

Selective Bibliography

And If I Perish: Frontline U.S. Army Nurses in World War II

Evelyn M. Monahan, Rosemary Neidel-Greenlee

A laudatory account of the plucky American women—nearly 60,000 of them—who served in and near combat zones in the Mediterranean and European theaters of war from 1942 to 1945. [The Authors] spent a dozen years tracking down and interviewing scores of former frontline army nurses. Their personal recollections are interwoven with historical records to form a narrative that places their experiences into the larger story of the war itself. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Pub. Date: November 2003 **Publisher:** Alfred A. Knopf, Inc

Fodor's Exploring Vietnam, 2nd Edition

Fiona Dunlop

Covering destinations around the world, these guides are loaded with photos; essays on culture and history, architecture and art; itineraries, walks and excursions; descriptions of sights; and practical information.

Pub. Date: March 2002 **Publisher:** Mckay, David

Gender Camouflage: Women and the U. S. Military

Francine D'Amico, Laurie Weinstein (Editors)

Analytic chapters are juxtaposed with first-person narratives by women who have actually been there, including a member of the first gender-integrated class at West Point, the first female civilian instructors at the U.S. Naval Academy, and an African American Air Force Nurse Corps veteran. Contributors consider nurses, servicewomen, military academy students, female veterans, lesbians, military wives, women employed by the Department of Defense, and female civilian military instructors whose work is less visible but no less essential to the institution. The book also examines the experiences of women outside of the military, such as “comfort women” near U.S. bases, women engaged in peacework, and women workers affected by military spending in the federal budget. (*New York University Press*)

Pub. Date: January 1999 **Publisher:** New York University Press

Home before Morning: The Story of an American Nurse in Vietnam

Lynda Van Devanter

At least 1 out of every 4 woman Vietnam Vet sites Van DeVanter's story as the first step on their journey to healing. “This incredible story, which plunges us immediately into the bloodiest aspects of the war, is also a suspenseful autobiography that will keep you chewing your fingernails to see if Van Devanter survives any of it at all. She proves herself a natural storyteller. . . . The most extraordinary part in this book is Van Devanter's plight after the war—her attempt to retrieve the love of her family, only to realize they don't want to see her slides, hear her stories; her assignment to menial duties at Walter Reed Army Hospital. . . . How Van Devanter survives all of this to become, incredibly, a stronger person for it is what makes her book so riveting.” (*San Francisco Chronicle*)

Pub. Date: April 2000 **Publisher:** Greenleaf Book Group, LLC

Lover

Marguerite Duras, Barbara Bray (translator)

Set in the pre-war Indochina of Marguerite Duras' childhood, this is the haunting tale of a tumultuous affair between an adolescent French girl and her Chinese lover. In spare yet luminous prose, Duras evokes life on the margins of Saigon in the waning days of France's colonial empire, and its representation in the passionate relationship between two unforgettable outcasts.

Pub. Date: September 1998 **Publisher:** Knopf Publishing Group

The Other Side of Heaven: Post-War Fiction by Vietnamese and American Writers
Wayne Karlin, Le Minh Khue, Vu Truong, Le M. Khue, Truong Vu (Editors)

These stories represent the "second wave" of fiction--works about the aftermath of the Vietnam conflict as it moved into both countries, touching and forever changing not only the veterans, but also their families and their societies. Contributors include John Edgar Wideman, Larry Brown, Robert Olen Butler, Philip Caputo, Bobbie Ann Mason, Ngo Tu Lap, Tim O'Brien, and others.

Pub. Date: September 1995 **Publisher:** Curbstone Press

Patriots

Christian G. Appy

Christian G. Appy's monumental oral history of the Vietnam War is the first work to probe the war's path through both the United States and Vietnam. These vivid testimonies of 135 men and women span the entire history of the Vietnam conflict, from its murky origins in the 1940s to the chaotic fall of Saigon in 1975. Sometimes detached and reflective, often raw and emotional, they allow us to see and feel what this war meant to people literally on all sides—Americans and Vietnamese, generals and grunts, policymakers and protesters, guerrillas and CIA operatives, pilots and doctors, artists and journalists, and a variety of ordinary citizens whose lives were swept up in a cataclysm that killed three million people. By turns harrowing, inspiring, and revelatory, *Patriots* is not a chronicle of facts and figures but a vivid human history of the war.

Pub. Date: September 2004 **Publisher:** Penguin

The Pentagon Papers

George C. Herring (Editor)

This book provides a brief and manageable collection of the most important documents on U.S. policymaking in the Vietnam War between 1950 and 1968.

