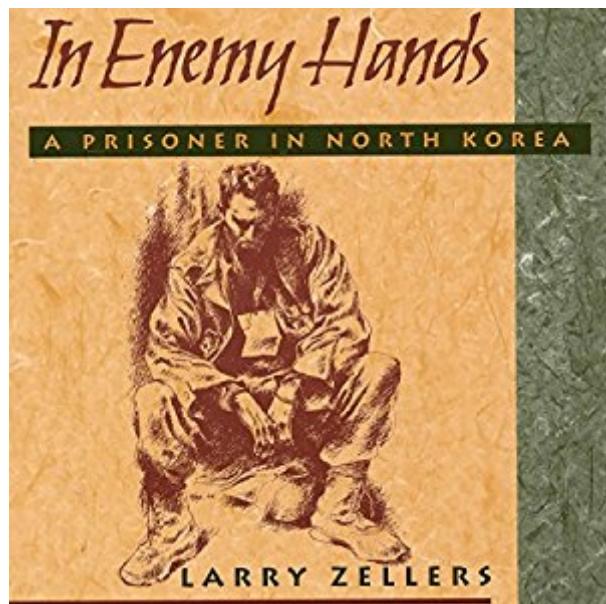


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# In Enemy Hands: A Prisoner In North Korea



## **Synopsis**

A newly married Methodist minister, Larry Zellers, was serving as a missionary and teacher in a small South Korean town near the 38th parallel when he was captured by the North Koreans on June 25, 1950. Until his release in 1953, Zellers endured brutal conditions and inhumane treatment. Through his story, Zellers shows that, despite the opinion that POWs live only for themselves, many in the camps worked to help others and conducted themselves with honor. "This harrowing but inspiring account is especially absorbing." Publishers Weekly "A chilling account of the suffering he and a group of fellow civilians endured during three years as prisoners of Communist North Korea." Retired Officer Magazine "Provides a fascinating view into the minds of both captors and prisoners." Bowling Green Daily News

## **Book Information**

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 10 hours and 27 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: University Press Audiobooks

Audible.com Release Date: July 26, 2017

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B07454J12Y

Best Sellers Rank: #230 in Books > History > Military > Korean War #1260 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > History > Military

## **Customer Reviews**

This book tells the truth on how our people suffered and died for not just us but people from other countries. Larry Zellers wife Francis is still living at the age of 91 and is still sharp as a tack. She can recount many stories that will make your hair stand-up as her and her husband traveled around the world to many countries sharing their faith and love. God Bless them both

We homeschooled and wanted some good books/biographies about the Korean War. This book is a jewel. It is about a Methodist minister held as a POW for three years by the N. Koreans and Chinese. The author makes you feel like you are right there with him in the POW camps. He incorporates so much knowledge of the country of Korea, geography, politics of the day, and the

mind set of the communist N. Korean way of thinking and what happens to POW's physically as well as emotionally. My dad served in N. Korea and I came away from this book with a greater respect for what my dad and his comrades must have witnessed in this "Forgotten War". It does not have any bad language but his description of the death march is very real and heartbreaking. We learned more about the Korean War from this book than any textbook out there.

I had the privilege of knowing Mr. Zellers through the Methodist church that we both attended in Weatherford, Tx. I had heard through other church members that Larry had written a book about his experience in Korea. I even spoke to him about it in casual conversation stating a desire to read it when I got a chance. He didn't seem to want to talk about the details of it and I didn't press the matter. Unfortunately it was Larry's death that finally prompted me to purchase and read his story. What an incredible story. It was hard to understand how the gentle elderly man that I knew could have ever possibly survived the horrors that he describes in his book. Larry was one of the very first prisoners of the Korean war and was held captive for the duration. He witnessed many atrocities as well as survived many himself. Larry doesn't emphasize his faith in this book as much as one might expect, but it is obvious that it was his faith in God that carried him through. I believe that the following quote from the book summarizes Larry's faith and his struggles with the reality of his situation. "I had seen the first of many American soldiers to drop out that day because they could not keep up with the grueling pace through the snow. For a moment the realization that these young men would soon be in the presence of God filled me with awe and almost succeeded in converting this barbaric scene into one of tranquillity. Then I was brought back to reality: someone was dying -- someone was responsible for this outrage."

What every person should know about what happened on the forgotten death march. A vividly told story of the forgotten war that is still going on. If you want to know how it really is in North Korea, here is a first hand account. Hard to lay down, but never to be forgotten.

Larry Zellers, a newly married Methodist minister serving as a missionary and teacher in a small South Korean town near the 38th parallel, was taken prisoner in the early days of the Korean War. He and his fellow prisoners were American combat soldiers who were the very first to arrive in Korea from bases in Japan. The youngest among them had received only minimal combat training. All of the men were inadequately trained and furnished with sometimes malfunctioning weapons. After being taken prisoner by the North Koreans, the men suffered incredible hardships of cold,

hunger, physical abuse, lack of medical attention, fatigue, fear isolation, and intimidation. In *Enemy Hands* is Zellers' first-hand story of his captivity from June 25, 1950 to his release in 1953. Throughout his personal account Zellers shows that, despite the opinion that POWs live only for themselves, many in the camps worked to help others and conducted themselves with honor. Zellers became a U.S. Air Force chaplain after his release. *In Enemy Hands* is a valued, important, biographical contribution to the growing body of Korean War literature and a much appreciated contribution to any academic, public library military history collection.

Very well written. I opened the book to the middle to just see what I'd purchased and couldn't put it down for several pages. Painfully detailed account of the death march.

Great book on a little reported subject-POW life during the Korean War. Mr. Zellers does an awesome job conveying the fears and hopes of POWs during that time. You can viscerally feel their fear through his writing. I highly recommend this moving book to anyone with even a passing interest for Korean War history.

The way our prisoners and civilians were treated after their capture was inhuman to say the least. At least those that survived could tell what had happened to them and were fortunate they lived through it. It just doesn't seem right that the public knows so little of this. This happened to real people that suffered and died!

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