



# BOONIERATS: Pointman - Vietnam

*Edward J Carr Jr*

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## **BOONIERATS: Pointman - Vietnam** Edward J Carr Jr

I wrote this book five years after I left Vietnam alive. Something I knew would never happen. This book is what it is like to be in an elite airborne unit on the ground in the jungles of Vietnam in 1968. That was the year the NVA captured the country for a day, Tet. My unit was choppered to MACV HQ and landed on the roof in the middle of the night to guard Gen. Westmoreland. After Tet my battalion chased the retreating NVA, who were headed for Cambodia through War Zone D. There they caught my battalion in a series of four ambushes in four days decimating all four companies of the 3/187 Rakkassan. Delta Company became infamous as the unit to lose more men than any other in the Vietnam War. This unit was also at Hamburger Hill. An interesting epitaph for one infantry company.

I enlisted in the Army while I was on sick leave from college at Rochester Institute of Technology. I requested assignment to the 101st Airborne Division (paratroopers) and to be stationed in Vietnam. I was young and inspired by John Wayne movies.

President Kennedy asked that we do something for our country and I thought fighting a war would do it but I ended up with 40 years of horrific nightmares.

Today I am 66 years old and have published this book so my children might understand why their father is so different from others. God bless Othel Brown and John Baker who kept me alive.

Boonierats are large rats in Vietnam that weighed forty pounds and lived in ur bunkers. I spent six months on point from dawn to dusk, every day we were in the jungle courtesy of my commanding officer. We spent 29 out of 30 days a month in the jungle. We only returned to base camp to get paid. I had malaria and heat stroke(3x) and was always returned to the field. We used to tell new men(cherries) it was better to die right away in Vietnam than to suffer through the war and then die. Today I must say we were right. I have had Post Traumatic Stress Disorder seemingly all my life and I wish it wasn't so. If you enjoy the halo of war do not read this book.

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