

American Involvement in Vietnam

John Leahy

Bibliographical List

Atkinson, Rick. The Long Gray Line. New York: Pocket Star Books, 1991.

This book is a twenty-five-year account of West Point's Class of 1966. The story primarily follows the experiences of three classmates who, along with the entire class, fought in Vietnam.

Bergerud, Eric M. Red Thunder, Tropic Lightning: The World of a Combat Division in Vietnam. New York: Penguin Books, 1993.

This book is about the soldiers of the 25th Division as it recounts the ways the war was actually fought and the psychological pressures they endured. Bergerud divides his material into broad categories such as weapons; medical care, from the wounding of a soldier through his evacuation and treatment; the antipathy between frontline soldiers and support troops, and relations between Vietnamese civilians and American GIs.

Broughton, Jack. Thud Ridge. New York: Bantam Books, 1985.

Thud Ridge details the accounts of US Air Force pilots and their bombing mission over the North Vietnamese capital of Hanoi. Thud Ridge is named for a distinct geographical landmark- a mountain ridge jutting a few thousand feet into the air roughly 50 miles north-northwest of Hanoi, which the pilots used as a landmark and as a natural barrier for SAM missile batteries poised to shoot them down. I have climbed to the top of Thud Ridge while in Vietnam during the summer of 2005.

Caputo, Philip. A Rumor of War. New York: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1977.

This book is an autobiography by Philip Caputo about his service in the United States Marine Corps in the early years of American involvement in the Vietnam War. The author states this is not a history book, nor is it a historical accusation. The author states that his book is a story about war, based on a personal experience.

Chinn, Bobby. Wild, Wild, East: Recipes and Stories from Vietnam. Hauppauge, New York: Barron's Educational Series, Inc. 2007.

Wild Wild East is a historical and culinary exploration of Vietnam. The author mixes Vietnamese history with his own pursuit to return to Vietnam as a professional cook. The stories he shares are a collection of comedy and tragedy; his recipes capture the essence of Vietnamese cuisine.

Clark, Johnnie M. Guns Up!. New York: Ballantine Books, 2001.

"Guns up!" was the battle cry that sent machine gunners racing forward with their M60s to mow down the enemy. Marine Johnnie Clark heard that the life expectancy of a machine gunner in Vietnam was seven to ten seconds after a

firefight began. This book portrays the frightening account of M60 machine gunners during the height of combat.

DeMille, Nelson. Up Country. New York: Warner Books, 2002.

A fictitious tale written by a Vietnam Veteran about a GI returning to Vietnam to investigate an unsolved murder that took place during the Vietnam War.

Dooley, Dr. Thomas. Dr. Tom Dooley's Three Great Books: Deliver Us From Evil, The Edge of Tomorrow, The Night They Burned the Mountain. New York: Farrar, Straus, & Cudahy, 1960.

Dr. Tom Dooley dedicated his life to providing medical care to underserved areas of Southeast Asia. In his work he both founded an organization (MEDICO) to facilitate medical care, but also traveled throughout the region providing care to thousands of patients. In "Deliver Us From Evil," Dooley was a Navy doctor stationed in Southeast Asia when North Vietnam fell to the Communists. In response he helped construct huge refugee camps for the hundreds of thousands seeking escape from the Viet Minh. His work providing medical assistance to these refugees helped shape the rest of his life.

- - - . Deliver Us From Evil. New York: Signet Books, 1956.

A soft-cover, individual book copy.

- - - . The Edge of Tomorrow. New York: Signet Books, 1958.

A soft-cover, individual book copy.

- - - . The Night They Burned the Mountain. New York: Signet Books, 1960.

A soft-cover, individual book copy.

Duncan, David Douglas. "Inside the Cone of Fire at Con Thien." Life. 27 October 1967: 28D-42C.

In September, 1967 David Duncan, a famous combat-photographer, embedded with Mike Company of the 9th Marines inside the line of fire at the farthest American outpost at Con Thien. The cover photograph- perhaps the most famous picture of a single American GI- is the famous picture of the GI with the "thousand yard stare," hunkered over in his poncho and helmet, gazing into the camera, his eyes staring at you from every angle. What makes this article more compelling is that my father was a member of Mike Company, 9th Marines and was at Con Thien with Duncan. Not only am I able to gain insight into life at Con Thien through Duncan's eye, but also talk to my father about his experiences, and the experiences of those captured by Duncan. This copy was my grandfather's original subscription to the magazine; unfortunately its condition is well worn.

