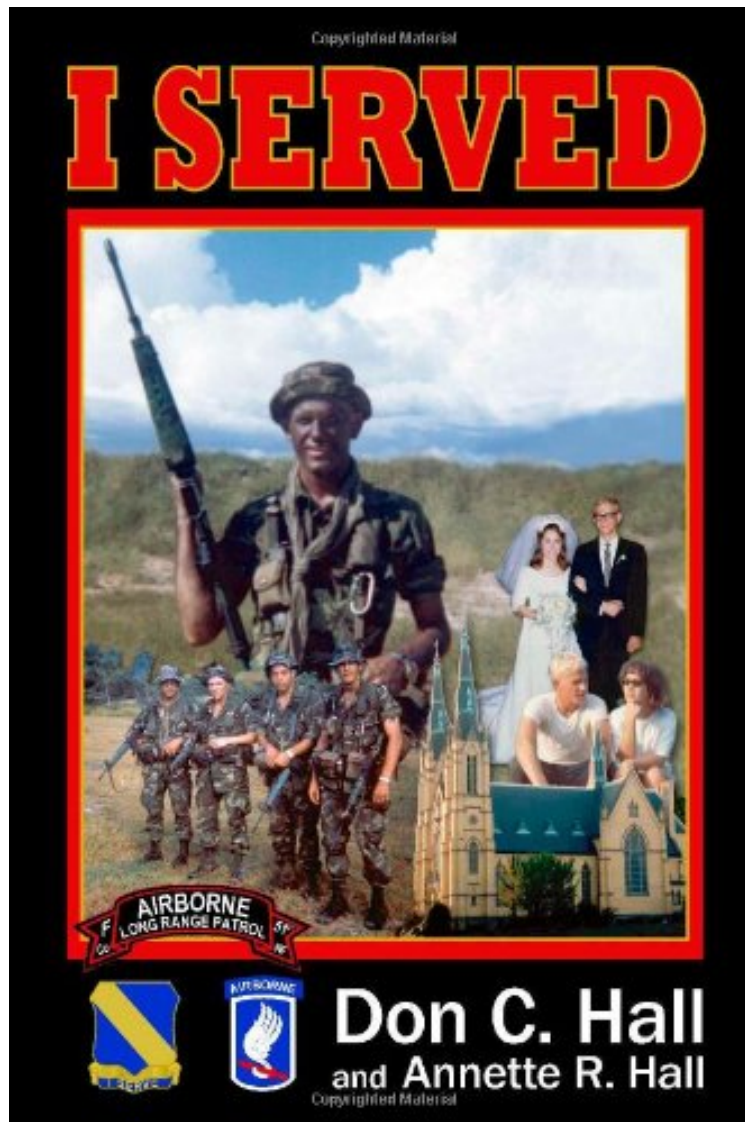


I Served

Don C. Hall, Annette R. Hall

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#1295434 in Books 2001-01-31 2006-07-06Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .88 x 6.00l, 1.26 #File Name: 1552124894390 pages | File size: 77.Mb

Don C. Hall, Annette R. Hall : I Served before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised I Served:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An outstanding true account of the formation of the LRRP's and of the making Of a Warrior.By OBXNC"I Served" is a frank and honest account of a young man in America, growing up in difficult circumstances, who is thrust into something much bigger than himself, war. More than that, it's an account of the "formal" introduction of the "LRRPs" into the ranks of the elite "Airborne Infantry" in the US Army. It begins

with Mr. Hall's depiction of a young man and his brother being taken and deposited into a Catholic Orphanage by their father, himself a victim of war. Mr. Hall's sad yet also humorous account of his time at the orphanage is highlighted by his meeting Annette, the girl he would grow to love and eventually marry. The real pull of his book, however, begins with his introduction to war while serving with the "Herd", or the 173rd Airborne in Vietnam. Mr. Hall subsequently volunteers for what would become the 51st LRRPs. The account from there brings back memories of another time for me. Reconno School. The countless hours of patrol on little or no sleep. Learning to welcome darkness as an old friend. Learning to operate behind the lines with a small group of men that you with no hesitation trust your life with. Then, his accounts of combat. The smell of cordite. The primordial adrenaline rush. The fears. The boredom interrupted by brief moments of sheer terror and hatred. The wonder and puzzlement and happiness of killing and yet living to fight another day. The disgust of those in the chain of command above you who are not being willing to lead in the field, and the admiration and upmost respect towards those that do. The disdain upon leaving the killing fields to find non-combatants being upset over the most petty of things. And ultimately, the reuniting with Annette and their marriage. I have read many outstanding books on combat, war and the like. But there is something about this book that draws not only combat vets like myself to it but also the person looking for a darn good read. A well written book which I highly recommend to all. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. ... riveting tale (first hand account) of what it was like in vietnam By Troy S. I served is a riveting tale (first hand account) of what it was like in vietnam. Once you start reading this book its difficult to put it down. I find few books that can hold my attention, This one I always looked forward to returning too. This book is for anyone who enjoys war history or is searching for a better understanding of the war. I applaud Mr. Hall and his wife Annette for sharing some of their life with us. It is a wonderful and well written book. Would recommend to all that enjoying reading and like a real honest depiction of an event such as the vietnam war. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. tonight I finished my copy of "I Served" It is the story of one of the first and finest LRP units in the US Army during the Viet By Customer Rare is the day when I am sorry to finish a book. Well, tonight I finished my copy of "I Served" It is the story of one of the first and finest LRP units in the US Army during the Vietnam war. Simply stated, if you ever led a patrol on an ambush or raid after 1968, especially in a Light Infantry unit in the 80's, Company F, 51st Infantry helped pioneer the tactics you used. So to Don I say, I am glad you made it through the war, but I am truly truly sorry the book is over. LT

