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"Rocks And Fists:" Decimating The 141st NVA Regiment



Synopsis

During Tet, 1969, the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines cornered and crushed an elite North Vietnamese Army unit in a series of brutal battles marked by hand-to-hand combat and repeated assaults against a determined and entrenched enemy. The valor of Marines and Navy corpsmen was a common occurrence and resulted in a Medal of Honor, two Navy Crosses, the country's second highest award for bravery, and numerous Silver Star Awards. This is truly a tale of the grit of the individual Marine rifleman. Although the set piece battles pitting platoons and companies against superior enemy forces eventually carried the day, it was really the work of squads and fire teams up to and during the early stages of the engagement that unsettled the NVA and made it hard to marshal their forces. In addition to the combat during Tet, this work briefly examines the never-ending patrolling strategy of 1969 and how Marines employed the technology of the time, including parts of McNamara's infamous defensive barrier, to turn the area south of Da Nang into a killing zone for any NVA venturing into the battalion's area of responsibility.

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Customer Reviews

While the Vietnam War after the pivotal 1968 Tet Offensive is known for the ultimate American defeat, "Rocks and Fists" shows how the Americans, the Marines near DaNang, kept fighting hard and defeated an elite North Vietnamese regiment in 1969 despite the trend toward a U.S. withdrawal from South Vietnam at that time. Terry Williamson's work draws from Marine veterans' accounts as well as the official records in chronicling how aggressive Marine unit relentlessly attacked a tough NVA regiment and mauled it into impotence. Particular attention is given to the efforts of the Marines who were decorated for their heroic actions, especially the efforts of one Marine who posthumously received the Medal of Honor.

A short, well-written history of 3rd Bn, 7th Marines in combat during the "mini-Tet" offensive of 1969 written by a Marine officer who was there. This excellent book will tell you what it was like to be a Marine infantryman in Vietnam. It would have benefited from tighter editing of a few typos and eliminating the switches from past to present tense in the narrative, but these are minor flaws in an account of battle and heroism that will stay with you. Marines and military history buffs will especially appreciate it. I read it on Kindle, but it's available in paperback as well. I highly recommend it. Robert A. Hall
Author "The Coming Collapse of the American Republic

An outstanding account of a Marine infantry battalion engaged in a week-long battle with a seasoned North Vietnamese regiment. Author Terry Williamson vividly describes the intense firefights—“at times fought hand-to-hand”—and the bravery shown by dozens of Marines from four companies of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Regiment at An Tan Ridge and surrounding rice paddies along the Song Thuy Loan. Williamson brings the reader into the fight to the point one can almost smell the cordite, feel the mind-numbing heat, and hear the screams of the wounded and dying.

The reason for only 4 stars for a 5 star look back into history is the book is written play by play and doesn't have the best flow. It is a short book but it does get across the battles and the good news and bad news of the KIA losses. My hat is off to all of them and Semper Fi. RVN 69-70 Semper Fi

I was in the unit that planted sensors around the DMZ known as McNamaras Line. Some say it wasn't very effective but it was the main reason KheSamh wasn't overrun. We lost twenty one men

from our unit in the process.

As one Marine in Mike Company, I had no idea all of this was going on around me. The book was an eye opener for me and yet it explains the action very well from where I was located. It was a very large encounter with the NVA, covering a lot of territory and the story is well told!

"Rocks and Fists" is a stirring memorial to the men in his battalion. The focus of a major attack was right on their area of responsibility and they fought tenaciously to hurl back a determined attack. Their success was due to some very courageous and inspired fighting. This was accomplished at all levels of the unit structure. It is a case in point of Semper Fidelis. Thanks Terry for being faithful to these astounding Marines by recording for us and them and their posterity the reality of the major victory they won. Vic Ludlum Bravo 1/4

The telling of 'Our' story as told by Terry Williamson also brought the Historical and Geographical points in regards to our enemy and the brutality of War....Good read... Thank's to the Author Jim Trenam. Lima Co 3rd Battalion 7th Regiment

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