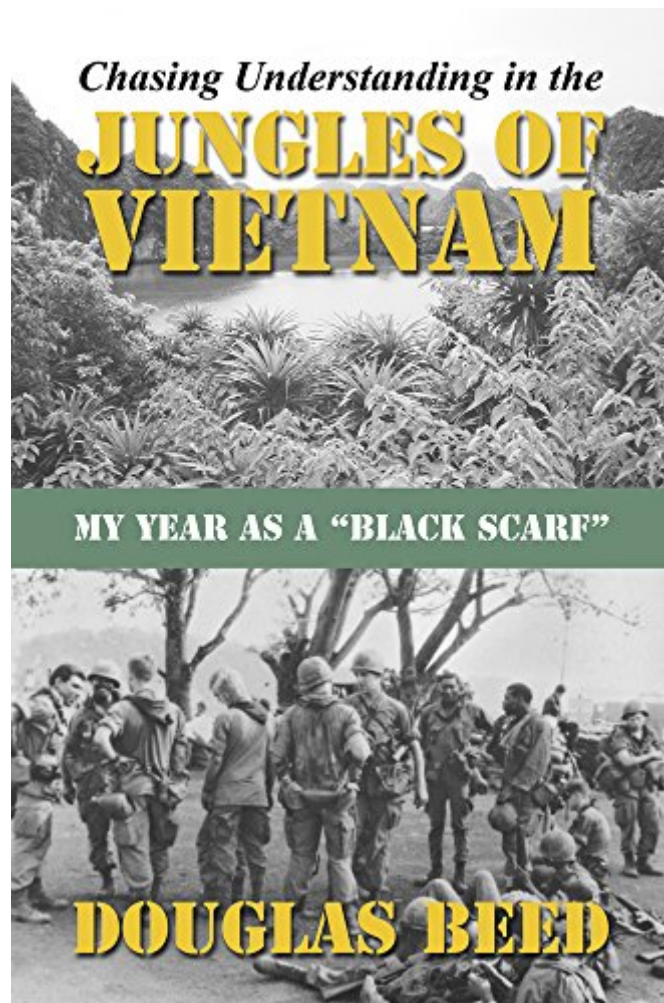




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# Chasing Understanding In The Jungles Of Vietnam: My Year As A Black Scarf



## Synopsis

Author Doug Beed relates his memories of the men and missions during his year (1968-69) as a combat soldier with the First Infantry Division in Vietnam. After two years of college he couldn't afford to continue so he was forced to relinquish his student deferment and enter the draft. He tried various strategies to get a non-combat job; nevertheless he ended up in the infantry and was assigned to Vietnam. The stories in this book depict the year Doug spent in Alpha Company where he spent days on patrols finding and killing North Vietnamese soldiers along the hundreds of miles of trails heading for the Saigon. These stories range from funny to tragic, from uplifting to extremely frustrating and from touching to horrifying. This book gives the reader a sense of life in the infantry in 1968 and 1969.

## Book Information

File Size: 3749 KB

Print Length: 292 pages

Publisher: Sunbury Press, Inc. (April 4, 2017)

Publication Date: April 4, 2017

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B06W9JVL6M

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #16,982 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #7 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Military & Wars > Vietnam War #11 inÂ Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders & Notable People > Military > Vietnam War #13 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Military > Vietnam War

## Customer Reviews

A very good read for someone wanting to know about everyday life of a "grunt" in Vietnam. My husband was in country about the same time as Douglas Beed and Joe Fair. He was in the 1/2, but he was Charlie Company. Keep up the good writing!

After reading this draftee's account of his Vietnam experience from draft notice to now, I felt like I had survived the experience as well. Well-written and attention-grabbing.

The author is one those grunts, our guys, whose experiences in the army and in Vietnam combat left him (secretly) enraged and suffering from PTSD....not that he knew this. And for decades these were major issues he needed to face. This book, frankly, at times reads like it was written as a series of 'assignments' from his therapists, to write about events in army life from which he could get in-touch with repressed memories and emotions, and then begin to deal with them. In making these exercises into a book, if this was the method, we are fortunate that we can hear this man's thoughts in the first-person, hear his descriptions of his experiences, and see how he and others have likely had to deal with them. It is very enlightening for me.

From the 11 series Rifleman, somewhat different than many of the books about being a VN War grunt. Most have focused on life in the north I and II corps where the topography and other conditions were quite different - including the danged French rubber plantations and the obscene 700\$US per damaged tree. Good read, especially in treating anger issues with the right tone white there against REMFs and jerks,

This book caught my attention from the beginning. It was hard to put down but I found I needed to take breaks from time to time because the account was so powerful. I lived during the Vietnam era, but never realized what the soldiers were experiencing. The issues of life in the bush go way beyond the killing--the guilt of survival, emotional deadness, suppressed anger, life with psychopaths, heat, cold, hunger, bad water, etc. How these damaged soldiers returned and lived somewhat normal lives is a mystery. Excellent writing, Mr. Beed.

The aria was about the places that I served. I was a lifer, but in the sense that the author of the book. We all trained in Hawaii With the 25th Infantry Division and went into Combat as a well train unit. I see the problem he encounter by not bing train as a unit. Most of my men were draftees and had no problems being a lifer.

I really felt drawn into how a young man drafted by the military felt going to Vietnam. I appreciate how honest Doug is with his experiences and emotions.

Thank you for sharing such trying times in your life. Very much appreciate the honesty and thank you for your service

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