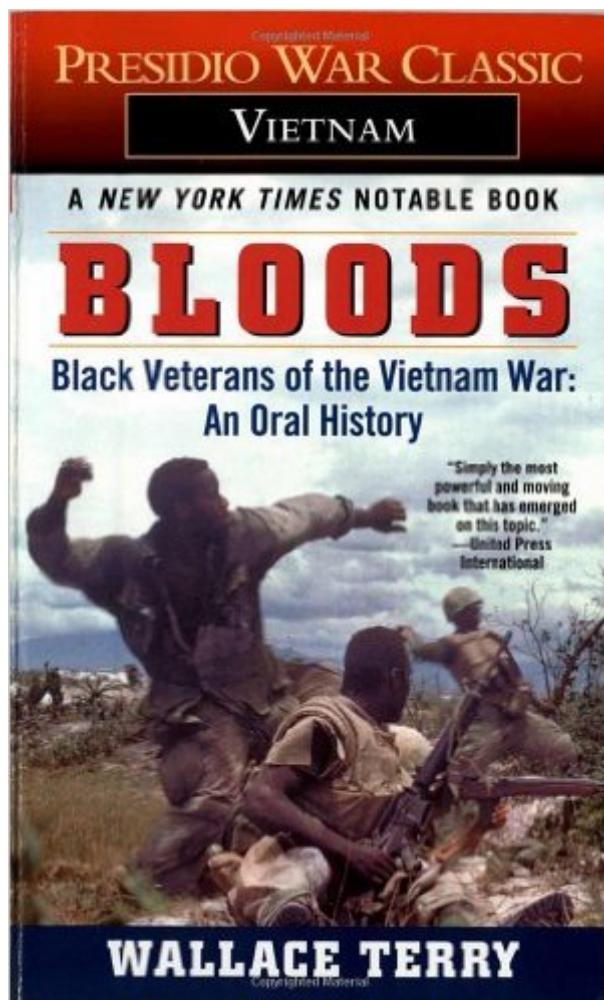


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# Bloods: Black Veterans Of The Vietnam War: An Oral History



## Synopsis

"Simply the most powerful and moving book that has emerged on this topic." UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL The national bestseller that tells the truth of about Vietnam from the black soldiers' perspective. An oral history unlike any other, BLOODS features twenty black men who tell the story of how members of their race were sent off in disproportionate numbers and the special test of patriotism they faced. Told in voices no reader will soon forget, BLOODS is a must-read for anyone who wants to put the Vietnam experience in historical, cultural, and political perspective. Cited by THE NEW YORK TIMES as One of the Notable Books of the Year "Superb." TIME

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews Â (73 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #4,459 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Â Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders & Notable People > Military > Vietnam War #5 in Â Books > History > Military > United States > Vietnam War #6 in Â Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Asia

## Customer Reviews

This is similar to Santoli's book regarding individual experiences in the Vietnam conflict. You definitely get a feel for the Vietnam experience, and it is very readable. The narratives portray the unique challenges of this experience, along with the added dimension of the race issue. The range of assessments of the racial issue was amazing and educational for me; some of the vets had active civil-rights values and even revolutionary values before getting to Vietnam, and some had little or no opinions regarding race relations despite the turbulent times. The great range of views regarding whites and the dominant U.S. culture, including government, was intriguing. The attitudes toward the Vietnamese, both North- and South-, also held great range, and was fascinating. This leads me to feel that the strength of this memorable book is the common experience conveyed simultaneously with the diversity of experiences and attitudes. My only disappointment was that I

could not tell the manner in which the narratives were elicited. Were these vets asked to describe their Vietnam experience? Were they asked to explain what it was like to be a Black soldier?

I would love to respond to all of the comments and customer reviews. My name is Traci Daniels, and my father Robert L. Daniels, one of the soldiers profiled in this book, just passed away on January 3rd, 2008. I was in the picture with him in the book and am now a 27 year old successful businesswoman. My father and I were fiercely close, and the pain, mental and physical anguish that he suffered due to Vietnam still lives on with the current conflict in Iraq. I, too, would also love to know what happened to some of the other participants in the book. Please respond if you are out there, and God bless you.

This book is on the "Recommended Reading List" of Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 295, Indianapolis, Indiana

If you really want the full story of the men and women who served in the Vietnam war, Wallace Terry's book is must be read. "Read it, share it, discuss it with other veterans, and put it on your library shelf." This fact filled story of black soldiers in Vietnam is gripping.

"Bloods: An Oral History of the Vietnam War by Black Veterans," by Wallace Terry, brings together the voices of 20 veterans. The book includes, as Terry notes in his introduction, "Enlisted men, noncommissioned officers, and commissioned officers. Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines." Also included are men who served time as prisoners-of-war. Altogether the time spent by these men in Vietnam spans from 1963 to 1973. This is a diverse and compelling collection of personal stories. The men in the book held a wide variety of military jobs in Vietnam, among them rifleman, combat engineer, medic, interpreter, combat photographer, electronic warfare officer, armorer, combat paratrooper, and more. The veterans discuss many topics: racism, interracial friendship and bonding, receiving and recovering from wounds, wartime atrocities, and post-Vietnam life. It's hard to pick out a few representative stories from this rich and rewarding collection, but I'll try. One man describes his work as an activist for incarcerated veterans after the war; another discusses becoming a champion amputee athlete after being disabled in Vietnam; another fondly remembers one of the war's military working dogs. Fred Cherry's graphic account of his suffering as a POW is devastating. Dwyte Brown's memories of the inland R&R spot-a "paradise"-make for an ironic and enjoyable contrast to some of the grimmer entries. And Sergeant Major Edgar Huff's chapter recalls

not just Vietnam, but a Marine Corps career that spanned three decades. Terry's text masterfully captures vernacular speech. I could really imagine these veterans speaking the words. The book also includes black-and-white photographs; a glossary of military terms, acronyms, and slang; and a chronology of the Vietnam War. Moving and powerful, "Bloods" is, in my opinion, an important contribution to the fields of African-American studies and military history.

Two hundred Vietnam veterans were asked to rank 100 novels and non-fiction books that came out of the Vietnam War. Five "oral histories" were in the top fifteen books. BLOODS was one of them. The other four? A PIECE OF MY HEART, EVERYTHING WE HAD, NAM: AN ORAL HISTORY and CASUALTIES. Get them.

These veterans offer an insight into the Vietnam War that is largely unclouded by racism, jingoism, or blind nationalism. Facing discrimination not just at home but on the front lines of the war, they understand the social forces that drove Cold War America and deliver some of the most raw and self aware war stories I've ever read.

As an honorably discharged Afro-American Army Veteran all I can do is thank God I served during the "Cold War" and did not have my humanity stolen from me by a "Hot" War...The racism/white supremacy these men experienced was still evident when I served but far less overt...The fact that only one of these stories has been made into a Major Motion Picture while The Madea Series of films continue to get green-lighted in Hollywood while ever increasing "Wars" of aggression are waged and or manufactures against people of color further illustrate what was true in the past, present, and future. "WAR IS A RACKET!"

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