

MY WAR



WARTIME PHOTOGRAPHS
by VIETNAM VETERANS

Traveling Exhibition



Above:
BARBED WIRE
Marble Mountain, Vietnam, 1970
Dennis High

Front cover:
GROUP OF THE GUYS FROM THE MORTAR PLATOON
WHO OPERATED THE 4.2 INCH MORTARS ON THE HILL
Lz Bayonet, Near Chu Lai, Vietnam
Jay Arthurs

MY WAR

WARTIME PHOTOGRAPHS
by VIETNAM VETERANS

Traveling Exhibition

72 photographs / 7 related texts & poems
by 25 Vietnam Veterans

Originated by THE HIGHGROUND Veterans Memorial Park
Curated by MARISSA ROTH with JUNE BERG

INTRODUCTION

We have all seen the iconic Vietnam War photographs by noted photojournalists, such as Nick Ut's "Napalm Girl" and Eddie Adams' "Saigon Execution." These and countless other images appeared in newspapers and magazines across America throughout the war, impacting both governmental policy and public opinion. Photographers were crying out with potent images for the cessation of the war, gravely highlighting the consequences for both sides of this mired conflict. They viewed the war from the outside looking in, for what would become the last uncensored American war endeavor.

What of pictures taken from the inside looking out? Some servicemen in Vietnam made pictures when they had time. Those lucky enough to afford both a camera and film used their tools with visual acuity, and, in many cases, a high degree of skill. The camera enabled them to create a parallel war experience where they had a modicum of control by choosing what to photograph—simple scenes evoking memories of home, gestures of lighthearted camaraderie, and the endless protocol and efficiency of war. Taking pictures became a way to engage and remember local strangers. The camera also helped put the soldiers' war experience into context, such as their understanding of the implications of an F-100 Super Sabre flying off into the dawn sky.

Many of the photographs in this exhibition capture the in-between moments. In some cases, in between a friend's life and death, in between bombing runs or ground offensives, in between here and there, on the road, in wakeful waiting, worrying and hoping, caught in the tedium of teamwork and down moments while ticking away time.

Some of these images appear to be simplistic or even mundane, but it is precisely in that pureness of vision that we see the definition of what it's like fighting in a war. There are many hours, days, and weeks passed in boredom and emptiness, in waiting for a mission or a tour of duty to end. Everything from the viewing of a scratchy black and white TV image from America to the longing for a sensual embrace filled gaps and became fodder for the camera.

The images featured in this exhibition exemplify all of the photographs taken by armed amateurs during the Vietnam War. These are personal artifacts that provide literal snapshots of their transient time and experiences, and serve as complicated emotional mementos. They are also an important record, giving history another window through which to view this war.

We, the public, think of war and hear about it primarily in terms of numbers: deaths, casualties, deployments, commands, and units. We take sides and measure the fighting in gains and losses, with mostly impersonal understanding. During the Vietnam War there was impassioned antiwar activism in America that stirred the public and tragically spilled over into enmity for returning warriors.

This emulsified visual poetry records youthful experiences that many didn't want to have in the first place and never imagined would etch so deeply into such significant markers on the roads of their lives. In the years that followed, many veterans destroyed their photographs taken during the war in order to purge painful memories and close a visceral door to the past.

Anonymity and camaraderie are the hallmarks of soldiering and war, but for each man who fought and died, or lived and came home, this war was personal. These photographs allow the viewer to see into the daily lives of some men who fought and served. They provide a small aperture that exemplifies the broader theme. Most of the images are not brutal or horrifying. Some are simply beautiful, tender, poetic, and profound and serve as visual recollections and reckonings from a life-altering experience.

Four decades on, these veterans not only continue to pay dearly—emotionally, physically and psychologically—for their intense war experiences, but the added wound of being welcomed home as pariahs is a lifelong scar that still complicates memory. These men were as brave and dedicated as the generations who fought in all of the wars, great and small. Vietnam, tragically, was their generation's war.