- - - . War Without Heroes. New York and Evanston: Harper & Row, 1970.

Here Duncan provides a complete account of his time in Vietnam with the Marines, first a Cua Viet during an amphibious assault, then at Con Thien, and lastly at Khe Sanh during the height of the most cataclysmic battle during the war.

At Con Thien, Duncan records the daily lives of the men of Mike Company, 9th Marines, of which my father was a part of. While not shown in any of the photographs, my father not only knows the names of the men shown, but can also recall stories and memories- good and bad, shared with the men of Mike Company, 9th Marines, just as Duncan portrays throughout the article.

Flynn, Gail. "Compassionate Coursework Abroad." LSA Magazine: University of Michigan. Spring 2006: 45-46.

This article briefly informs UM's College of Literature, Science, and Arts (LSA) community about the work I did in Vietnam for four months during the summer of 2005, and the organization I founded afterwards called Crossing Borders. That summer I received a grant from UM's Center for Southeast Asian Studies to conduct research and work for two healthcare non-government organizations (NGOs) throughout Vietnam. Some of the research focused on neonatal and rural healthcare, sustainable medical equipment, healthcare infrastructure, malnutrition in children, and neonatal infectious diseases. My work in Vietnam was also featured on LSA's website.

Garrett, W.E. "Southeast Asia Ten Years Later." National Geographic. Vol. 167, No. 5. May 1985: 574-575.

A National Geographic report on the situation in Southeast Asia ten years after the fall of South Vietnam. It includes reports on how the country of Vietnam has changed since the reunification of the country, as well as a strong emphasis on the situation in Cambodia after the fall of the Khmer Rouge and the Vietnamese occupation of that country after they ousted Pol Pot from power.

Gettleman, Marvin and Susan, and Lawrence and Carol Kaplan. Conflict in Indochina: A Reader on the Widening War in Laos and Cambodia. New York: Random House, 1970.

This book discusses the 1954 Geneva Accords and the 1962 Laos Accords and how the war in Vietnam expanded into the neighboring countries in Southeast Asia.

Greene, Graham. The Quiet American. New York: Penguin Books, 1973.

This is a story about Pyle, a young naïve American coming to Vietnam to bring the ways of America and democracy. As a result of these new policies, blood is spilled, and innocence is lost. This novel is Graham Greene's response towards steadily increasing American involvement in Vietnam, becoming one of the most critical portrayals of American policies and attitudes in Vietnam prior to America's large-scale escalation of the conflict.

Hayslip, Le Ly. When Heaven and Earth Changed Places. New York: Penguin Books, 2003.

A personal memoir about a village girl's life during the Vietnam War. This book recollects accounts of grave brutality perpetrated by both sides of the war towards civilians caught in the crossfire. The title is a misnomer; there is no Heaven in

this book. In 1988 Ms. Hayslip founded a non-governmental organization called East Meets West, which has become a well-respected NGO in Vietnam. During the summer of 2005 I worked as a member of East Meets West to help improve newborn health in Vietnam. This book has also been made into a movie directed by Oliver Stone.

Herring, George C. The Pentagon Papers (Abridged Edition). New York: McGraw-Hill, Inc., 1993.

The release of the Pentagon Papers was perhaps as controversial as the war in Vietnam itself. Their release and publication by the New York Times was argued all the way up to the Supreme Court. Commissioned in 1967 by Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, the Pentagon Papers were a top-secret United States Department of Defense history of the United States' political and military involvement in the Vietnam War from 1945 to 1971, focusing on the internal planning and policy decisions within the U.S. Government. The initial report includes some 7000 pages; Herring narrows this voluminous work to a comprehensible and educational work, focusing on major issues within the study.

Hildreth, Ray and Charles W. Sasser. Hill 488. New York: Pocket Books, 2003.

An eighteen man Marine Recon Patrol that had been positioned on top of Hill 488, approximately 25 miles southwest of Da Nang to observe enemy position and activity. On the evening of June 15th the Marine patrol received a report that an estimated battalion size enemy force was in their area and could be headed their way. During that night and the next morning every member of the Recon Platoon was either wounded or killed. The enemy paid a high price as well. In addition to the eighteen Purple Hearts for each platoon member, there were thirteen Silver Stars, four Navy Crosses, and one Congressional Medal of Honor given for the battle of Hill 488.

