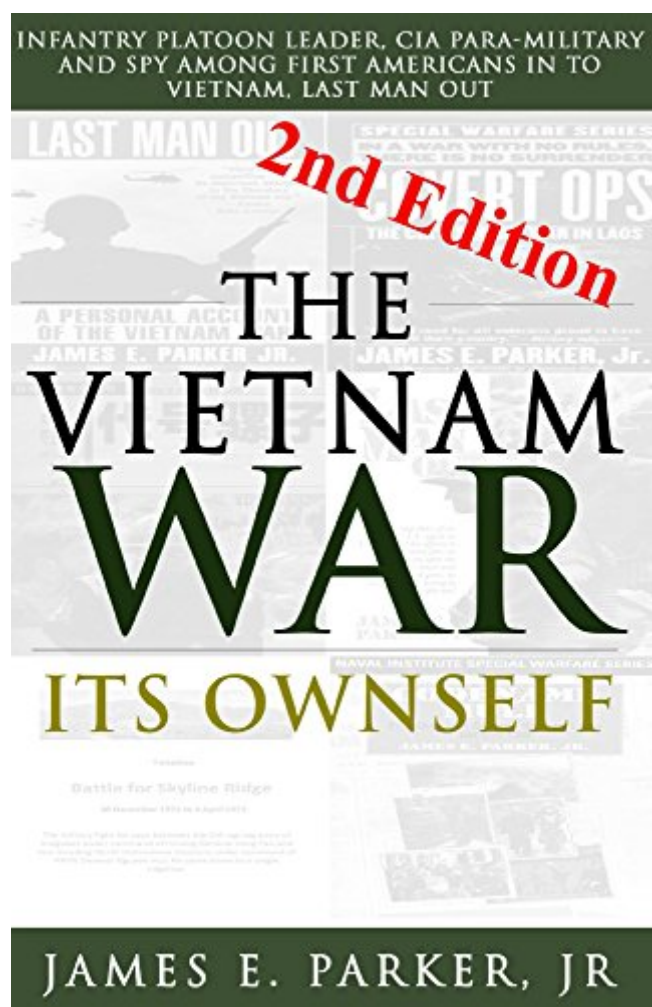


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The Vietnam War Its Ownself



Synopsis

Three million Americans served in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. This is the amazing story of one man who came early and stayed late. Jim Parker had 5 years on the battlefield, serving initially as a 22 year old 2nd Lt platoon leader with the 1st Division that gyroed over from Fort Riley. His battalion was the first to encounter the Cu Chi tunnels and months later led the 1st Division in the successful Minh Thanh counter-ambush. Wounded and honored for bravery, Parker returned to what appeared to be an ungrateful nation, married, returned to UNC/Chapel Hill and was recruited as a CIA para-military operative in August 1970. After a year of clandestine intel and para-military training, he was posted to Laos where he led Hmong guerrillas against invading North Vietnamese. After the Lao cease fire, he was transferred to the delta of Vietnam to work as a spy and to liaise with South Vietnam Army commanders there. He was the last man out of Vietnam, leaving two days after the American embassy was evacuated. He preludes his story with a history of South Vietnam and events that led to the US military involvement. He pulls no punches in pointing out US policy maker mistakes in laying out the battlefield and developing strategy. In his own sometimes easy gaited southern story-telling style, he salutes brave soldiers who tried to stop the spread of communism in Southeast Asia and laments the death of so many gallant Asian allies who died fighting at his side, others who stayed behind at the end. It is a story full of adventure, history and, juxtaposed to the catastrophic horror of war, great humor. Readers will meet amazing men and women and share their concern for one another as they fought against a fanatical communist enemy. The book has excerpts from Parker's previously published Last Man Out, Codename Mule and the Battle for Skyline Ridge, with new transitional stories and additional details. Good Entertainment. Insightful History. Memorable reading.