Reflecting on their war experience with the perspective of time, many Vietnam veterans quietly carry this resonant pain but can filter it now through a timeworn mesh of life experience, wisdom and longevity. Time-lapsed reflections about the war have become central themes expressed in poetry, journals and public speaking engagements, while the personal photographs that candidly recorded, "I was there", can in the present, provide another purpose as vital tangible memories to be shared.

MARISSA ROTH, Curator

22 VIETNAM VETERAN PHOTOGRAPHERS

DAVID FAHEY

Spec 4, US Army, 25th Infantry, 4th Battalion, 23rd Mechanized Infantry Brigade
Vietnam and Cambodia,
September 1969 – September 1970

JOHN MORRISSEY

Colonel U.S. Air Force
Vietnam 1965 – 1973, Retired 1985

WILEY SPARKS III (Nickname Squirrel)

Staff Sgt. US Army, 5th Special Forces, SOG
January 1968 - December 1969 Vietnam

JAMES ALAN JENKINS

E-4, USARV, 18th Engineer Brigade, 589th Battalion
Vietnam April 1967 – January 1968

JAY ARTHURS

SP4-E4, Company E, 1/52nd Infantry Battalion, 198th Light Infantry Brigade,
Americal Division, USARV
Vietnam March 1969 – April 1970

BILL NOYES

Sergeant E-5, 3rd Platoon, B Company, 2nd Battalion of the 22nd Regiment,
25th Infantry Division - Army
Vietnam September 1968 - September 1969

HADLEY ROME

Army, Spec. 4, 25th Infantry 3rd Battalion
Vietnam 1965 - 1967

RICHARD BERGAN

Army, Cpl., 25th Infantry 3rd Battalion
Vietnam March – October 1966

MARVIN DE WITT

Army, Cpl., 25th Infantry 3rd Battalion
Vietnam March 1966 – March 1967

MICHAEL PATRICK ELTRICH

E-4, Company B, 1st Battalion/52nd Infantry,
198th Light Infantry Brigade, Americal Division
Vietnam October 1969 – October 1970

GERALD W. LEWIS

SP-4, Company B, 52nd Infantry, 198th Light Infantry Brigade, 23rd Infantry Division
Vietnam 1970 – 1971

LARRY DIESBURG

Specialist Four USA, C Btry 2/19 Artillery 1st Air Cav
Tay Ninh, Viet Nam December 1969 - June 1970

MERLE ELLIOTT

Specialist 4 E-4, 198th Light Infantry Brigade, 1st Battalion/52nd Infantry,
Company C 1/6, Americal Division
Earned the Combat Infantry Badge, Purple Heart and Army Commendation Medal
Vietnam 7/15/1970 – 7/14/1971

RICHARD LYNNGHAUG

3rd Marine Bat. 3rd Recon
Quang Tri, Vietnam February – November 1969

JIM FOX

Spec 4, C company, 15th Trans Bn. 1st Cavalry Division
Vietnam February 1968 – September 1968

GENE BAILEY

7th Battalion, 15th Field Artillery, 41st Artillery Group, First Field Force Vietnam (IFFV)
Tiger Division, White Horse Division Based at Camranh Bay,
Vietnam June 1967 – July 1968

MICHAEL OLSON

U.S. Army, Specialist 4, 981st M.P. Sentry Dog
Nha Trang, Vietnam 1969-70

FRED GIBBS

E5 (11B10) 4th Platoon, C-Company, 2nd Battalion,
22 Infantry (Mechanized) 25th Infantry Division
Vietnam 09/19/1968 – 11/16/1969

MARK RABINOWITCH

Sergeant
Saigon May 1967

GREG FOYE

SSgt. USAF Strategic Air Command
Thailand 1969 - 1970

DENNIS HIGH

Spec 4, 212th Combat Aviation Battalion (Wings of Freedom), 1st Aviation Brigade,
Marble Mountain Air Base outside of Da Nang
Vietnam January 1970 – March 1971

