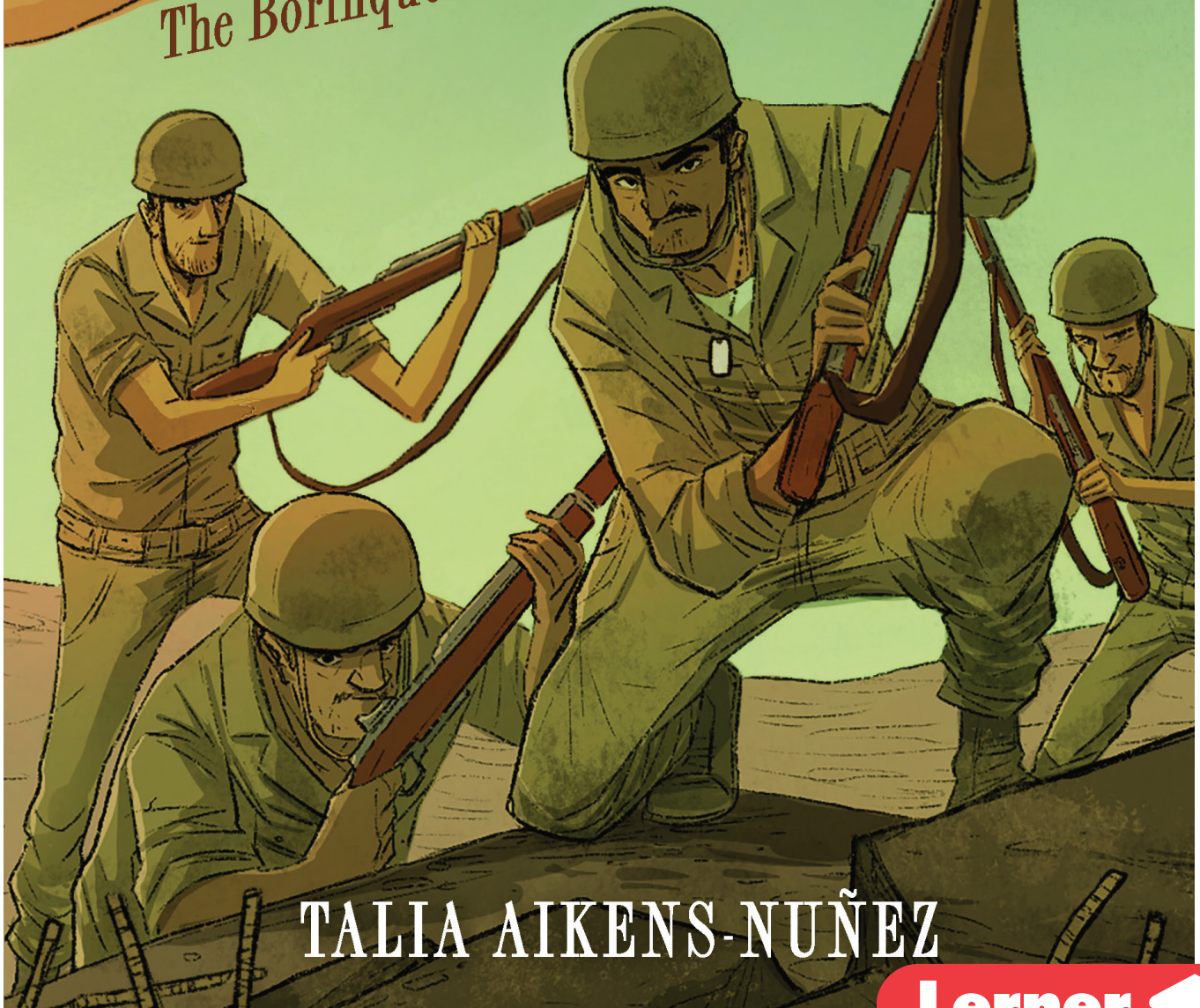


MEN OF THE 65TH

The Borinqueneers of the Korean War



TALIA AIKENS-NUÑEZ

Lerner



SUMMARY

Since the regiment's creation in 1899, the men of the 65th have proudly served the US through multiple wars, despite facing racial discrimination. Their courage, loyalty, and patriotism earned them hundreds of accolades, including the Congressional Gold Medal in 2014.

