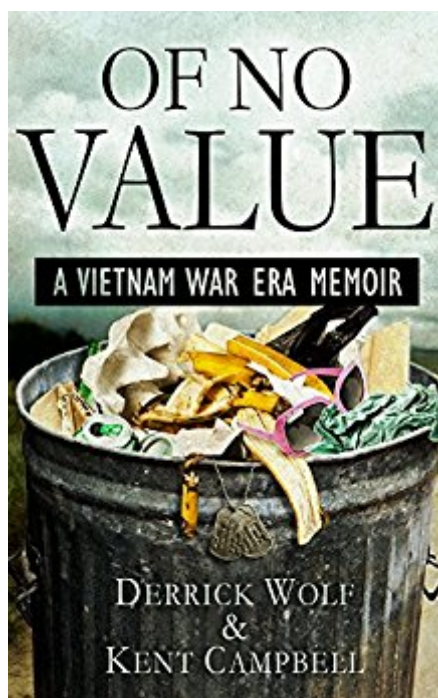


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Of No Value: A Vietnam War Era Memoir



Synopsis

The Catch-22 of the Vietnam War. When Derrick Wolf and Kent Campbell were wounded in battle, they thought the war was over for them. And while the war may have been done with them, the army was not. Of No Value is an unvarnished depiction of the absurdity of war and army life in the early 1970s. From the pitiful treatment received at the army's hospitals to the completion of their service, they were scorned and insulted by the military. The contempt continued at home, this time at the hands of their fellow Americans, who spat and called them "baby killers." Of No Value is a memoir spanning the experiences of two soldiers from the time of their combat injuries to their discharge. It not only captures the ludicrous machinations of the military but also depicts the colorful counterculture life of the United States in the early 70s. Both Wolf and Campbell are Bronze Star and Purple Heart recipients. Wolf is also the author of Boys for Men, a best-selling Vietnam memoir.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It really took me back to the '70's. What it was like before smart phones and the internet when taping a note to a door when you moved was one of the few ways you had to let people know your new address. Thankfully I was too young for that war but my older brother was in Saigon for Tet in '68. In '72 got to hang out with him and some Army buddies he had rented a house with. They were trying to figure out what they were going to do with the rest of their lives and very happy to have survived and be out of the Army. Even though my brother and his friends weren't wounded and didn't go through the hospital system, this book reminded me of that summer. I ended up serving in the Navy in the '80's. Some of the BS involved with being in the military must run across the different branches and across time because a lot of the chicken\$%#t pettiness reminded me of when I was on active duty. I'm reading Derrick's other book "Boys for Men" and hope there is a third book to read soon. This is also a reminder how the Government and the Military don't care for Veterans that need help. I have a buddy who was consistently misdiagnosed. His condition could have been corrected had they caught it while he was on active duty. It wasn't until he had been out of the military for a while that we was finally accurately diagnosed. Too little too late and it is fatal. He's fighting the VA tooth and nail over being misdiagnosed. Seems like some things don't change....

I enjoyed this long and sometimes tedious story because it rang true and reminded me of some of my military and Vietnam experiences of the 1960s. The continuous overuse of some of the GI Vietnam war vernacular became extremely redundant and annoying, i.e. "boo coo, didi, tee tee, xin loi. and sky." Pendejo seemed to appear on every other page and the constant and continuous references to smoking marijuana also got old. But somehow the story moved along, slowly and ponderous at times, and captivated me to keep reading. I felt sorry for these poor low ranking army enlisted troops who were often treated poorly and more often wasted enormous amounts of time on useless, trivial pursuits, i.e. countless hours playing foosball, frisbee, drinking, smoking weed and partying. I kept hoping for some signs of maturity and focus for their lives but the story kept rocking on with their daily routine of avoiding responsibility and having fun. Maybe I am just jealous as these guys did enjoy themselves a lot.

It kept my attention from the first word to the last. Easy reading and very interesting. Liked it a lot. Hope to read the others in the series.

Pretty dismal considering what other books are out there on the subject. I mean on EVERY page

there is boo coo, di di, number one, number ten, xin loi and its just so repetitive and non descriptive that I only got 10% through the book before I gave up. Its that bad. Seriously you should consider other adjectives. On the plus side I only paid 0.99\$. On the minus side I spent about an hour of my life I will never get back.

For the most part I really enjoyed the book, though it suffered somewhat from many typos. One thing that did incense me was Derrick's claim of visiting an air base in Vietnam where the Security Police were not armed, and they gained entry through intimidation - never happened. I was a security policeman in Vietnam for almost twenty-eight months, and they were never placed on post without weapons. At the very least they had .38 revolvers and M-16's and, being that it was an entry control point, probably an M-60. There is no way they would be intimidated by a grunt just because they wanted on base. Nice try!

This is a funny book about a guy in latter part of the 60's. All that happens to him as he gets out of the army.

The book kept me reading and gave some interesting insight to the experience of Vietnam veterans and more of an inside view of the military.

EXCELLENT

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