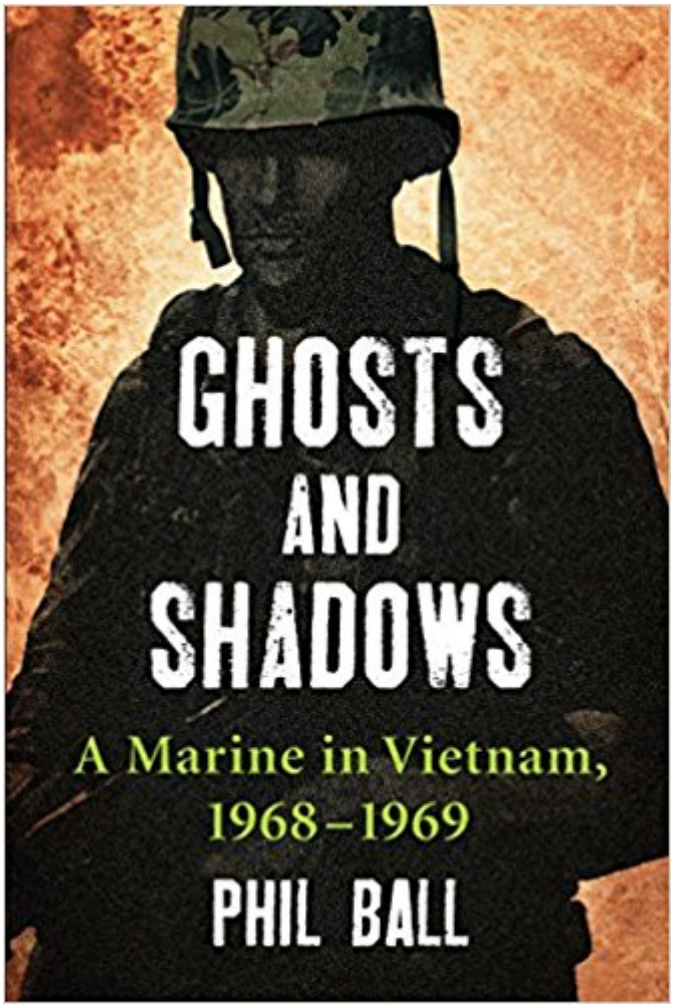
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Ghosts And Shadows: A Marine In Vietnam, 1968Ã¢â‚¬â€œ1969



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Synopsis

The author arrived at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego ill-prepared for the training and abuse that awaited him in boot camp. At the time, he would have done anything to escape; only upon reflection years later did he realize that the self-confidence instilled in him by his drill instructors had probably saved his life in Vietnam. A few months after boot camp, Private Ball was shipped out to Vietnam, joining F Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, near Khe Sanh. As a grunt, in the vernacular of the Corps, Ball, like the other youths of F Company, did a difficult and deadly job in such places as the A Shau Valley, Leatherneck Square, the DMZ and other obscure but critical I Corps locales. HisÃ¢â ¬â •theirÃ¢â ¬â •fear of death mingled with homesickness. Little did they realize that the horrors of the Vietnam WarÃ¢â ¬â •horrors that while in-country they often claimed did not even existÃ¢â ¬â •would haunt them for the rest of their lives.

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Customer Reviews

As a Vietnam vet myself (1966-1967) I have read quite a few books and memoirs written by other

Vietnam vets. Sadly, most are poorly written and poorly edited, if they are edited at all. And even when the underlying story may indeed be compelling reading, because of the poor writing/editing, it is difficult to stick with most of these books.Mr. Ball's Ghosts and Shadows certainly is an exception to this general rule! His book is well written AND edited. The story he tells is compelling, engaging and testament to his ability to overcome incredible odds and challenges, both while in combat and a lifetime that was later negatively influenced by his combat experiences.I, too, was a Marine in Vietnam, but my role was as a door gunner in a CH-46, not as a grunt, like Mr. Ball. The squadron I was in supported grunts in the field many times, of course, but my combat experiences significantly pale in comparison to his. After interacting with grunts at various levels and in various situations while in Vietnam, rarely did I not thank God that I hadn't been called upon to shoulder their day-to-day burdens andongoing horrors.I salute Mr. Ball for his service and applaud his ability to ultimately get his life back on track once he returned to "the world."If you really want to know and understand the tremendous sacrifices our Marines and soldiers made each and every day during a tour in Vietnam, then pick up Ghosts and Shadows. A GREAT, inspiring read!

