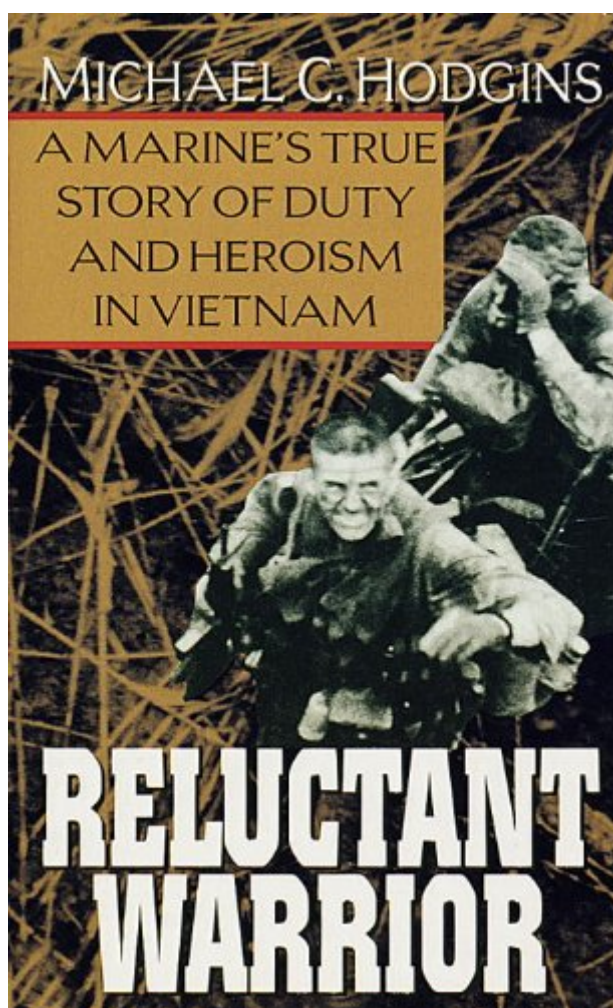


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Reluctant Warrior: A Marine's True Story Of Duty And Heroism In Vietnam



Synopsis

"ONE OF THE BEST VIETNAM WAR STORIES I'VE EVER READ, one damn good, compelling read. It's almost something out of a Clancy novel, yet it's true. The best thing I can say about it is I didn't want it to end."--Col. David Hackworth, New York Times bestselling author of *About Face* By the spring of 1970, American troops were ordered to pull out of Vietnam. The Marines of 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel "Wild Bill" Drumright, were assigned to cover the withdrawal of 1st Marine Division. The Marines of 1st RECON Bn operated in teams of six or seven men. Heavily armed, the teams fought a multitude of bitter engagements with a numerically superior and increasingly aggressive enemy. Michael C. Hodgins served in Company C, 1st RECON Bn (Rein), as a platoon leader. In powerful, graphic prose, he chronicles his experience as a patrol leader in myriad combat situations--from hasty ambush to emergency extraction to prisoner snatch to combined-arms ambush. . . . "THIS MEMOIR IS GRIPPING."--*American Way* From the Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

A well written account of a young Marine Mustang Officer's tour with Marine Recon. As a fellow Marine Mustang (now retired) I commend Mick Hodgins for his dedication, perseverance and leadership in a time when stupid decisions like the 100 Thousand Man Program was screwing over the services. When many officers were marked for elimination by stupid racist punks that should have never been in the military. This book is a very good account of recon in action and as someone who faced the NVA in Vietnam and also has read dozens of accounts of those who served I believe this is one of the best books I have read. It keeps one's interest throughout!

Great book , written by a Marine Officer, who served with a line Company in Vietnam and transferred to a Recon Unit. Very informative, very good book, and very factual. The book is about a Marine's experience and I highly recommend this book to anyone wanting to know, what happened behind the scenes, in planning operations. The author is brutally honest about other Officer's shortcomings and the reluctance of NCO's, to follow orders. He writes about war and being hampered by field grade Officer's failure to provide timely support for his units.

An Excellent Book. Easy to Read. You feel like you are there with the LT. You won't want to put the book down.

The best book on the history of men in Vietnam during the war I have ever read. Enter stage a "butter bar" and exit a skipper. When men call you skipper in the Corps there is no greater accolade and his men called him skipper even though was only a first lieutenant. They trusted him as a brother!!

This was a very interesting book about a Marine Lieutenant in battle numerous times in Vietnam. This was a very exciting story with lots of action and suspense. This guy was great as a leader of troops in a deadly battle with the North Vietnamese Army. Excellent read, thanks.

This is a great book and source of flashbacks for all Marines who served during the period covered. He describes several recon patrols in detail as well as life on an OP. You will feel you are right there with the 1st Recon warriors. I also enjoyed his descriptions of relatively unglamorous events like reporting in to a new unit, returning from R+R, and just blowing off steam at the club. Good stuff here. There are also many good lessons in small unit leadership. Land navigation, fire support planning, the troop leading steps, SMEAC, etc. "What now, Lieutenant?" still applies. I understand

that this book used to be on the CMC Reading List, but was removed. Well, it needs to be put back on there. Our current warriors will be well served to maintain contact with their reconnaissance heritage. Semper fi.

The story maintained a good narrative without drowning the uninitiated in jargon and "insider" talk. Could feel the heat, sweat, fear, and "on the fly" thinking. I enjoyed the book and joined in the frustrations of "going through channels."

Not a "pretty book" as some would like, but a story that brings the smells, sweat, and pain to the reader. The descriptions of the action are so real, that the reader (if a Viet Nam vet) finds himself holding his breath at just the right time! I actually listened for sounds, as the author described the events. Recommend it? FOR SURE to anyone that wants to get a better understanding of the trauma and frustration of the Viet Nam event!

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