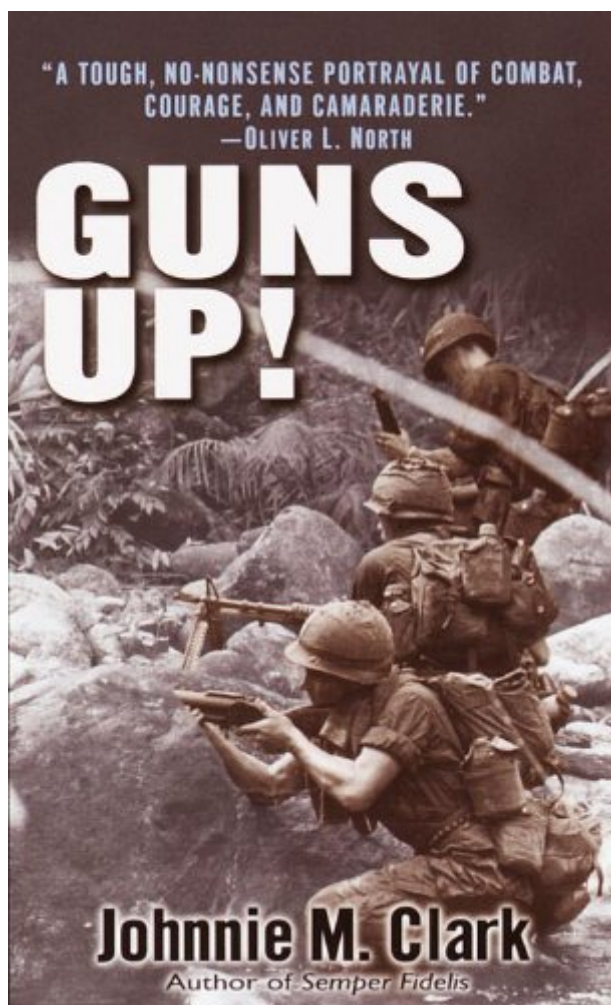


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Guns Up!: A Firsthand Account Of The Vietnam War



Synopsis

THIS GUT-WRENCHING FIRSTHAND ACCOUNT OF THE WAR IS A CLASSIC IN THE ANNALS OF VIETNAM LITERATURE. "Guns up!" was the battle cry that sent machine gunners racing forward with their M60s to mow down the enemy, hoping that this wasn't the day they would meet their deaths. Marine Johnnie Clark heard that the life expectancy of a machine gunner in Vietnam was seven to ten seconds after a firefight began. Johnnie was only eighteen when he got there, at the height of the bloody Tet Offensive at Hue, and he quickly realized the grim statistic held a chilling truth. The Marines who fought and bled and died were ordinary men, many still teenagers, but the selfless bravery they showed day after day in a nightmarish jungle war made them true heroes. This new edition of *Guns Up!*, filled with photographs and updated information about those harrowing battles, also contains the real names of these extraordinary warriors and details of their lives after the war. The book's continuing success is a tribute to the raw courage and sacrifice of the United States Marines. From the Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

This book is one of the best in describing the existence and survival of a combat veteran in Vietnam. I was a RTO roaming the hills around Dak To, Kontum during the Tet Offensive, and even though I was Army, life in the bush was the same. I was also wounded and received the Purple Heart.....but unlike some of my "brothers who gave all" I was able to return home. Mr Clark's account of the miserable life, and the constant fear in attempting to survive, is true to form. It was pure Hell!! Guns Up!... is a must read, especially for the cowards who ran to Canada, protested, and treated the returning soldiers like trash. Thanks you "brother" for telling your story. Sgt. Charles (Ed) Arter.....RTO... 62AlphaCharlie

Not buying that this is a true account of the author's experience in Vietnam. Sorry, Mr. Clark. I appreciate your service and the sacrifices you made for our country in a very bad time. But this book includes far too many truly improbable things (the pocket bible stopping a piece of shrapnel, the snakes dropping on top of you in the middle of a firefight), inaccuracies (electrical sparks will set off C4), and cliches that are found in novels and movies to have all happened to one private during the first few months of his tour. Once I realized that the narrative was merely a vehicle for evangelizing, I just put it down without any regrets and moved on.

