the struggles to be seen as a viable fighting force for the US military, this is the book.

General Holland Mad Dog Smith was there in the heat of battle for Tarawa and the other central Pacific islands ending his commanding General status of Marine operations after Two Jima. His unique perspective involved vivid accounts of the island battles as well as strategy developed as his role of commanding General of Marine amphibious troops. General Smith also goes into detail about all of the egos of the Navy command and their constant lack of respect for the Marine corps especially in the 1st 2 years of WW II. A fantastic read.

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