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LIFE The Vietnam Wars: 50 Years Ago--Two Countries Torn Apart



Synopsis

LIFE covered just as vividly as the war in Southeast Asia, was waged on the campuses and at the conventions. In addition, Larry Burrows-the late father-in-law of LIFE Books' current Director of Photography-was the first photographer to document a war primarily in color, because LIFE had figured out how to accommodate more color pages with the new printing methods of the 1960s. The pictures are as arresting today as they were in their time, and all of that photography will be here in this stunning, commemorative volume. This special book will also include new interviews with veterans, a special photo essay on the history of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, a pictorial report on unified Vietnam today, a revisiting of LIFE's editorial treatment of the war, an account of legendary photographers (Burrows, Robert Capa) lost during the era in Southeast Asia (including a reminiscence by Burrows's son, Russell, and daughter-in-law, LIFE's own Bobbi Baker Burrows), a report on the other photographs that made history (Eddie Adams's execution shot, Nick Ut's "Napalm Girl," including Joe McNally's revisit with the grown woman in Canada, exclusively for LIFE).

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The editors have selected a superb collection of photographs commemorating all facets of what they correctly term the Vietnam wars. The photographs evoke the turmoil and pain that was Vietnam. There is also a brief text which includes some disputable facts and conclusions. Of necessity, in a brief work, it also includes judgements without important qualifications. Nevertheless,

the text is for the most part accurate and perceptive. This book is a fine means for remembering the times for those lived through them and a good introduction for those who have not.

Reading one of these books from Life can be risky. Some are very good, others are not! This book, however, fits into the first category. Life has in its archives magnificent photographs of the Viet Nam war taken by the truly talented photographers it employed in said country during the tragic war. I have read a previous book devoted exclusively to the wondrous photos of Larry Burrows. This book has works by Burrows and many other first rate combat photogs. The book captures the essence of these turbulent years in the USA and in Viet Nam itself. The photos remind the reader of the young ages of the participants who were sent overseas to thwart the odious Red Tide. These photographers were not embedded in units as they are now. Few filters or restrictions were put on their work. Their heroism in the quest for the truth for the world's viewing public is beyond belief. They sacrificed their lives in the name of journalistic integrity. The book also includes scathing indictments at the manner in which our young soldiers were welcomed back stateside. It points out, as we have come to know recently, that we as a nation are still remiss in our treatment of our wartime heroes. Not a terribly tough read. The photos themselves do most of the talking. The prose that does exist is for background info for those who know little of, or have forgotten about, this tragic episode in our wonderful nation's history.

There isn't a whole lot of information in this book it is not really a history book but it definitely is a picture book. It is definitely good for beginners it will walk you through the basics of the war. I especially liked the fact it has a section in the end talking with modern ppl on the war and how it impacted the military today. Pictures a plus charts a plus makes a great coffee table book.

Terrific! I found 3 ops I had involvement with and it sent shivers up my spine. There were others too but at different dates, same activity. I found myself ultimately in Laos following a downing of an H-34 with no survivors. Bird crashed in Thailand but that is the primordial soup from which novels arise.

Was looking for more pictures of combat units and Medevac extractions.

This book arrived to on time& in excellent condition. I found it very easy to read & very informative.

VERY REVEALING AND MAKES HISTORIC STATEMENT TO YOUNGER GENERATION.

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