All who went to Vietnam to fight that ugly war, with very few exceptions, deserve accolades and not the harsh criticism and treatment they got upon returning to their homes. Those that did not return are to me the reason why the USA remains a powerful unwavering force in this modern world, because soldiers like them gave there all for their country in a conflict where politics and military agendas were constantly in conflict. When I see a veteran proudly wearing a hat, or a shirt, or whatever proclaiming their participation in that unwanted conflict, I bow to the memories of all the wars dating back to World War I, World War 2 (specially daunting for those who took on the Japanese side of the war), knowing how many gave their lives while their families agonized every single day hoping for their safe return, which of course many never made it out of the foreign soils in which they had to fight. This book, following in the fine tradition of the US Military Forces, is a fine example of the day to day struggles to remain in one piece, for the foot soldiers are the ones that carry the hard task of venturing forward while the high command strategize and mobilize them by the thousands. There is humor (as much as humor can be found in a live or die daily situations in which they had to exist), there is camaraderie of a higher dimension of the short friendships that ignited in the heat of battle and the tragic way in which a lot of those friendships ended. The writer

has its own way of telling his story of that violent place that was Vietnam, and for readers who prefer non fiction, well, it doesn't get any more non fiction than this, where bravery of the American soldier surpassed all expectation many times over. Without disregarding the opposite side tenacious ways, my one sided review applies to this side of the war. Some volunteered, most were drafted and had no choice to go out there and fight, officers and enlisted men alike fought like one and in the process made clear to the world the American soldier is a deadly force to be reckoned with when provoked into battle. I like the book, and like all books about this subject, it has one common denominator and that is that the American flag has never been disgraced, either in wanted or unwanted wars. What a tragic war Vietnam was! I will always have a special part in my heart for one and all veterans in this country, and when sometimes I go to the Marine Base in Camp Pendleton and watch those fine men supporting that base and carrying on with their daily assignments, I say thanks a lot. Because regardless of how many were against this or any other war in which the American soldiers have taken part, one fact remains painfully clear: Without their participation, without their strength to support this country when the shit hits the fan, US would not be half the country it is now. When I hear the song played each time a soldier dies (Taps, Butterfield's Lullaby, and Days is Done, all one and the same) I know how grateful and proud I am to have known the best of people I have ever met, that most of them happened to be soldiers is no small coincidence. 4 Stars for the book, not enough stars to assign for the US soldier.

I really enjoyed reading this book. There was never a dull moment. A little suspense with each new chapter. Very informative about how living the daily life of a soldier in Vietnam went. It was a crummy war (every war is) but everyone should appreciate what all the military went through. They were doing what they were told to do. Not their fault. I also think this book was well written. An easy read.

Guns up! "Arty UP"! Sameo Sameo! Viet Nam "66" & "69"! Author and "Marine Clark" did a great job in telling of his time in country! To the point that I was re-living my tours there. Of course our minds make great "TV" sets! Even the name of the "Ville" "An Hoi"! Our last position was near "Hoi An"! One can tell that the author had to write this book for him to feel better because of his memories. Reading "Guns Up" brought mine to the fore front. It is a story that had to be written and read to help understand what our youth is living through fighting today's "War's"! It reminds us of the waste that has fallen on our "Country's" youngsters fighting the battles that have been waged since Viet Nam!

This is probably the best book on war and battle scenes I have ever read. We did a real disservice to the the men who came home from Nam. The way these men were treated when they came home was terrible. It was not their fault that the government got them involved in a war we never should have been in. Thanks for a wonderful book.

This should be a must read for youngsters running off to the so-called glory of war and marching bands, and ladies waving their handkerchiefs at the airport. Clark tells it like it - the sweat and dirt, mosquitoes and leeches, going days with sleep, and all the while knowing these are hundreds of enemies who would like to see you dead - and always the problem of "whose who?" In some of his accurate and precise narrative, I could feel the fear and apprehension, yet he and his comrades kept upholding the strength and traditions of the USMC. Imagine if you will, a very hot humid day and you have to haul around a M60 machine gun with extra ammo, and be ready in seconds when the leader yells "Guns Up!" People are counting on you for survival, and with that machine gun, your prospects of making it back to the World are very limited. For those critics in some of the previous reviews, you must imagine Clark as a teenager when he went off to war at the request of his country -not much more than a boy. This is a powerful book - I liked it. Highly recommended.

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