As a Vietnam Veteran myself, I was very unpressed by this book. It is very well written and it flows very smoothly. There was enough detail about the battles without going into a blow by blow narrative. There was enough description about the wounds but only about the authors closest friends. Thus these wounds had a big impact on the author. As a reader you can see the transition of the main character, the author, from a nervous new guy to a cold, confidant old salt who is haunted by all the death and all the fear of dyeing as a result of the combat. The author described his feelings, his fears and his anger very well. He also described his return to the United States extremely well and as veteran myself I could appreciate his situation. He described the frustration and anger that returning veterans felt toward family, friends and country. His journey through the maze that is the Veterans Administration was very revealing. Finally, I must thank the author for putting our plight into words, for letting us know that we are not alone and for letting us know that he went through the same feelings and had the same thoughts, in different degrees, that we all did. Thank you.

Nice junior Grunt review of his tour in northern I-Corps Vietnam. His tour adventures besides the enemy build-up included the problem of dealing with trouble making Blacks who were aroused and misguided stemming from the shooting of Martin Luther King. King's death was the day before I ended a tour in Vietnam I-Corps and where before life in the bush was never a walk in the park it

became even worse because of the Black troublemakers who we were finally rid of in the mid-70's due to improved leadership and guidance that allowed us to admin them out quicker than going through the court martial proceedings. Their service tarnished the great service of so many African-Americans who served before them.Phil Ball touches upon the above problems as he weaves his story which was very well written and interesting. It wasn't self-serving like somany Vietnam books but what I consider an honest look into a Marine infantryman's life in the field. I enjoyed reading the book andcongratulate e Phil. Bell for serving, surviving the mental results of the hardships and gut retching experience of Vietnam and going on to abuild a life again afterwards.

Very personal, very insightful, and very honest book about his time in Vietnam. He tells it like it is and holds nothing back. He made his share of mistakes and paid dearly for it. He wrote a rough book, about a rough time, as a grunt and this in and of itself is meaningful. I recommend this book, welcome home marine.

This authors writing explained in depth facts and feelings I've held and delt with since 1970. PTSD is no joke, as I know like he first hand. After our combat experience and returning home, the author reacted the way most we all felt and a lot of us did. Thank you my friend for writing the truth and freeing my Ghost, and my soul from hidden truths.Semper Fi

good story... This story is a good representation of a Marine in Vietnam. My husband related to the boot camp experiences, and the skirmishes in country. Well written, and has deep feelings. This straightforward tale is true to the day, and not full of excess information. A good accounting of daily life in the horrors of war. R.I.P. Phil. Semper Fi.

A good, honest account of an everyday grunt who was subject to the horrors of battle in Vietnam. Phil Ball doesn't describe himself as a super hero Rambo but serves with distinction, and participates in some major battles he and his U.S.M.C. unit fought in I Corp in 1967-1968. As a result he's affected with PTSD which is instrumental in his non adjustment to life following his Vietnam experience. He's a normal, well adjusted 18 year old kid going into the marines and an emotional wreck when we is finally discharged from the service. Ball gives you an honest account of an everyday, mid-west kid going into the marines and fighting for his country, only to emerge as a confused, shattered wreck. This is a different book than what is normally is presented by those who fought in Vietnam and well worth the read.

Mr. Ball holds nothing back, you feel like your with him during his time in Vietnam, the stress, fear the friendships, and the horror of war. He also tells of the battles to come to grips with inner demons that are by products of combat. Thank you for your story.

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