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Things I'll Never Forget: Memories Of A Marine In Viet Nam



Synopsis

Things I'll never forget is the story of a young high school graduate in 1965 who faces being drafted into the Army or volunteering for the Marine Corps. These are his memories of funny times, disgusting times and deadly times. The author kept a journal for an entire year; therefore many of the dates, times and places are accurate. The rest is based on memories that are forever tattooed on his brain. This is not a pro-war book, nor is it anti-war. It is the true story of what the Marine Corps was like in the late 1960s, when the country had a draft and five hundred thousand Americans were serving one year tours in battle-torn South East Asia. If you served in Viet Nam you will want to compare your experience with the author's. If you know someone who went to Viet Nam, you will want to read for yourself what it was like. If you lost a loved one or friend in the war, you will want to read this and share it with others.

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Customer Reviews

As other reviewers have posted this is indeed a compelling must read and one that I too highly recommend. I would echo in complete agreement what other reviewers have posted about the

content. I too could not put it down. In particular the theme of things never forgotten and the way Mr. Dixon related later life events to what he experienced in Vietnam I found very moving. Particularly poignant for me was his concern for his mother and his downsizing experience near the end of the book. Life goes by fast enough but his 13 months in Vietnam had to have been a virtual lifetime in and of itself. As I post this the book is no longer available in the electronic format from Amazon and that is too bad. I must have bought it just before they stopped selling the Kindle version. I too found the format virtually unreadable on my Kindle Paperwhite but after reading the sample I bought it anyway. I tried it with the Kindle app on my iPad in portrait mode and with the exception of the chapter titles it was perfect. Easy to see and read. If it's still not available in the Kindle version as you read this buy the paperback. Either way the book is very well worth it and then some. Indeed it is a must read. Thank you Mr. Dixon for your efforts in writing it. It couldn't have been easy for you.

I just finished reading this book and wow. These guys had it rough. I really feel for the guys who served in Vietnam. It was a rough war and they were not being allowed to win it. It was a matter of survival more than it was trying to win or meet an objective. What I liked about this book, was the journey it takes you on from being a raw recruit to his training in the MPs prior to being deployed. Once they get to Vietnam, you can feel their pain of all the stupid stuff their officers and NCO's used to make them do. In Iraq, we had officers and NCOs who made us do a lot of similar stupid things as well so I can relate. I don't have much of a critique on the book other than it's real. It's a real story told by a guy who was there. Not someone doing research or writing a story about someone else. Dixon was there and he gives a good account of what he saw, how it made him feel, and what went on during his tour.

War Is Hell! ... as the saying goes. "Things I'll Never Forget" autobiographically chronicles the experiences of a US Marine "grunt" from boot camp through his tour of combat duty in Viet Nam. The book is an eye opener for those who have not experienced war from a soldier's perspective and a realistic reminder for those who have. The author weaves an enthralling story, often including ironic humor, of highs and lows in life and death situations of himself and fellow soldiers. The book is definitely 5 Stars!!

Not having been through Vietnam combat, I cannot speak to accuracy of this book. But I suspect that the author speaks the cold, hard truth of his experiences in the USMC and Vietnam life both in combat and in base. He provides the point of view of a real participant in this period of history,

without the romance. I was surprised by his disdain for his time in the Corps in country, but again it felt real. My motivation for reading this book was prompted by my father's service in the USMC, including Parris Island and Camp Lejeune 15 years prior to the author's journey. I was glad to get a glimpse of life in the Corps in the states. WWII ended before he ever had to ship overseas, so he was a non-combatant Marine..

I have great respect for the young men that served in the ground combat forces during the Vietnam War. For the most part, they believed they were serving their country and protecting their comrades while fighting the Viet Cong and NVA. In hindsight, the war was a disaster for the nation and as a nation we are still paying for the dishonest and inept waste of American youth and taxpayers money. However, at the time, these young men thought they were doing the right thing. As a Marine Corps veteran of twenty-six years, I understand it's culture and the effects it has on the young men that serves its rank and file. The Marine Corps as an institution, so thoroughly committed itself to the conflict and demanded so much from these young men. The results were that the Corps suffered more casualties during the Vietnam conflict than it did during World War Two. Few American citizens realize or even care about this fact. But the impact that it had on the generation of Ground combatants was profound and often damaging. This is the authors story. I'm proud of him for taking the time to share that story after so many years. Amazing recollection through the fog of age and good story telling. Only minor discrepancies with his memory. Duffel bags were seabags and there were never Marine Companies referred to as Juno Company. But he is spot on when those that have never served thank Vietnam era veterans for their service. Many feel insulted because of the treatment they received at the time of their return to the world. God bless them all.

Dixon wrote a great book. He connects with the reader immediately in describing his initial experience with Marine Recruit training with his humor and honest descriptions of who he was with and what happened. The story has his great sense of humor sprinkled throughout the beginning and middle stages of the book. When he and his buddies are sent from the MPs to the grunts for the last half of their 13 month tours, his experience remains riveting but becomes darker as he has to describe the horrors he saw take place. I prefer first hand accounts of Vietnam War experiences to historical accounts - this book is not a timeline of battles and their outcome on the war. Many of the movies made about the Vietnam war paint the men who had to fight it as monsters or criminals or lazy draftees. I think these accounts, especially Dixon's, give people who did not live in that time a better idea of who the soldiers were and what they saw.

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