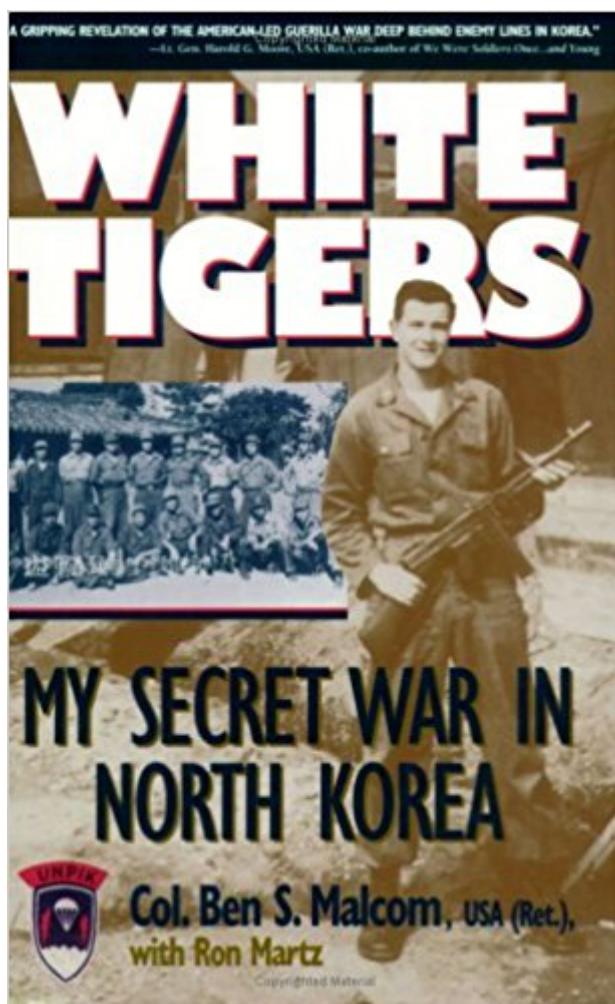


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# White Tigers: My Secret War In North Korea



## **Synopsis**

Operating from a clandestine camp on an island off western North Korea, Army Lt. Ben Malcom coordinated the intelligence activities of eleven partisan battalions, including the famous White Tigers. With Malcom's experiences as its focus, **WHITE TIGERS** examines all aspects of guerrilla activities in Korea. This exciting memoir makes an important contribution to the history of special operations.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This is the untold story of the U.S. Army's role in unconventional warfare in the Korean War. An army first lieutenant, Malcom was handpicked to go behind enemy lines to recruit, train and lead North Korean partisans in their war against Chinese and North Korean forces. He recounts how he won the guerrillas' trust and, with a minimum of support from Far East Command, mounted a series of operations that combined sabotage with intelligence-gathering. (His 4th Partisan Infantry Battalion provided the framework for establishing the Army's Special Forces in 1952.) His account of the raids behind enemy lines makes for exciting reading, and he pays moving tribute to the Koreans' extraordinary stamina, seeming indifference to pain and chivalric code of conduct. But the most eloquent passages revolve around his complaint that the institutional knowledge he acquired during the war was ignored in Vietnam, where U.S. military advisers had to learn the hard lessons of guerrilla warfare on their own. Malcom served as a battalion commander in Vietnam; Martz coauthored *Solitary Survivor*. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

Exciting reading. -- Publishers Weekly, 1996 The gallant service of the North Korean guerrillas has long been one of the untold sagas of the Korean War, but Malcom's in-depth history, White Tigers, tells their story definitively and fills a significant historical gap. -- Military History, June 1997

Although there is a handful of other books about America's secret war in North Korea, Ben Malcolm tells it best. He provides a personal account of his actions, but also offers personal insights of the partisans, particularly small unit leaders, that are fascinating. Other books overflow with military acronyms - ridiculous, repetitive, confusing. Malcolm's book is easy to follow without those pitfalls. In three other books I've read on the same topic, Malcolm's name is only referenced twice, in single pages in the same book. He's a critic of a top-heavy American command that seems to try to fight a war against a European-style enemy rather than deal with China's bottomless reservoir of experienced fighters. I will commend all books on this topic to other readers, my critique notwithstanding, because of the crucial development of guerilla/partisan/spec ops/counter-insurgency knowledge and capabilities in Vietnam and the inflammatory Middle East.

