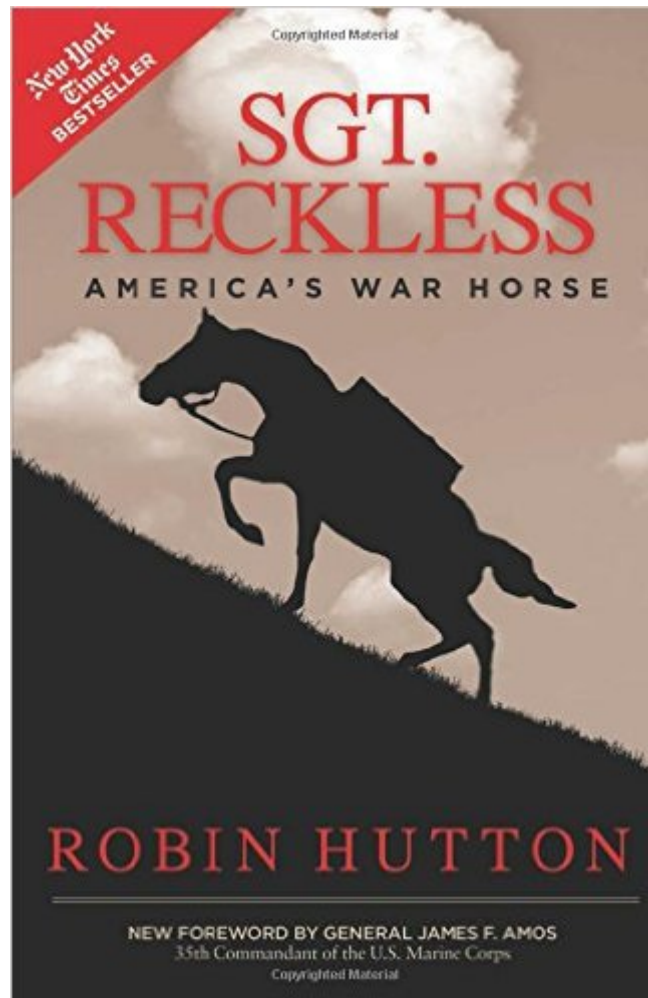


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# Sgt. Reckless: America's War Horse



## Synopsis

A New York Times Bestseller! From the racetrack to the battlefield, dauntless, fearless, and exemplar of Semper Paratus, she was Reckless, "pride of the Marines." A Mongolian mare who was bred to be a racehorse, Ah-Chim-Hai, or Flame-of-the-Morning, belonged to a young boy named Kim-Huk-Moon. In order to pay for a prosthetic leg for his sister, Kim made the difficult decision to sell his beloved companion. Lieutenant Eric Pedersen purchased the bodacious mare and renamed her Reckless, for the Recoilless Rifles Platoon, Anti-Tank Division, of the 5th Marines she would be joining. The four-legged equine braved minefields and hailing shrapnel to deliver ammunition to her division on the frontlines. In one day alone, performing fifty-one trips up and down treacherous terrain, covering a distance of over thirty-five miles, and rescuing wounded comrades-in-arms, Reckless demonstrated her steadfast devotion to the Marines who had become her herd. Despite only measuring about thirteen hands high, this pint-sized equine became an American hero. Reckless was awarded two Purple Hearts for her valor and was officially promoted to staff sergeant twice, a distinction never bestowed upon an animal before or since. Author Robin Hutton has reignited excitement about this nearly forgotten legend, realizing the Sgt. Reckless Memorial Monument at the National Museum of the Marine Corps, completed in July 2013, and now spurring the creation of a second memorial at Camp Pendleton, California, where Reckless lived out the rest of her days. The paperback edition includes a new foreword by General James F. Amos, 35th Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps. It will appeal to fans of Laura Hillenbrand's *Seabiscuit*, Elizabeth Letts' *The Eighty Dollar Champion*, and the feature film *War Horse*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As one of those little girls who was just horse crazy - and never had a horse as a child - I read A LOT of books and stories about horses. Horses, to me, were mystical and beautiful. It wasn't until I was well into adulthood did I finally realize that dream of being owned by a horse. And now that I have a personal relationship with horses, I very much enjoyed the way Robin has brought Sgt Reckless to life. The wonderful detail of Reckless' antics, feelings and attitude made me more than once nod and say "Uh huh! That's a mare for ya!" Robin's passion for this little mare and her story is evident in the detail not just about Reckless, but also in laying the groundwork for the military action that Reckless participated in. This book is easy to read for young teens and up, and has loads of photographs of Reckless. Sgt. Reckless must have been an incredible horse to have left such an impression on the men and women who served with her and knew her. They left such great and detailed stories about her, leaving Robin with excellent material with which to craft this captivating story of this most noble of creatures - The Horse.

I love true stories, and this is one that is most remarkable. There were more photographs in the book than I expected, which added even more meaning to the story. Loved the details as told by the people who were there; loved the drama; the ending was poignant. One of my favorite stories of all time.

