

# **Unveiling the Untold Stories: Marine Officer's Second Tour in Vietnam 1968-1970**

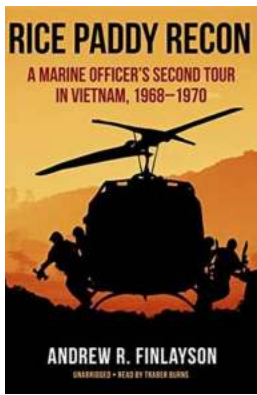
## **The Crucial Role of Marine Officers in Vietnam War**

The Vietnam War was an intense and complex conflict that lasted for over a decade. It left an indelible mark not only on the Vietnamese people but also on the soldiers who fought there. Among them, Marine officers played a pivotal role, leading their troops through challenging situations and often putting their lives on the line for their country. In this article, we will delve into the experiences of a marine officer during his second tour in Vietnam from 1968 to 1970.



## **The Arrival: A Glimpse into the Reality of War**

This marine officer's second tour began in 1968, a critical year in the war. As he set foot on Vietnamese soil, he was immediately exposed to the harsh reality of combat. The sights, sounds, and smells of war overwhelmed his senses. The heat, humidity, and dense jungle terrain presented daunting challenges, testing both his physical and mental strength.



## Rice Paddy Recon: A Marine Officer's Second Tour in Vietnam, 1968-1970 by Andrew R. Finlayson (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 8883 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 320 pages



### Forging Bonds with Vietnamese Troops

One of the fundamental tasks for Marine officers during the Vietnam War was building trust and relationships with the Vietnamese troops they were assigned to lead. This officer recognized the importance of cultural differences, language barriers, and the need for mutual respect. By actively engaging with the local population, he gained valuable insights into the intricacies of the conflict and earned the respect of his Vietnamese counterparts. These relationships would prove essential in navigating the complex geopolitical landscape of the war.

### The Struggles and Sacrifices on the Frontline

As the officer led his troops into battle, he witnessed the true horrors of war. He faced relentless enemy attacks, ambushes, and countless close calls with death. The emotional toll on both the marine officer and his men was immense. The constant fear, anxiety, and uncertainty took a heavy toll on their mental wellbeing. These struggles and sacrifices were an integral part of their everyday existence during this tumultuous period.

### The Challenges of Guerilla Warfare

Vietnam was a unique war where the enemy employed guerrilla tactics, blending seamlessly into the civilian population. This posed a significant challenge for Marine officers who had to distinguish between friend and foe, often with limited resources and support. Navigating the complicated web of insurgency required both strategic thinking and adaptability. This officer and his unit became adept at unconventional warfare, honing their skills in counterinsurgency, patrol tactics, and intelligence gathering.

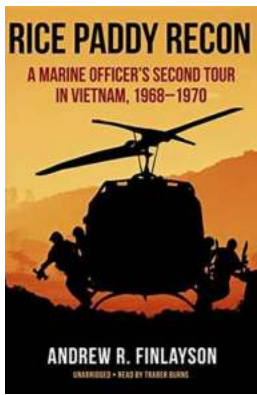
## **Life-Altering Experiences and Lessons Learned**

The marine officer's second tour in Vietnam was undoubtedly a life-altering experience. The bonds formed, the hardships endured, and the sacrifices made left an indelible mark on his soul. It taught him the value of determination, resilience, and camaraderie. This period of his life fostered personal growth and forced him to confront the depths of human nature in both himself and others.

## **The Impact of Vietnam War on Marine Officers**

The Vietnam War forever changed the lives of Marine officers who fought in the conflict. It shaped their perspectives, transformed their careers, and influenced their interactions with the world. For some, the impact was traumatic, resulting in post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and enduring psychological scars. For others, it fueled a relentless commitment to service and a dedication to preserving the memory of those who didn't make it back home.

The stories of Marine officers who served in Vietnam are crucial in understanding the realities of war and honoring their sacrifice. This officer's second tour from 1968 to 1970 sheds light on the challenges faced, the bonds formed, and the lasting impact of the Vietnam War on those who experienced it firsthand. Their stories serve as a reminder of the immense courage and resilience displayed by these brave individuals.



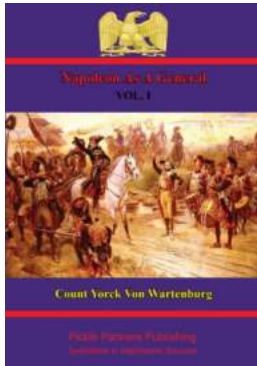
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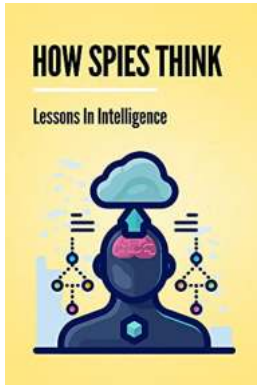


A young U.S. Marine officer recounts his experiences of the Vietnam War over a nineteen month period. He graphically describes what it was like to perform three distinct combat missions: long-range ground reconnaissance in the Annamite Mountains of I Corps, infantry operations in the rice paddies and mountains of Quang Nam Province and special police operations for the CIA in Tay Ninh Province. Using Marine Corps official unit histories, CIA documents, and his weekly letters home, the author relies almost exclusively on primary sources in providing an accurate and honest account of combat at the small unit level. Of particular interest is his description of his assignment to the CIA as a Provincial Reconnaissance Unit (PRU) advisor in Tay Ninh Province, where he participated in several secret missions as part of the controversial Phoenix Program. The name and contribution of the CIA's most valuable spy during the war, the famous "Tay Ninh Source," is revealed.



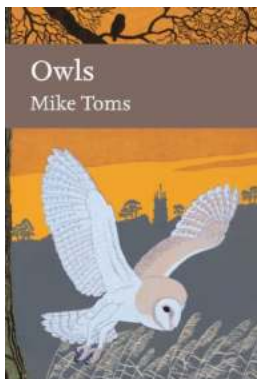
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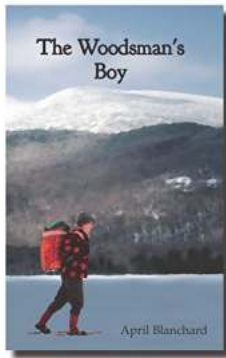
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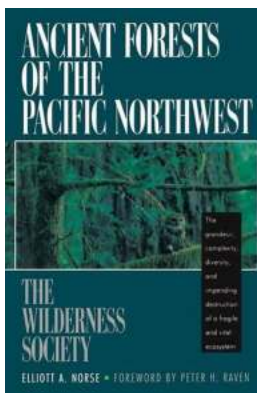
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