This book provides insight to an important but heretofore unknown phase of the Korean Conflict. It also points out our government's lack of cooperation and lack of recognition for such units at the time. Fortunately, our government now understands the importance of behind the lines operations. The book is an excellent read for those history buffs who want to learn more about our activities in Korea in the early 1950's. White Tigers also gives us information regarding our early involvement in Vietnam and points out how well the Viet Cong carried out guerrilla warfare. A major concern, which was an on going problem throughout the Vietnam conflict, was differentiating a VC from a peaceful Vietnamese. My youngest brother, Doug, experienced this frustrating problem while serving as an advisor for the Vietnamese in 1968-69. The question was always, "do we open fire or greet the Vietnamese encountered during combat?" "White Tigers" is intriguing and practically forces the reader to continue reading until the end.

Great book on a little known subject. The history and the actual face to face actions of early insurgency are quite revealing, setting up and seeing the need for Special Operations. Down side is the fight for CIB and proper recognition of service and now the Special Forces tab is authorized for the 8240th Unit. The insights on the early insurgency operations are enlightening, the adaption and the getting used to the locals ways of war are cornerstones of counterinsurgency/insurgency

warfare. Glad I read it, it should be on every SPECOPS enthusias and professional SPECOPS warrior's library.

In the world of foreign military advisors, Ben Malcom's name is not a household word in comparison to Joe Stilwell, John Glubb, Edward Lansdale, and, of course, T E Lawrence. His short memoir of life with North Korean guerrillas during the Korean War deserves to be read along with those of his more famous colleagues. Ben Malcom was trained as a traditional military officer, but was thrust into a highly unusual role as an advisor to a small group of North Korean guerrillas fighting against the North Korean government. Until the 1990s, the missions the so-called White Tigers undertook were still classified. While their contribution to the overall war effort can be disputed, Malcom's lessons cannot be ignored for what they teach us about the US Army and its abiding discomfort with non-traditional warfare. Malcom demonstrates convincingly that the US Army forgot many of the lessons derived from working with partisan forces from Burma to Greece to France during the Second World War. Those lessons would have proved invaluable to young Lieutenant Malcom as he took on a role he was not trained for, but for which he demonstrated great aptitude. His book takes us from his ROTC days, to instructor at Fort Knox, through his time in Korea, and finally to Vietnam, where he experienced a nasty case of de ja vue. His memoir is short, but exciting and written with great verve. Much has been written about the current conflict in Iraq and how the US military is adapting to re-learn the lessons it forgot after Vietnam about insurgency, counter-insurgency, and partisan warfare. Many authors have applauded the adaptability of the US military; Malcom's book is a cautionary tale that shows we have been down this path before and failed to institutionalize the lessons of previous conflict. For that alone, his memoir is worth the price.

COL Malcom's book tells the story of Fifth Column operations behind enemy lines during the Korean War. He is one of several U.S. Army officers who salvaged "special operations" lessons from WWII and applied them with a minimum of high-level support from the orthodox allied military commands. It is really a tale of a two-front war, facing the North Koreans on one side and the establishment military bureaucracy on the other. He often worked with Korean partisans, alone, a hundred miles inside North Korea when capture was certain death and he had no place to hide and no support. The courage, audacity, and intelligence displayed in these operations were extraordinary even among soldiers for whom courage was a given. He earned the credit for being one of the "Fathers of modern Special Operations" a hundred times over. His legacy gave us the modern Special Forces (Green Berets) with their ability to "reach out and touch" Al Queda and other terrorist threats to

western civilization. "White Tigers" is readable, engaging, and informative and a story that will beadmired by anyone who roots for freedom.

I met Ben Malcom at a University of North Georgia almun function a few years ago; what a great guy It turned out that he and my uncle were classmates.!

Great read!

Excellent book on Special Forces Operations behind the lines in North Korea ( NK ). Only book available on the White Tigers & CIA Partisan Operations in NK. . 5 Star

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