I SERVED was written differently from most other Vietnam memoirs. Instead of being a chronological recitation of my experiences growing up in the orphanage and then going to Vietnam and serving with Co. F, 51st Long Range Patrol (Airborne) Infantry, I made its focus be the characters in the story. That is its greatest strength and what makes it such a good read. Because I focused so closely on character, you really get to care about the person Don Hall because you know what makes him tick, what is important to him, and what drives him. You are also engaged by the other people you meet in the story because they are so clearly drawn. You don't have to be a military buff to enjoy the book. I SERVED is a factual story backed up by official U.S. Army records. Col. William C. Maus, the man who formed F/51st LRP, told me where to find that documentation. I also have copies of handouts we received when we went to Reconno School. Before he died, he told me how much he enjoyed reading the book. He praised me for having written such a great story about a unit he was proud to have commanded. He was a visionary who knew our unit was the vanguard for future U.S. Army military strategy and tactics. I remember his telling me at the time that F/51st LRP was making history. Being just a naïve 19-year-old staff sergeant, I didn't understand the significance of that statement. I do now. The current print and ebook versions of I SERVED are a second edition to the original 1994 hardbound edition, with a revised preface and afterword, a new War Stories section (with stories from other men with whom I served), and new photographs.

Don Hall tells the story of Company F before, during, and after Tet in intimate details. -- Keith William Nolan, author of The Battle for Saigon: Tet 1968 From a turbulent childhood, to a warrior's role, to a special love - riveting and true. -- Dennis Foley, author of Long Range Patrol From a turbulent childhood, to a warrior's role, to a special love - riveting and true. -- Dennis Foley, author of Long Range Patrol Honest, gritty, passionate - I Served greatly adds to the personal narrative history of LRRPs in America's longest war -- Lt. Col. Michael Lee Lanning (USA, retired), author of Inside the LRRPs: Rangers in Vietnam I think I SERVED is a great contribution to the overall story of the Vietnam experience. -- General Fred C. Weyand, U.S. Army, ret. Oliver Twist, Romeo and Juliet, and All Quiet On The Western Front all rolled into one. An extraordinary literary achievement. -- Jim Morris, author of War Story From the Author I SERVED was written differently from most other Vietnam memoirs. Instead of being a chronological recitation of my experiences growing up in the orphanage and then going to Vietnam and serving with Co. F, 51st Long Range Patrol (Airborne) Infantry, I made its focus be the characters in the story. That is its greatest strength and what makes it such a good read. Because I focused so closely on character, you really get to care about the person Don Hall because you know what makes him tick, what is important to him, and what drives him. You are also engaged by the other people you meet in the story because they are so clearly drawn. You don't have to be a military buff to enjoy the book. I SERVED is a factual story backed up by official U.S. Army records. Col. William C. Maus, the man who

formed F/51st LRP, told me where to find that documentation. I also have copies of handouts we received when we went to Recondo School. Before he died, he told me how much he enjoyed reading the book. He praised me for having written such a great story about a unit he was proud to have commanded. He was a visionary who knew our unit was the vanguard for future U.S. Army military strategy and tactics. I remember his telling me at the time that F/51st LRP was making history. Being just a naïve 19-year-old staff sergeant, I didn't understand the significance of that statement. I do now. We hope readers are so intrigued that they will order a copy of I SERVED when its available. The paperback version is a reprint of the original 1994 hardbound edition, with a revised preface and afterword, a new War Stories section (with stories from other men with whom I served), and new photographs. About the Author Don C. Hall grew up in a Catholic orphanage in southwest Virginia and enlisted in the U.S. Army in February 1965, shortly after his 17th birthday. He served in Vietnam in 1967-68 as a team leader in Company F, 51st Long Range Patrol (Airborne) Infantry. After leaving the service in 1970, he served as a police officer and then later worked as a private investigator. He is now retired. Together, Don and his wife Annette wrote I SERVED. In addition, they produced a documentary about Don's unit, titled "Silent Victory: the Story of Co. F, 51st Long Range Patrol (Airborne) Infantry." "Silent Victory" won awards in various film festivals. Don and Annette have known each other since the eighth grade and have been married since July 1968. They have one daughter and two grandchildren. For more information about both projects, and access to documentation about Don's unit in Vietnam, please visit www.i-served.com. (note: the title, "I SERVED" has multiple meanings in the telling of Don's story. It was chosen because, as a child, Don was an altar boy and served Mass; as a young man, he served his country in the military. In both cases, he served others.)