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## Korea Remembered: Enough of a War

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In the final analysis, Gardner has written the most comprehensive account of Johnson's descent into the quagmire of Vietnam. Examining the war from the perspective of executive decision making, the author provides a fresh interpretation that the Vietnam War undermined the American credo that this country could not have liberty and prosperity at home without defeating the communist threat abroad.

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Cole, Charles F. *Korea Remembered: Enough of a War*. New Mexico: Yucca Tree Press, 1995. 306pp. \$17.95

The *Sumner-Gearing* class destroyers formed the backbone of the U.S. destroyer forces in the years immediately following World War II. Designed early in the war as successors to the workhorse *Fletcher* class, the *Sumner-Gearings* sported an array of six five-inch/38-caliber dual-purpose guns in three mounts, a powerful anti-aircraft battery, and a formidable antisubmarine warfare system. It was the five-inch guns, however, that were so useful bombarding the North Koreans and their Chinese allies during 1950–1953.

In *Korea Remembered*, Cole chronicles the adventures of one *Sumner-Gearing* class ship, USS *Ozborn* (DD 846), as seen through the eyes of a newly commissioned junior officer, himself. Cole begins with how he entered the Navy through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps and how he managed to reach his ship before it left California for the western Pacific, seeing action with the carrier Task Force 77 and the Formosa Patrol (Task Force 72). Following the intervention of the People's Republic of China in North Korea, the *Ozborn*

supported the Seventh Fleet and participated in the occupation of Wonsan Harbor, where it suffered its first hit by enemy fire. Despite the excitement of action with the enemy, undoubtedly the *Ozborn's* most fulfilling incident of her 1950–1951 cruise was the rescue of an aviator, Ensign Ralph M. Tvede, off the coast of North Korea.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of this book is Cole's description of the bonding of men at war, extending from the commanding officer to encompass the entire crew. The Korean conflict, small by World War II standards, was "enough of a war" to those who fought it.

Cole left *Ozborn* in early 1952 to train with the Underwater Demolition Teams (predecessors of the Navy Seals) in the Atlantic Fleet. It was a totally different experience for him. Most of his time was spent on land or swimming offshore on "field exercises." The teams were small, ten or twelve men, and the bonding was quite different from that among the 250 men of a fully manned destroyer. Although he does not explicitly say so, it was never completely satisfying to the author.

Cole left the regular Navy for the Reserve in 1953 (later retiring as a commander) and returned to Cornell University, where he received his doctorate in marine biology. He taught at several universities, retiring from Ohio State in 1994.

The only criticism I have is the author's abrupt transition from destroyer duty to UDT, which took him away from the "enough of a war." On the whole, Cole's memoirs provide an excellent window into two branches of the Navy as they existed in the 1950s.

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