Hirsch, James S. Two Souls Indivisible: The Friendship that Saved Two POWs in Vietnam. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2004.

Dozens of men held prisoner by the North Vietnamese were brutally tortured physically and emotionally for years on end. Among them were Fred Cherry, an air force F-104 fighter-bomber pilot and the highest-ranking black POW, and Porter Halyburton, a white navy F-4 Phantom jet navigator from North Carolina. Cherry, who was severely wounded when he was shot down near Hanoi in October 1965, was tortured as his captors tried, without success, to coerce him into signing antiwar statements urging black servicemen to give up the fight. Cherry would not have survived his ordeal without the care he received from Halyburton, whom the North Vietnamese placed in Cherry's cell in an effort to foster racial enmity between the two. Halyburton cleaned Cherry's wounds, bathed him when Cherry was too weak to move, and did other yeoman, life-saving work for nearly eight months. This amazing story of courage, friendship and dedication

Kane, Rod. Veteran's Day: a Vietnam Memoir. New York: Orion Books, 1990.

As an 18-year-old combat medic, Kane witnessed the horror of war up close. The narrative of his subsequent physical and psychological breakdown upon return to the States occupies the major portion of this troubling memoir.

Karnow, Stanley. Vietnam: A History. New York: Penguin Books, 1997.

This book is an overview of the history of Vietnam and the events that ultimately led up to American involvement there, as well as an account of the war itself. This book is unique in that it is not limited to the 20th century, but expands on issues of French imperialism throughout Southeast Asia, as well as the cultural context with which the people of Vietnam fought this long war for independence from any foreign intervention. This is not just a history book, but an anthropological perspective of the war as well.

Lanning, Michael Lee, and Ray William Stubbe. Inside Force Recon: Recon Marines in Vietnam. New York: Ivy Books, 1989.

Operating on four-to-eight-man teams, the patrols of Force Recon ventured far into the very backyard of the enemy, using tactics associated more with their adversaries than with the U.S. military. They were the eyes and ears of the units they served, and their operations were marked by close combat, extraordinary bravery, and nearly unbelievable survival despite overwhelming odds. While I was in Vietnam in 2005, I met a former Marine who is now a physician who served in one of these units.

Leahy, John B. Personal Items and Photographs. Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam: August 1967- September 1968.

This is a collection of photographs my father took during the war. All locations are along the De-Militarized Zone (DMZ), most notably Con Thien and "The Rockpile." Included in the pictures are geographical locations my father was stationed at, and my father and other marines, most notably Tom Berrigan, whose uncles, Phil and Dan, were Catholic priests most notably known for their anti-war demonstrations of burning draft cards ('Baltimore-Four,' 1967). The photographs also provide commentary from my father about each of the pictures, providing insight to what he endured during his time in Vietnam.

Leahy, John C. Personal Photographs. Vietnam: May-June, 2004 and April-August, 2005.

In 2004 and 2005 I traveled to Vietnam and was able to visit many of the places my father was stationed at, including both Con Thien and 'The Rockpile.' What makes these photographs more compelling is the fact that during my trips to Vietnam I was the same age as my father was during his time in Vietnam. The go to show not only how Vietnam has changed since the war, but also goes to show the different circumstances of our experiences in Vietnam.

I also have a collection of photos of medical delivery in Vietnam, as well as pictures of the 'real' Vietnam- a beautiful country no longer scarred by war, yet still ingrained in the minds of Americans as a war instead of a thriving country.