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Customer Reviews

Full disclosure - I know Mr. Parker, having served with him overseas. I knew he could spin a fascinating folksy tale. But this book goes much further. Mr. Parker has a unique perspective on the Vietnam war having served there both as an infantry officer and as a CIA operative. And for being one of the first in and last out. This is a definitive history told by a master storyteller. Mr. Parker includes some humorous background, immediately recognizable to anyone who has served in the field. But at the core he captures the essence of combat engagements as he tells of his experiences as a young infantry lieutenant, through the battles he engaged in wearing his CIA hat, and the final, desperate evacuation from Vietnam. For military historians and students of Vietnam this book will be a valuable part of their library.

I am presently reading Jim Parkers book on the war and recently heard him speak on two occasions. I enjoy reading about the Vietnam war but I didn't go to war. Parker did. So did Richard Bridges who is described as a former CASI pilot during the "US war efforts"...for eight years! His unedited review is provided by me below as a favor to him due to computer or registration difficulty.

- Steve"Recently having completed James Parker's "The Vietnam War Its Ownself", I'll offer a few words on his book, a brief message based not only on reading his recently released production, but also from the perspective of one who spent eight years as a pilot in Indochina during the era of the US war efforts. Like many, Jim's book concerning the war in Indochina, isn't the first I've read on the subject, but his broad, lengthy and personal experiences in that theater, the perspective from which it's written, its factual accuracy - starting with the history that eventually brought about the French, then the US involvement in Indochina - his choices of what to include in the book concerning the war era and his personal experiences, make for a first class read, one written by a talented author who obviously put a lot of time, effort - and heart - into an excellent production, the best I've read, by far."

The Vietnam war from beginning to end has rarely been written about in such an exceptionally readable manner. There are historical details to include dates, locations, photographs and personalities that will be remembered far longer by the reader than any other history of this war because of the author's superb ability to tell a tale of conflict in very human terms and with the compassion and understanding that only personal experience can lend to such an endeavor. There are many stories about the Vietnam war that will never be told but the author has provided one that will become a touch stone for not only future generations but for those who served there as well.

Superbly & thoroughly written by one of the living legends of the Central Intelligence Agency - Code name "Mule!" This book ranks right up there with Guy Sager's World War II classic: *Forgotten Soldier*. I first heard of "Mule," otherwise known as James Parker Jr., on the South Texas border from his Air America acquaintances whose services he often utilized in Laos. This memoir should be on the Best Seller list of the N.Y. Times but we all know what the Times is all about so that explains that. When tens of thousands of worthless hippies were smoking dope and living the free love good life in America, all while avoiding the draft & not giving a s*** about who had to replace their shiftless asses, this mountain of a man was serving his country for many years in the war torn regions of South East Asia, namely Laos & Vietnam. You owe it to yourselves to buy & read this incredible true story of what life was like living among the bravest of the brave. All in a world where we now find that it is entirely legal to wear medals that you have not earned. What a crying shame to sow such dishonor on a man like this! Buy it! Read it!

Highly recommended edition that combines and blends what Parker has produced about his experiences in Indochina during the 60s and 70s. Parker has greatly expanded on the fighting in northern Laos during early 1972, where he gives his first-person perspective to the harrowing battle for control of Skyline Ridge overlooking the CIA nerve center at Long Tieng. An excellent edition to anybody's collection of books on the Vietnam War and CIA paramilitary operations.

The latest and best personal narrative on Vietnam yet, just in time for the 40th anniversary of the fall of SVN next month! The unique perspective is no doubt due to the author's unique history in the war. Very few were there both at the start in '65 and at the end in '75. It is unlikely that anyone else in between was also a CIA leader of bareboot Hmong guerrillas who successfully defeated the well-equipped NVA divisions in the secret war in Laos. Much has been added to his previous work to make it a complete study and a 'must read.' The style is very readable and enjoyable, something

taken from every page. Rereading now. Highest recommendation and hand salute!

Ian Fleming could have written a great Bond novel about James Parker's life experiences. James Parker (Mule) records his activities during our conflict in Asia. He was active as a soldier, CIA asset and, most importantly, a patriotic American, serving in both Laos and Vietnam. While his personal adventures make a great read, his empathy for those allies left behind make him a great human being. This is one man's understated history or personal involvement and dedication.

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