STEVE MADDIX

Captain, U.S. Army Infantry, MAT 234, team 45, Military Assistance Command Vietnam
Ninh Thuan Province, Vietnam
September 1968 – February 1969

7 VIETNAM VETERAN WRITERS/POETS

JOHN MORRISSEY

Colonel U.S. Air Force
Vietnam 1965 – 1973, Retired 1985

JAMES ALAN JENKINS

E-4, USARV, 18th Engineer Brigade, 589th Battalion
Vietnam April 1967 – January 1968

STEPHEN WALTER

E-4, USAF 632nd Security Police Squadron,
Binh Thuy AB, (Mekong Delta)
May 26, 1967 - May 25, 1968

MICHAEL OLSEN

U.S Army, Specialist 4, 981st M.P. Sentry Dog
Nha Trang, Vietnam 1969–1970

CLYDE B. CANNEY

Sergeant, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment
Vietnam 1968–1969

DENNIS HIGH

Spec 4, 212th Combat Aviation Battalion (Wings of Freedom), 1st Aviation Brigade,
Marble Mountain Air Base outside of Da Nang
Vietnam January 1970 – March 1971

STEVE MADDUX

Captain, U.S. Army Infantry, MAT 234, team 45, Military Assistance Command Vietnam
Ninh Thuan Province, Vietnam
September 1968 – February 1969

Two Lines

Fort Lewis, Washington,
January, 1968
From: *Nothing Blue Pulsing Behind* (2001)

Like our memories, the walls,
Gray-green in the Army style,
Were flat and hard as a chill.

Offset by garish posters
On hygiene and the mission,
They held a chance decision

Someone made to move the lines
Of men meant to be used up,
Who for an hour stood defined,

Staring at one another –
A momentary divide
Quite like Cain from his brother.

On our side In-Country boys,
As gaunt as something feral,
Eyes still roving for the kill.

Opposite, the Stateside troops.
They had not given their all
And were softened by winter.

Stripped to the waist, one line mean,
The other perhaps like sheep,
Knowing the wolf was at hand.

Then someone started to growl.
Some mad dog fresh from the bush
Caught the scent of fear. It ran

Up and down that line of ghosts
And leapt across that cold space –
A haunting that found a place

In the hearts of those soldiers
Who were nearly innocent,
their luck of the draw in hand.

And as they passed out of there
The walls echoed after them
The angry bark of the damned.

—James Alan Jenkins



THE PHOTOGRAPHS

With the exception of the black-and-white photographs taken with black-and-white film, many of the images in this exhibition have faded or shifted in color over time. The chemical properties in photographs taken with color transparency film or color negative film, or those printed with surface dyes in the 1960s and 1970s, proved to be unstable and fugitive. But unlike the ephemeral celluloid and paper artifacts that have retained these precious images seen and photographed during the war, the memories of the war for these men are indelibly partnered with their collective experiences, and remain vivid decades later.

These veterans chose to photograph subjects with enduring war themes: the terrain, the camaraderie, the weaponry, the fighting, moments of levity and visual poetry, moments of quiet and signs of life, and its ever-present invisible partner, death. All of these images are poignant and serve as a true testament to the courage at the core of the human spirit. Within them lies the recognition of the commonality fundamental to the human experience of being alive, which in the context of the Vietnam War encompasses the range of human emotions while fighting a war. To bear photographic witness to the impermanence of their surroundings and to the humanity in the faces of both their friends and foes, took great insight, compassion, and awareness.

