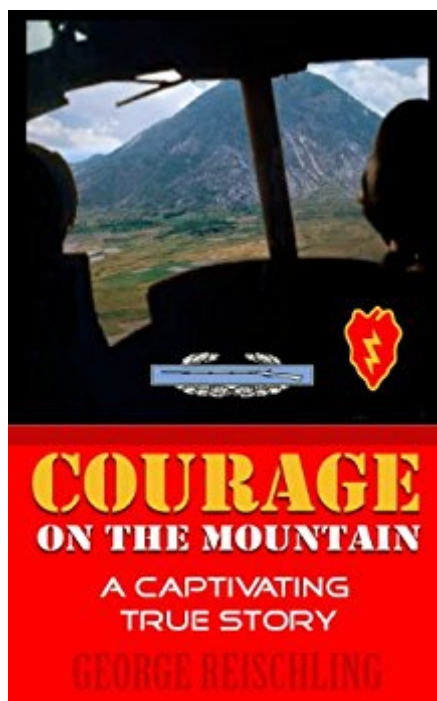


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# Courage On The Mountain



## Synopsis

Projecting skyward ominously 3200 feet above the surrounding flat jungle terrain towered a solitary goliath of a mountain shrouded with an ancient mystical legend and now an enemy stronghold. Nui Ba Dien or the "Black Virgin Mountain" served as a major staging area for the last finger of the infamous Ho Chi Minh trail as it crossed the Cambodian border just a few miles to the West. Honeycombed with hundreds of caves and fortified with elite NVA and Viet Cong soldiers, she stood as a "Thorn in the Side" of American military control of the region. The 25th Infantry Division held a communication site on her highest peak and also the land encircling her base but her slopes were voraciously defended by large numbers of elite enemy soldiers. Anytime any American unit undertook to engage her slopes, a hellacious battle was guaranteed with the "Angel of Death" always hovering near! These memoirs illuminate more than just the courage of battle but also the courage and inner strength that the soldiers of Vietnam had to shoulder upon their return home. Courage and dignity qualify all Vietnam Veterans such that the country that at one time turned their back on them now holds them in high esteem. This is my story, start to finish and it was written to enlighten the reader to a greater understanding of the American men and women and their struggles for survival in America's most unpopular war!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Although "Agony in Cambodia: A War Story" by Rod Keith is a fictional account of Special Forces action in the Vietnam War and "Courage on the Mountain" is a Non-fictional work, they are startlingly similar in their portrayal of the psychological impact of war and their attention to detail. They are both exceptional works and I recommend both wholeheartedly!

George's story is very personal and carries the reader through the highs and lows of being in a war zone. While "Courage on the Mountain" details his own unique experience, it reflects how many of us who served coped with being young in a distant land, relying on the relationships and bonds we forged with our fellow servicemen. The book illustrates how flawed many of the strategies and approaches to fighting a war that resulted in troops revisiting the same territories over and over again rather than fully securing the hamlets and villages and preventing the Viet Cong from re-establishing control. With that being said, the men and women who served in Vietnam were as patriotic as any and their commitment to achieving victory is reflected in their response to the missions they were called upon to complete. During the course of the book, George interjects some very heartwarming details of his encounters in Vietnam with individuals one would not expect to meet, including a sergeant that served under his father's command in WWII and his drill sergeant from basic training. For those who did not have the experience of serving in Vietnam, "Courage on the Mountain" serves as a reminder of the rejection Vietnam Vets experienced upon returning to the States. Returning from war and its physical and emotional scars are difficult for any individual; however, when compounded by the rejection of friends and family and lack of appreciation for their services makes the adjustment back to civilian life harder. George has had an opportunity to reflect on his service and come full circle and ultimately accepted that those were the times in which our destiny was written. This is an excellent book and is worth reading for those who served and for those who seek to understand what it was like serving at this important time in our history. George, thanks for your service!!!

Very interesting read. This is the type of book I wish my son would read. He is an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran suffering from PTSD. He was a combat medic assigned to a reconnaissance platoon. They took many casualties, putting him right in the middle of the aftermath of those casualties. I have tried to get him to write it all down, since I have read quite a few books like the

current one. In my simple way of seeing it, it appears to have some therapeutic power to help lessen the effects of the experience of combat. This book relayed an interesting story. But more so, maybe it can be used to get another suffering soldier to open up and relate their experiences rather than bottling them up. Thanks for the push.

I WOULD LIKE TO COMMEND GEORGE FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR CONTRY AND HIS SUPERB REVELATIONS OF COMBAT AND ITSAFTER EFFECTS. I WAS A CAPTAIN,SPECIAL FORCES TEAM LEADER, WHOS ALL VOLUNTEER PROFESSIONALS, WERE ONE OF THE1st TO PCS INTO TAY NINH PROVINCE NEXT TO THE MOUNTAIN AT TRANG SUP S.F. CAMP..IN EARLY 1965 FOR NINE MONTHS I LED( ADVISED) COMBAT PATROLS ALL OVER WAR ZONE C AND NEXT TO CAMBODIA.WE ALSO KEPT A CIDG CO. ON TOP OF THEMOUNTAIN FOR COMMUNICATIONS. AFTER MY DUTY,I RESIGNED FROM THE REGULAR ARMY AS I WAS POSITIVE MY LUCKHAD EXPENDED MANY TIMES OVER.I STILL REACT TO LOUD NOISES,GO INTO DEPRESSION HAVE PTSD,AND DRINK TOO MUCH- GREAT JOB, GEORGE FROM ONE WHOES BEEN THROUGH IT.....P.S.MY NAME IS JOE...THE ACT. IN MY WIFES!

Reischling brings all the drama and compassion of the war in Viet-Nam to the pages of his book *Courage on the Mountain*. I thought it was one of the most compelling and accurate writings on the war I have ever read.

I found it very close to homer. I server in this AO from 70-71 and the description of the mountain is very correct. I've had to land on the Black Virgin, the feeling is unique to that place alone. A GOOD READ FOR ANYONE WHO WANTS TO FIND OUT ABOUT THIS PERIOD OF AMERICAN HISTORY

George: I had to smile when reading your historical thoughts of your time in Sydney. I too was in Kings Cross..a year before..but also met a wonderful Aussie gal who I promised my return as she ran along side the bus crying in the early rainy morning...I never went back. What a great week it was.The book: Well written and provides the reader some insights into the life and thoughts of a draftee, 11B Infantryman fighting tough and season NVA in late 1969-1970. Well done, George.I left the Army after four years..obtained some degree education..went back in and retired just prior to 9/11. Worked contract in Afghanistan and Iraq..also spent 43 months in the Balkans 96-1999. Moved on to training the "good guys" in Africa with two tours in Southern Sudan and most recently

training in Uganda before my boys went to clean out the bad guys in Mog, Somalia. Your book brought back some smiles and memories of times passed but not forgotten...and certainly for those who paid with their lives..we shall never forget. Because when it came to humping the bush, fighting not only the terrain and the elements, but hard core NVA..we performed in an outstanding manner...time and time again all those who served should be rightly proud of their service. Thanks again/JRH

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