Pub. Date: January 1993 **Publisher:** McGraw-Hill Humanities/Social Sciences/Languages

Piece of My Heart: The Stories of 26 American Women Who Served in Vietnam

Keith Walker; Foreword by Martha Raye

The inspiration for Shirley Lauro's play "Records the memories of a war in the words of those women courageous enough to walk into hell." (San Francisco Chronicle)

Pub. Date: March 1997 **Publisher:** Ballantine Books, Inc.

Quiet American

Graham Greene

While the French Army in Indo-China is grappling with the Vietminh, back at Saigon a young and high-minded American begins to channel economic aid to a 'Third Force'. Fowler, a seasoned foreign correspondent, observes: 'I never knew a man who had better motives for all the trouble he caused.' As young Pyle's policies blunder on into bloodshed, the older man finds it impossible to stand aside as an observer. But Fowler's motives for intervening are suspect, both to the police and to himself: for Pyle has robbed him of his Vietnamese mistress.

Pub. Date: September 1991 **Publisher:** Penguin Classics

The Stars, the Earth, the River: Short Stories

Le Minh Khue, Wayne Karlin (Editor), Bachoi Tran (Translator)

As a journalist who covered the Vietnam War and its aftermath, Khue has witnessed her compatriots at their noblest and most venal. Khue is fascinated by the odd contradictions in human nature, particularly those that are tragic and self-defeating. She is as deft at evoking the bonds of sisterhood among three teenage girls working as North Vietnamese sappers during the war as she is at portraying the fratricidal envy that erupts between the families of twin brothers. Measuring her culture against an alien and invasive Western one, she distills both, able to see alike their uniqueness and commonality. The stories never blame savagery on poverty or deprivation, arguing instead that human character matters.

Pub. Date: April 1997 **Publisher:** Curbstone Press

They Marched into Sunlight: War and Peace in Vietnam and America, October 1967

David Maraniss

On October 17 and 18, 1967, a tragic ambush of American soldiers occurred in Vietnam, while at the same time a sit-in at the University of Wisconsin against Dow Chemical, the makers of napalm and Agent Orange, turned violent. Maraniss (First in His Class: A Biography of Bill Clinton) vividly portrays these contrasting events as metaphors for how the United States failed its soldiers in Vietnam and how deeply the war scarred American society. The home-front story includes interesting accounts of how protesters were angered by the university's soliciting federal funding for projects that would benefit the military. But the most gripping stories from the 180 interviews Maraniss conducted are about the officers and enlisted men who were killed in the attack or suffered severe wounds, both physical and emotional, they have spent the last 35 years trying to heal. The reader will feel rage at the high-level officers who tried to spin the massacre into an American victory. Maraniss concludes with a moving reunion in Vietnam between American and Vietnamese commanders on both sides of the attack. This lengthy narrative keeps the reader engrossed throughout. (*Library Journal*)

Pub. Date: October 2004 **Publisher:** Simon & Schuster Adult Publishing Group

The Things They Carried

Tim O'Brien

In 1979, Tim O'Brien's *Going After Cacciato* -- a novel about the Vietnam War -- won the National Book Award. In this, his second work of fiction about Vietnam (considered by many the quintessential fictional account of the war), O'Brien's unique artistic vision is again clearly demonstrated. Neither a novel nor a short story collection, it is an arc of fictional episodes, taking place in the childhoods of its characters, in the jungles of Vietnam and back home in America two decades later.

Pub. Date: December 1998 **Publisher:** Random House

The Tunnels of Cu Chi

by Tom Mangold

The authors, BBC journalists, discuss the Vietcong who lived, worked and fought in tunnels particularly the ones in Cu Chi, a district just north of Saigon as well as the U.S. Army "tunnel rats," who tried to explore and clear the underground cities.

Pub. Date: February 1997 (reissue) **Publisher:** Berkley

Visions of War, Dreams of Peace: Poetry

Lynda Van Devanter, Joan Furey (editors)

A collection of poetry from women vietnam veterans, women's concerns are universal: Lily Lee Adams states that "Being a vet/ Is like/ Losing a baby"; Dana Shuster ironically asks, "What do you pack/ to take to a war?" These are the nurses and entertainers, women America did not want to accept as veterans, many of whom kept their war memories secret until now. Few have received any recognition as writers, yet two poems included by Grace Paley seem weak by comparison with works by Sharon Grant, Marilyn McMahan, or the poets quoted above. Most poems here were written in the 1980s yet speak in the present tense--long enough after the fact, perhaps, that pain and memory can be transformed into art.

Pub. Date: September 2004 **Publisher:** Warner Books, Incorporated

White House Years

Henry Kissinger

Pub. Date: January 1999 **Publisher:** Little, Brown & Company