SERGEANT BURGIE, MY BEST BUDDY IN VIETNAM
Cambodia, May 1970
David Fahey



THE PILOTS

L-R, Capt. Tom Boatman, 1st Lt John Morrissey, Capt. Charlie Copin, Capt. Matt Kelch (Hit hard coming off a target — 50 miles directly North of Hanoi and ejected in Northern Laos — recovered), 1st Lt. Sam Waters, (took a SAM head on in '67 KIA), Capt. Ray Moss, 1st Lt. Frank Tullo (Shot down during the 27 July SAM site mission, the only one recovered), Major Bill Hosmer. Photo taken two hours prior to the takeoff for the first mission of Rolling Thunder on March 2nd, 1965
Korat Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand
Photographer Unknown, Photo provided by: John Morrissey



INSIDE CAMBODIA, NEAR MEMOT
May 1970
David Fahey



IN OUR HOOTCH, II CORPS
Binh Din Province, Vietnam
James Alan Jenkins



USO PERFORMANCE AT FIRE BASE RAWLINGS
Tây Ninh Province, Vietnam, November 1969
David Fahey



MARVIN DE WITT WITH TWO PUPPIES
Special Forces Camp, Tay Ninh, Vietnam
Hadley Rome



MEN IN MY PLATOON ON A STAND DOWN, WATCHING ENTERTAINMENT
AT THE AMERICAL DIVISION'S BASE CAMP
Chu Lai, Vietnam June 1970
Michael Patrick Eltrich



BIRDS EYE VIEW OF QUANG TRI RIVER, FROM OUR HUEY
Vietnam
Richard Lynghaug



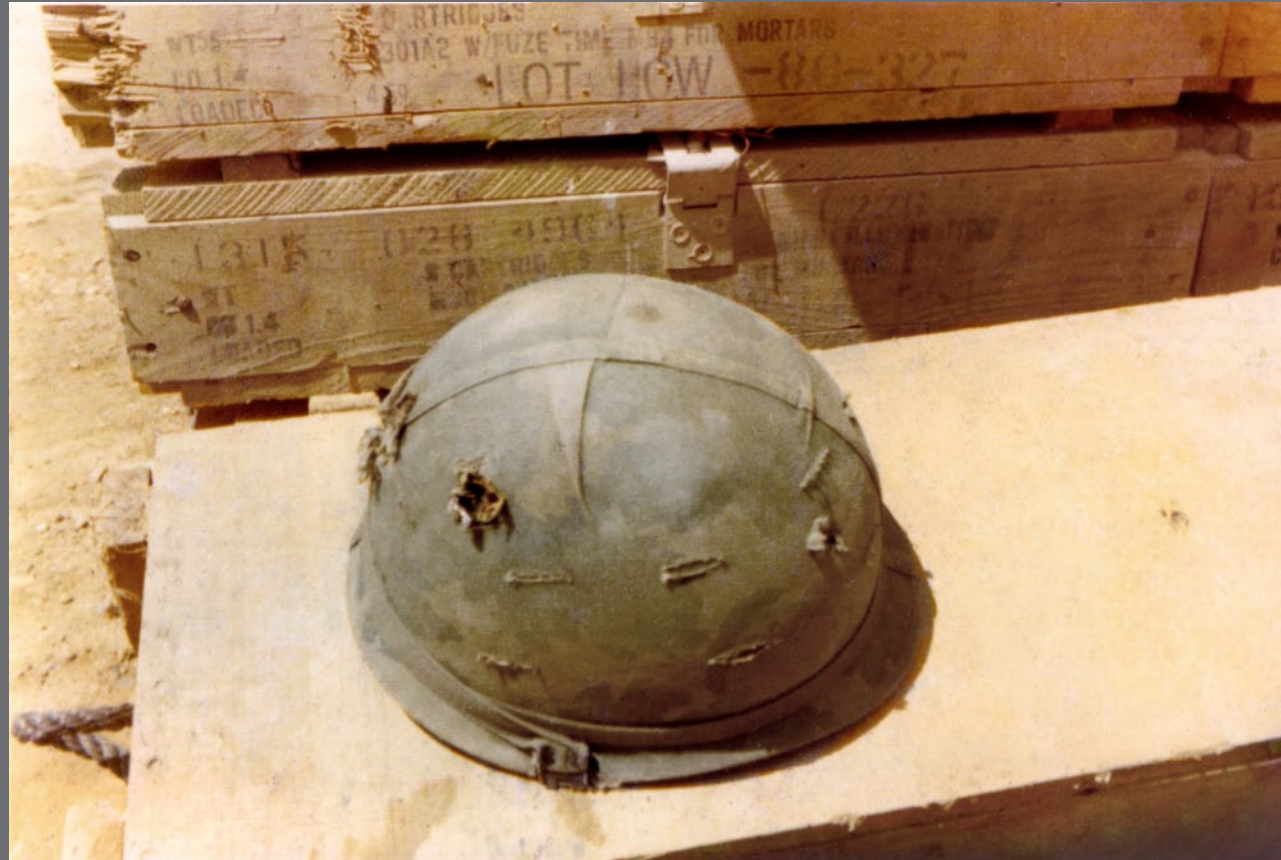
TWO OLD BUDDHIST SHRINES
Đà Lạt, Vietnam November 1969
Michael Patrick Eltrich