- Mangold, Tom and Jojhn Penycate. The Tunnels of Cu Chi: The Untold Story of Vietnam. New York: Random House, 1985.
The authors, BBC journalists, discuss the Vietcong who lived, worked, and fought in tunnels- particularly the ones in Cu Chi, a district just north of Saigon- as well as the U.S. Army "tunnel rats," who tried to explore and clear the underground cities.
- McCain, John and Mark Salter. Faith of My Fathers. New York: Random House, 1999.
An autobiography of Senator John S. McCain's life and his involvement in Vietnam. It provides a sobering insight into his personal stories as a POW at the Hanoi Hilton.
- Ninh, Bao. The Sorrow of War: A Novel of North Vietnam. New York: Riverhead Books, 1996.
This story is told through the eyes of a combat soldier for the North Vietnamese and his perilous struggle during the war. Juxtaposing battle scenes with dreams and childhood remembrances as well as events in Kien's postwar life, the book builds to a climax of brutality. The lost innocence of the men and women of Ninh's generation, and the sacrifices made aptly compare to "All Quiet on the Western Front." Because of the "inglorious" attitude of the book which questions the cause of North Vietnam, the book was initially banned in Vietnam.
- Norton, Bruce H. Force Recon Diary, 1969. New York: Ivy Books, 1991.
The riveting, true-to-life account of survival, heroism and death in the elite Marine 3d Force Recon unit, one of one two Marine units to receive the Valorous Unit Citation during the Vietnam War. Bruce Norton, leader of 3d Force Recon, recounts his team's experiences behind enemy lines during the tense patrols, sudden ambushes and acts of supreme sacrifice that occurred as they gathered valuable information about NVA operations right from the source.
- O'Brien, Tim. Going After Cacciato. New York: Broadway Books, 1979.
Going After Cacciato is a war novel and winner of the National Book Award for fiction in 1979. This novel is set during the Vietnam War and is told from the point of view of the protagonist, Paul Berlin. The story traces the events that ensue after Cacciato, a member of Berlin's squad, decides to go AWOL by walking from Vietnam to France, through Asia.
- - - . The Things They Carried. New York: Broadway Books, 1998.
Perhaps the most famous book describing the individual combat soldier's experience during Vietnam, O'Brien's story blends reality and truth with fact and fiction. This blend of storytelling allows O'Brien to portray "Vietnam" from multiple perspectives, each unique and compelling, which provides the reader with a glimpse into the world of a combat soldier. These individual stories of truth and non-truth help summarize the war itself; as a myriad between the known and unknown.

Pham, Andrew X. Catfish and Mandala. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1999.
This book is a modern-day American odyssey of a solo bicyclist's voyage around the Pacific Rim to his homeland of Vietnam. A narrative of the author's quest to discover his forsaken homeland and a search for a cultural identity.

Phillips, William R. Night of the Silver Stars: The Battle of Lang Vei. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1997.
William R. Phillips chronicles a desperate struggle for survival as the Green Berets held out against unrelenting fire from point blank range. Then, as the badly wounded Americans fought their way out of one death trap, they found themselves in another, still besieged with little hope for rescue.

Pisor, Robert. The End of the Line: The Siege of Khe Sanh. New York: Ballantine Books, 1982.
It was the most spectacular battle of the entire war. For 6,000 trapped marines, it was a nightmare; for President Lyndon Johnson, an obsession. For General Westmoreland, it was to be the final vindication of technological weaponry; and for General Giap, the architect of the French defeat at Dien Bien Phu, it was a spectacular ruse masking troops moving south for the Tet offensive. In a compelling narrative, Robert Pisor sets forth the history, the politics, the strategies, and, above all, the desperate reality of the battle that became the turning point of the United States's involvement in Vietnam.

Rowe, James N. Five Years to Freedom. New York: Ballantine Books, 1991.
Five Years to Freedom is a very graphic account of jungle captivity and all the horrors associated with it. This book is also a story of incredible courage, strength, endurance, and bravery. Very well written and inspirational, this book is perhaps one of the finest accounts of POW captivity ever written. Captured in 1963, the author successfully escaped from captivity in 1968.

Sheehan, Neil. A Bright Shining Lie: John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam. New York: Random House, 1988.
The story focuses on John Vann, an army colonel who arrived in Vietnam during the early stages of the war. Appalled by the South Vietnamese troops' unwillingness to fight and their random slaughter of civilians, as well as his own commanders' ineptitude, he flouted his supervisors and leaked his sharply critical assessments to the U.S. press corps in Saigon. Among them was Sheehan, a reporter for UPI and later the New York Times. Through interaction with Vann, Sheehan composed "A Bright Shining Lie," a monumental account of the Vietnam War and why America failed, winning the National Book Award in 1988, and a Pulitzer in 1989.

Sherwood, John Darrell. Fast Movers: Jet Pilots and the Vietnam Experience. New York: The Free Press, 1999.

The stories of several of the outstanding pilots of air campaigns in Vietnam, taken from both their recollections and transcripts of their on-site air-to-air conversations, generate a vivid sense of the sort of action they saw and the work they were asked to do.

Shore, Moyers S. The Battle for Khe Sanh. Washington, D.C.: History and Museums Division Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1969.