But the honor and fidelity of the men of the 65th came into question in 1952, in the midst of the Korean War, when ninety-one Borinqueneers were arrested and tried for desertion and disobeying orders. How could this happen in one of the most distinguished and decorated units of the Army?

In this telling of one of the forgotten stories of the Korean War, author Talia Aikens-Nuñez guides us through the history of the Borinqueneers and the challenges they faced leading up to what was the largest court martial in the entire war. Rediscover the bravery of the men of the 65th through Aikens-Nuñez's thorough writing and the soldiers' firsthand accounts of the Korean War.



Discussion Prompts/Essay Questions

- Who were the winners of the Korean War? Why?
- How did Operation Portrex prepare the 65th Infantry Regiment for the Korean War?
- During the mass court-martials, were the Borinqueneers betrayed by the US or held accountable for their actions? Why?



Comprehension Questions

CHAPTER 1

- What is a coqui?
- What is the native name of Puerto Rico? Who gave Puerto Rico that name?
- What is the name of the act that gave United States citizenship to Puerto Ricans? What year was it passed?
- What countries made up the Axis Powers in World War II?
- What military policy was active that required that the 65th Infantry regiment mainly serve in support roles not combat roles?

CHAPTER 2

- Who was the well-liked commander of the 65th Infantry Regiment in 1949?
- What are paratroopers? How many of them would have been lost if Operation Portrex was a real war situation?
- Who were the 'Aggressors' in Operation Portrex? Who were the 'Liberators'?
- What were the main reasons for Operation PORTREX?

CHAPTER 3

- What is the 38th parallel line?
- How many days-notice did the 65th have before they were going to sail to an unknown destination?
- What was the name of the ship that the men boarded in Puerto Rico?
- Who are NCOs? Why were they important?
- What was the battle name that the men of the 65th chose on their sail to Japan then to Korea?

CHAPTER 4

- How did the men protect themselves from surprise attacks at night?
- Who led the UNC forces in October 1950?
- What country entered the Korean War with the North Koreans in October 1950?
- What were the men referring to when they excitedly screamed 'Maná del cielo!'?

CHAPTER 5

- How did the weather in Korea in November and December 1950 affect the men?
- What was the big mission the men of the 65th had in early December 1950?
- When did the men finally leave the harbor in Hungnam?



CHAPTER 6

- At what point in the day did the enemy like to attack the men of the 65th?
- What is a military sponge bath?
- What high-ranking General visited the men on February 17, 1951?
- When did the men cross the Han River and enter Seoul for the final time in the Korean War?

CHAPTER 7

- What was MacArthur's goal in the Korean War?
- What was meant by the term "seesaw operations"?
- Why did the Army implement a troop rotation policy?
- What is the Iron Triangle?

CHAPTER 8

- When did peace talks for the Korean War begin?
- How did the enemy fortify their position during the summer of 1951?
- Who was the new leader of the 65th Infantry Regiment in February 1952?
- What was the name of the hill the 65th lost and repeatedly tried to regain without much luck?
- What are some of the controversial orders Col. DeGavre gave the men of the 65th?

CHAPTER 9

- What is the other name of Hill 391? Who was it named after?
- How many soldiers refused to return to Hill 391?
- What is the 'double standard' that is mentioned in reference to Hill 391?
- Who was the President-elect of the United States in December 1952?