VIET CONG PRISONER BEING HELD FOR INTEROGATION AT LZ STINSON
Quang Ngai Province, Vietnam
Jay Arthurs



ME, IN THE TRƯỜNG SƠN MOUNTAINS WEST OF LZ STINSON
Vietnam 11 June 1970
Photographer Unknown, Photo provided by: Michael Patrick Eltrich



MY HELMET WITH TWO BULLET HOLES
Firebase Lz Stinson, Quang Ngai Province, Vietnam
Merle Elliott



WOUNDED KIT KARSEN SCOUT, WAITING FOR CHOPPER MED EVAC
Northern I-Corp, Vietnam 1969
Richard Lynghaug

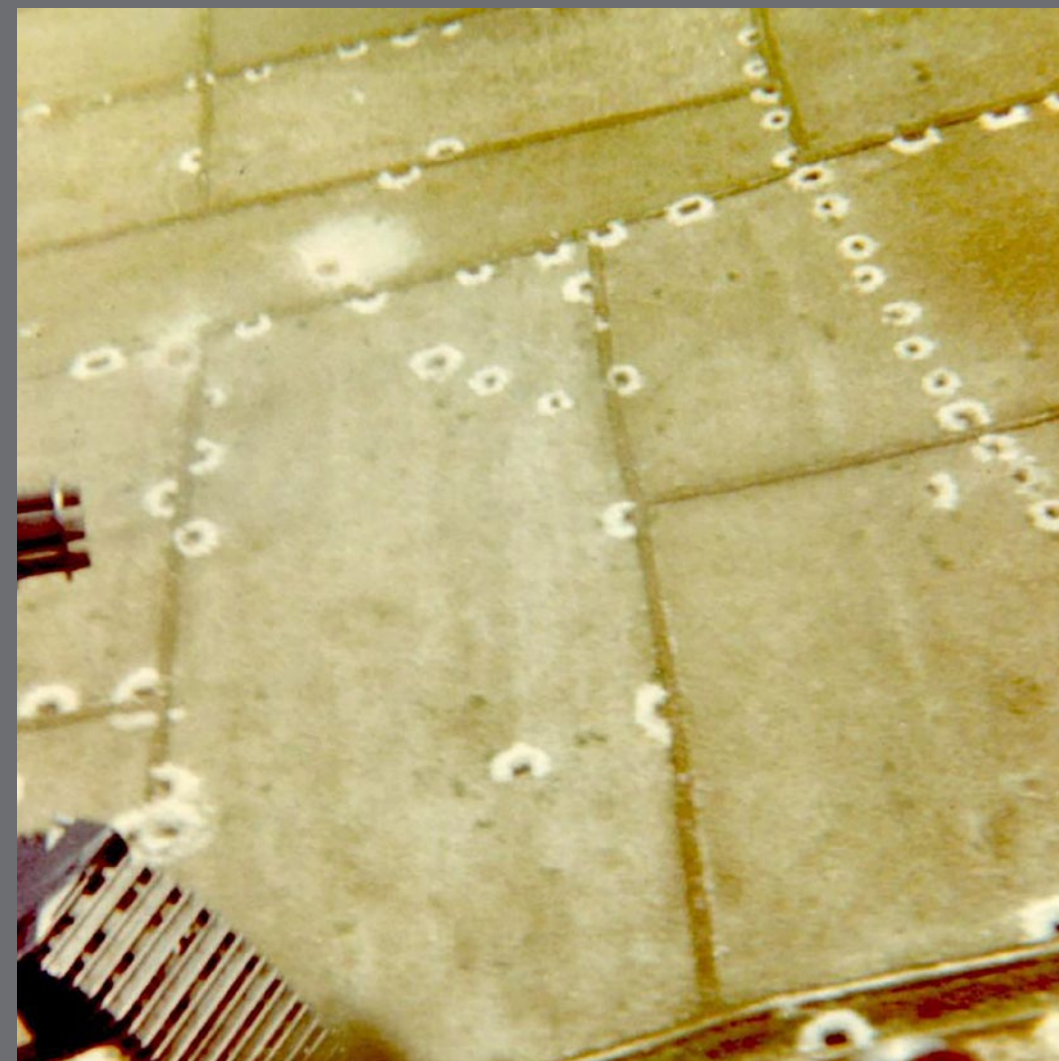


ONE OF NUMEROUS CLAYMORE MINES PLACED AT OUR MACHINE GUN BUNKERS AROUND THE WHOLE CAMP
Ninh Hoa, Vietnam 1968
Gene Bailey

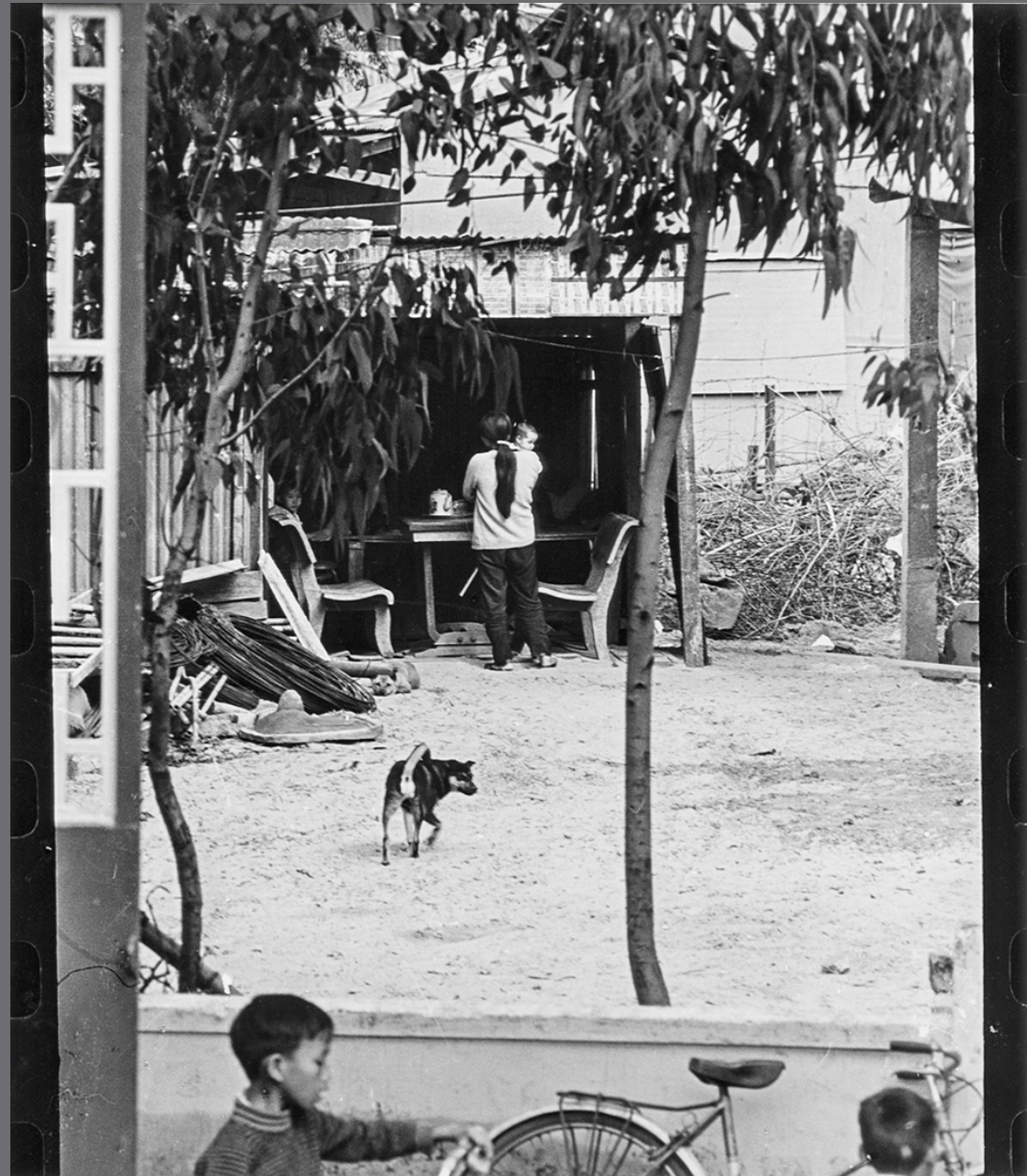
LUMINOUS LIGHT AT NIGHT USED TO DETECT THE VIET CONG (VC) ACTIVITY DURING THE TET OFFENSIVE
Ninh Hoa, Vietnam 1968
Gene Bailey