This is a unique account of the most famous and controversial battle of the entire Vietnam conflict. Likened to the battle of Dien Bien Phu which led to the French surrender in 1954, Khe Sanh was a remote Marine outpost at the end of 'McNamara Line' used to detect and counteract on troop movements along the Ho Chi Minh Trail; more importantly, it signified America's ability to hold strategic positions and effectively combat the enemy. The book, published just a year after the battle, provides a detailed account of the battle and the strategy used to defend the position.

Starr, Paul, with James Henry and Raymond Bonner. The Discarded Army: Veterans After Vietnam. New York: Charterhouse, 1973.

The Discarded Army is a troubling epilogue to the Vietnam War. Vividly documented by interviews with veterans who speak with startling candor about their experiences in Southeast Asia, Starr's report discloses the severe structural defects of the VA, explaining why it is so poorly equipped to handle the special needs of younger veterans, and offers suggestions for improving its wasteful machinery. Rejecting the images of the veteran as misfit and the veteran as hero, The Discarded Army calls for understanding without overstatement, respect without illusions, and help without condescension.

Swerdlow, Joel E. "To Heal a Nation." National Geographic. Vol. 167, No. 5. May 1985: 555-573.

This article is written only ten years after the collapse of South Vietnam and the ending of the war, which is still fresh in the minds of many Americans. This piece examines the steps taken to construct the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington. From conception and fundraising to picking the design and the tumultuous response that ensued, this article provides insight into all aspects of how America began to remember and reconcile with a war as divisive as Vietnam.

Turpin, Dr. James W, with Al Hirshberg. Vietnam Doctor. New York: McGraw-Hill, Inc., 1966.

Dr. Turpin headed two hospitals in Vietnam's Central Highlands for anyone who needed treatment - tribal Montagnards, Vietnamese villagers, even the occasional Viet Cong. This is his story of moving from the rural Southeast United States, to sunny and privileged life in San Diego, to the squalor of a Hong Kong slum and then onto the primitive rural highlands of South Vietnam.

"Voices of the Century: Americans at War," Newsweek. 8 March 1999: 58-67.

This issue of Newsweek is a compilation of stories from Americans involved in various conflicts throughout the 20th century. Chosen for the cover photo is again, David Duncan's photo of Cruz Acuna, the marine hunkered over in his helmet, staring into the camera. The Vietnam articles are a compilation of the entire war experience: GIs who were on the ground and nurses who helped heal the wounded, New York Times reporter David Halberstam, and prominent government figures Henry Kissinger and Gerald Ford. Perhaps the most intriguing piece is the short story written by Vo Nguyen Giap- Defense Minister and commander of North Vietnamese forces from 1946-1980, famous for defeating the French and Dien Bien Phu, and planning the Tet Offensive. Giap discusses his relationship with Ho Chi Minh, and the challenges faced during the war. This article provides insight to each person's unique perspective on the war, and their role in it.

Webb, James. Lost Soldiers. New York: Bantam Books, 2001.

This is a highly personal and empathetic look at today's Vietnam (particularly from the perspective of former South Vietnamese military personnel), a land of misery and inequity, yet one still vibrantly alive. The story follows the experiences of Brandon Condley, an ex-Marine whose job it is to find missing American soldiers, dead or alive. Condley is trying to track down Theodore Deville, an army grunt who not only deserted his unit in 1969 and killed a fellow serviceman, but then joined the ranks of the enemy.

Wolff, Tobias. In Pharaoh's Army: Memories of the Lost War. New York: Vintage Books, 1995.

The book chronicles the author's experiences as a US Army officer in the Vietnam war. The memoir includes a recollection of that battle as well as vignettes of various personal experiences, both in and out of Vietnam.

Zumwalt, Elmo Jr., Elmo Zumwalt III, with John Pekkanen. My Father, My Son. Macmillan Publishing Company: New York, 1986.

This is a personal account of a father-son connection to the Vietnam War. Elmo Sr. was an admiral in the United States' Navy and served as Chief of Naval Operations during the war. His son, Elmo III, served under his command as a swiftboat captain. In order to provide maximal security for swiftboats, Adm. Zumwalt ordered the spraying of chemical defoliants throughout the Mekong region of Vietnam. The defoliants, commonly known as "Agent Orange," likely led to the premature death of Adm. Zumwalt's son due to a rare cancer, and to the mental disabilities of his grandson, the son of Elmo III. It is a sad twist of irony that what was thought to be providing protection ended up leading to death roughly 20 years later.