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Silent Heroes: A Recon Marine's Vietnam War Experiences



Synopsis

Silent Heroes is an action-packed, skillfully told, emotional and gripping Vietnam War story by retired U. S. Marine Corps Gunnery Sergeant Rick Greenberg, who served in an elite Reconnaissance Battalion in Vietnam from 1969 to 1970. Greenberg joined the Corps right out of high school because he always wanted to be a Marine. Little did he know what it would ultimately cost him to even approach earning such a title. After boot camp, as he was later known by his Recon team buddies, attended radio communication school in San Diego, CA. As a radio operator, upon arrival in Vietnam, Greenberg was both surprised and troubled when he was arbitrarily assigned to the First Recon Battalion, generally considered to be an elite unit, and normally manned by volunteers. He soon learns he must adapt quickly, or risk going home in a body bag! The battle scenes Greenberg masterfully draws in Silent Heroes are both realistic and gripping. They can easily send cold chills down the spines of combat veterans, and dispel any false notions or glorified myths held by non-combatants. A GREAT read that tells it like it was regarding the brave warriors who fought, and some who died, in the Vietnam war!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a Vietnam veteran myself, I am always interested in reading books and/or memoirs written by other Vietnam veterans. Sadly, many if not most are rather poorly written and the underlying tale either very predictable or apparently significantly embellished. In other words, many lack the quality of being unique and compelling reading. Such certainly is not the case with *Silent Heroes* by retired U. S. Marine Corps Gunnery Sergeant Rick Greenberg. Rick tells a very compelling story of his tour as a Recon Marine in Vietnam in the late 1960s. Initially, he develops the story by lulling the reader into believing that his tour consisted more of workaday, routine, uneventful patrols. Everybody is relatively happy and carefree, though certainly cautious, while getting to know each other and the expected "bonding" process among the Marines progresses apace. Then, BOOM! the action begins and the harsh reality of war, i. e., how very, very deadly it can and does suddenly become, carries the remainder of the story. I have come to believe, after talking to many, many other Vietnam vets over the past 50 years, that each of us have a rather unique picture and tale of our individual tour of duty in VN. Rick's story further convinces me of that fact. As a Marine who served in Vietnam just a couple of years before Rick, as a door-gunner in a CH46 helicopter squadron, I can certainly relate to many observations and situations he includes in his tale. Others? Not so much. That underscores the Promethean nature of the Vietnam War, as far as I'm concerned. To be honest about it, I can't strongly recommend too many books written by Vietnam veterans, and I have read numerous ones over the years. I believe that's a genre that is still developing, even after all of these years.

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