VIEW OF HELICOPTERS COMING TO PICK US UP FROM TRA BIHN DONG VILLAGE
Vietnam 1970
Gerald W. Lewis



DRY RICE PADDIES WITH FOX HOLES AND HITS FROM MORTAR ROUNDS
Somewhere North Of Hue, Vietnam, July – August 1968
Jim Fox



BOY WITH BICYCLE
Da Nang, Vietnam, 1970
Dennis High



VIETNAMESE FISHERMAN HEADING OUT IN THEIR SAMPAN TO THE SOUTH CHINA SEA FROM THE PORT
Nha Trang, Vietnam
Michael Olson



FACT SHEET

EXHIBITION AVAILABLE: Through 2022

SPACE REQUIREMENT: +/- 115 linear feet (images no spacing included)

CONTENTS:

72 photographic prints by 22 Vietnam veteran photographers
in 63 black frames: (34) 16" x 20", (29) 14" x 18"
(6) Silver gelatin fiber, (66) Archival Chromogenic photographs

Related Texts & Poems in 12 Gray Frames
(11) 14" x 18", (1) 16" x 20"

Title Wall Panel: (1) 24" x 30"

Individual Wall Labels, Captions and ID's for Photographs

Video DVD & Audio CD

Visitor Comment Journal

SPACE REQUIREMENT: +/- 115 linear feet (images no spacing included)

EXHIBITION FEE: Please Inquire

SECURITY: Moderate Security, Environmental, and Fire Systems required

INSURANCE: Venue responsible for "door to door" Insurance
Insurance Value: \$50,000.

SHIPPING: Venue responsible for Shipping costs
CRATES: 2 crates (1) 26H x 26D x 67L, (2) 24H x 20D x 78L
Weight: approx. 450 lbs.

EXHIBITION REPRESENTATION:

photokunst LLC, Barbara Cox, Principal
+1 360.378.1028 • info@photokunst.com
www.photokunst.com
725 Argyle Avenue, Friday Harbor, WA 98250

CREDIT LINES:

IMAGES & TEXT: Copyright designated to each individual Veteran
EXHIBITION: Curated by Marissa Roth with June Berg (Abrahamson)

PREVIOUS EXHIBITION VENUES

The Highground Veterans Memorial Park, Neillsville, WI, Aug.– Oct., 2016

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

LECTURES and CATALOG SIGNINGS:

By Veterans & Curator: upon request and availability

APPEARANCES:

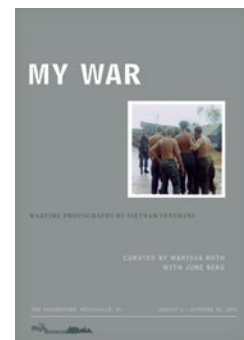
By Veterans & Curator: upon request and availability

ANCILLARY PRODUCTS:

LICENSING:

Images for additional uses including: T-shirts, postcards, etc.