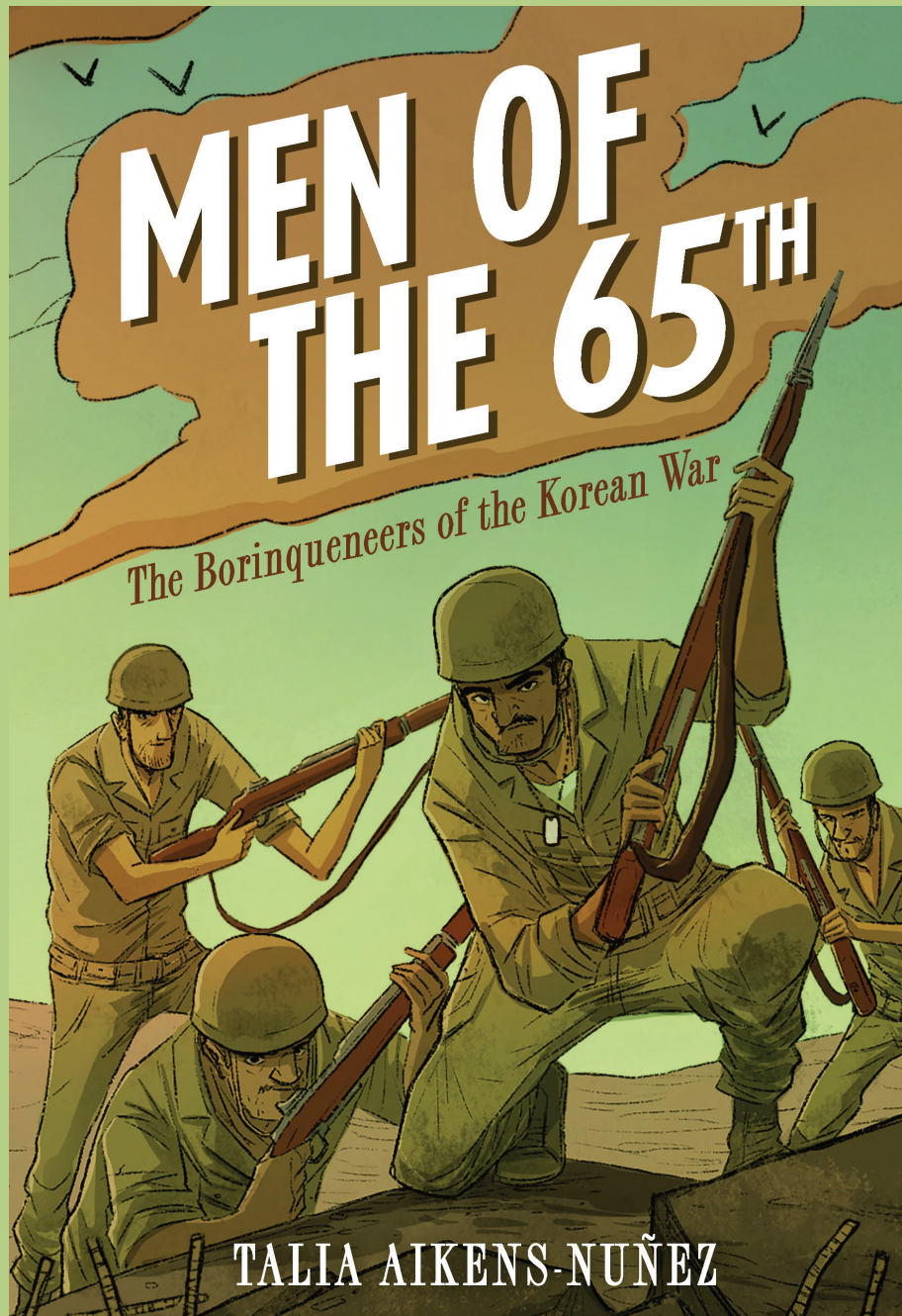
CHAPTER 10

- How long were the court martial trials?
- How many men were convicted by court-martial?
- Who overturned the convictions? When were all of them overturned?

CHAPTER 11

- In 2016, what was the medal that the 65th Infantry Regiment received? Why is it important?
- What are the reasons that Modesto Cartagena's son believes are the reasons why he was not awarded the Medal of Honor?

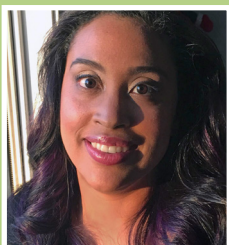




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Talia Aikens-Nuñez is passionate about sharing with young readers the little-known stories, accomplishments, and contributions of people of color from all throughout history. Aikens-Nuñez is the author of *Small Nap/Little Dream*, a bilingual Spanish/English picture book. She and her husband live on a river in Connecticut with their two children.

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