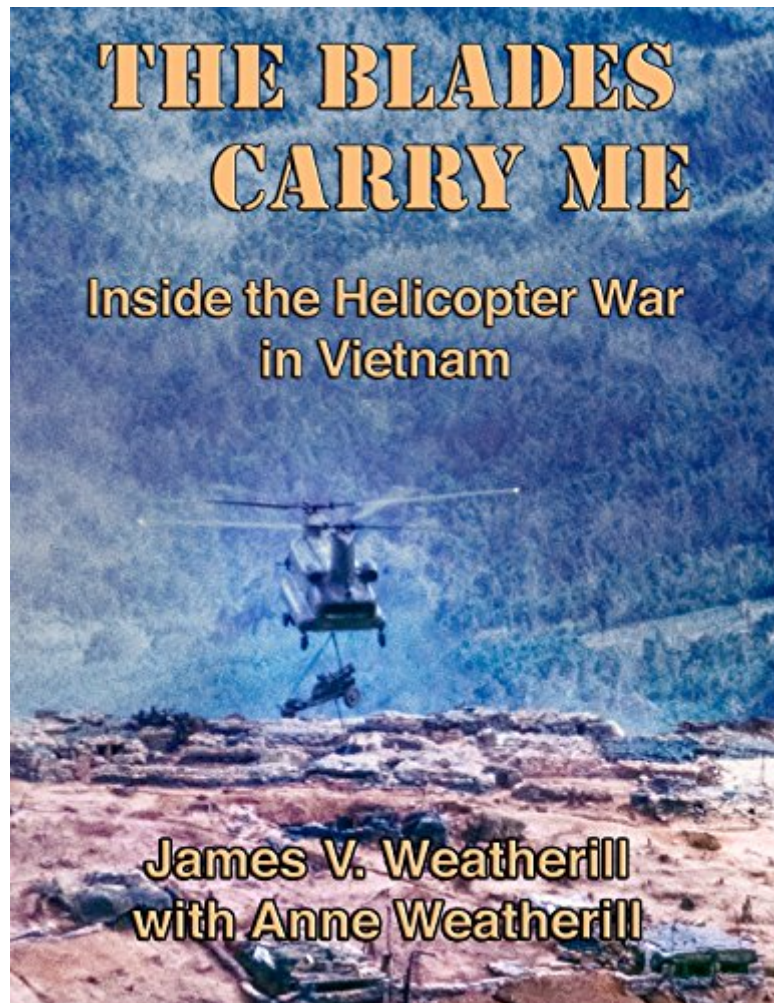


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The Blades Carry Me: Inside The Helicopter War In Vietnam



Synopsis

James Weatherill served as an Army helicopter pilot in Vietnam from November 1967 to November 1968. His memoir, *THE BLADES CARRY ME: Inside the Helicopter War in Vietnam*, takes the reader into the CH-47 Chinook helicopter cockpit and the daily life of a 22-year-old pilot. The young man must reconcile his ideals of patriotism, courage, and honor with the reality and politics of a war where victory is measured by body-count ratios instead of territory gained or lost. When it's time to go home, he realized he'll leave more than war behind. On the home front, the pilot's wife, Annie, provides a counterpoint as a pregnant college senior and military spouse during an unpopular war. With letters and tape recordings their sole means of communication, how will they grow up without growing apart.

Book Information

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United States > Vietnam War

Customer Reviews

Vietnam veteran and author James V. Weatherill writes a memoir/history book about not only his experiences as a US Army Chinook Helicopter Pilot in Vietnam â “ one of the finer books on the activity of helicopter activity in that war â “ but also as a humanist and his reactions to the war and to

the wife who waited out the war at home. It is at once a thrilling suspenseful adventure novel and a bow to the constancy of marriages that survived that war. Jim clocked 1,341 combat hours in Vietnam between 1967 and 1968, then as a civilian pilot he flew helicopters in logging operations, dam, ski lift, and power line construction as well as fire fighting. He was a pilot for regional airlines and retired from a national airline as a Boeing 737 captain. Many have written about their experiences in Vietnam (including this reader) and there is a natural bond among those who have attempted to put into words in impact of that war both while fighting it and the course of events after returning home to a community that generally held Vietnam vets in disdain. But few have concentrated on a specific element of combat (for Jim that was as a Chinook Helicopter pilot) with the success in recreating all aspects of that assignment that Jim presents in this excellent book. Jim offers some "author's notes" at the inception of his book and they deserve quoting: "My purpose is to promote awareness of the contributions of Chinook helicopter crews to the Vietnam War and aviation history. People and events are based on my recollections, flight records, letters, tapes, and experience as an Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter pilot in Vietnam. Missions flown and living conditions depicted are typical for personnel at that time. I apologize for timelines that may be off."

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