If you want to read a wonderful, book about a true war hero then I've got one for you. Sgt Reckless America's War Horse by Robin Hutton is a true gem. It fills in all of the gaps from previous books about this marvelous, courageous little red-haired Mongolian mare. Delving deeper into her "hoof" camp in the field, her unique personality and her courageous, determined non-stop work as the ammo carrier at the Battle of Vegas that earned her not only her Sgt stripes but the love of the entire USMC. I couldn't put this book down and finished it's 319 pages (which included the author's notes) in two days. I've already started to read it again. This is a MUST read for any Marine or any military person who loves a good true war story. It's also a fantastic book for any animal lover who wants to know what lengths this little mare would go to in protecting her men. The only true NCO in the Marines, those stripes meant something to her men. She WAS and always will be SSgt. Reckless. Read about her

Robin Hutton has brought America's War Horse back to life. From fame in the 1950s to obscurity and back to fame the little Korean war horse lives again. Many of us have every book written about

her, have the Breyer statue of her, and love her as if she were actually with us in the flesh. Thank you Robin for all you have done to bring our girl to the world in all her astounding glory. Sgt Reckless is truly as your title says, America's War Horse, pride of the Marines and of all of us.

All I can say is WOW. What a wonderful job Robin did in bringing Reckless back to life for all to enjoy her story. I love a good "true animal story" and am always reading history non-fiction. To get both in one book is wonderful. I pre-ordered this book as soon as I heard about it, and lo and behold it arrived earlier than anticipated and I spent the weekend 50 years back in time on a battlefield in Korea with a small mare and the men who loved and respected her. The photos were beautiful and the trading cards at the back were an extra special bonus. Well done!

Brought to you by OBS reviewer JoAnne

Reckless began life in Korea just before the war. She was bred as a racehorse, and owned Huk Moon (a pseudonym), the young jockey who rode her. He had owned her dam, Ah-Chim-Hai, or Flame of the Morning. He was given her as a gift for his many acts of bravery and kindness during World War II. Because he loved her so much, when she was finally bred, he named her offspring Flame of the Morning also. But when her mother died suddenly, he wanted nothing to do with the young filly.. So a friend of his took her to be raised by one of his own mares, and it wasn't until some time later when he saw her playing with other young horses that he realized she was much like her mother and his love for her grew. When war struck in 1950, Kim and his family had to temporarily leave their home, taking Flame with them. When they returned, two years later, there wasn't much left. The family did what they could to survive; but one day his sister Chun, working in a rice paddy, was badly hurt. A worker next to her stepped on a landmine, and Chun's leg was mangled and would have to be removed. It was soon after that, that Kim realized he would have to sell his horse to purchase a prosthetic leg for his sister. This is where the marines stepped in. I won't go into a lengthy detail of the recoilless rifle. It is enough to say that it took three or four men to carry it, and more to carry each 75mm shell. It was a powerful gun, and each man could carry no more than two shells, due to the weight. It was backbreaking work. Watching his men run up and down the hill to secure more shells was dangerous work, and Lt. Eric Pedersen, commander of the Recoilless Rifle Platoon, knew something needed to be done. Leave it to say that after searching for a horse, he discovered Reckless. Paying \$250 American dollars for her, Kim knew he could now obtain the leg for his sister, heartbroken though he was to lose his precious Flame. Little did he know that she would go on to a greater destiny, one that would more than likely save the lives of many Americans. For it

was she, renamed Reckless by the marines, who would be trained to carry the shells to the soldiers. It was dangerous work. She must be trained carefully. Reckless would travel on her own, up and down the treacherous hills, with anywhere from four to ten rounds strapped to her back, in a specially made pack. She made the journey many times, herself being wounded twice and still continuing on in battle. I will say no more, except that you need to read this book. Not only did I read the book, I read much of it to my husband, when I came across something particularly striking; and he listened intently, which is an achievement since he really only reads technical manuals or things of that sort. This is how riveting the book is. There are books that excite us, agitate us, soothe, enamor and make us feel giddy. Only once in a while does a book come along that pulls from our soul. This is one of those books. I dare you to read this book without it bringing tears to your eyes. It did mine, many times. It was a beautiful story, yet heart-wrenching to read. It is beautifully written, and I can only hope that I felt some of what the author felt while she was researching Reckless's life. If one can say that a horse lived life to the fullest, then Reckless is that horse. Not only did she work as hard, if not harder, than any marine ever did, she also joined with them in their play. She slept alongside them in their tents when the nights grew cold; she ate what they ate - and that included cookies, pancakes, peanut butter; she drank what they drank, including Coca-Cola and beer. In fact, many of the stories of Reckless are downright humorous; and show what an intelligent being she was. My regret is that I did not know anything about her before, but due to the generosity of Regnery Press in providing this book for my review, I plan to remedy that. On one of my travels back east I plan to visit her memorial in Triangle, Virginia. However, I am looking forward to it as soon as possible. Hopefully, this book will renew interest in one of the bravest marines ever - Sgt. Reckless of the Recoilless Rifle Platoon. Highly recommended for anyone, and especially for everyone.

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