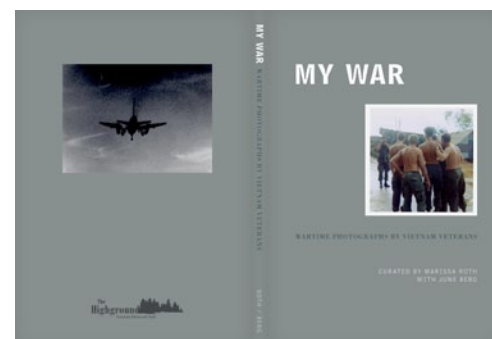
POSTER: 11" X 17" limited edition poster (customized for each venue)



CATALOG:

Softcover, 8.5"x12", 132 pgs, with all photographs and related writings

Suggested Retail \$20., 50/50% split with venues



MAKE YOUR OWN KIND OF MUSIC
An Ninh, Ninh-Thuan Province, Vietnam
Steve Maddox

Sequenced EXHIBITION IMAGES



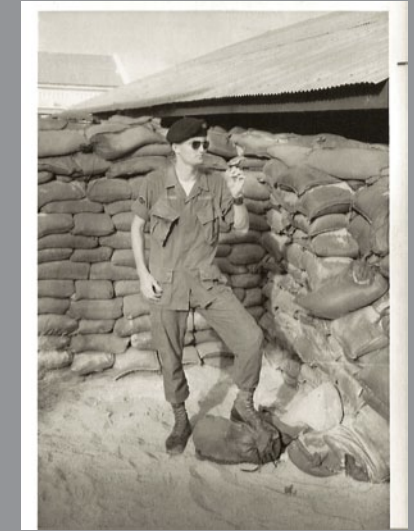
1. David Fahey, *Sergeant Burgie, My Best Buddy In Vietnam, Cambodia, May 1970*



2. David Fahey, *Inside Cambodia, Near Memot May 1970*



7. John Morrissey, *The Pilots, Korat Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand, March 1965*



8. Skip Sparks, *Photo Of Me As A Green Beret Standing Near Sandbags, Forward Observation Base li, Kontum, Vietnam March 1969*



3. David Fahey, *USO Performance At Fire Base Rawlings, Tây Ninh Province, Vietnam, 11/1969*



4. David Fahey, *Mortar Battalion Cambodia, May 1970*



9. James Alan Jenkins, *In Our Hootch, li Corps Binh Din Province, Vietnam*



10. James Alan Jenkins, *Vietnamese With Marigolds, Qui Nonh, Vietnam*



5. David Fahey, *Children, Medcap In Village Between Cu Chi & Tây Ninh, Vietnam, 11/1969*



6. David Fahey, *Boy With His Little Man Tây Ninh Province, Vietnam, November 1969*



11. James Alan Jenkins, *Repairing A Bridge Along Highway QL 19, Binh Din Province, Vietnam*



12. James Alan Jenkins, *Vietnamese Boy's Daily Work, Along Highway QL 19 Near An Khe Pass*

Sequenced EXHIBITION IMAGES



13. James Alan Jenkins, *An The Pass*
Binh Din Province, Vietnam



14. Jay Arthurs, *Nick Holtsclaw Waiting For A Helicopter Out Of Firebase Lz Stinson*
Quang Ngai Province, Vietnam



19. Jay Arthurs, *Viet Cong Prisoner Being Held For Interogation At Lz Stinson*
Quang Ngai Province, Vietnam



20. Bill Noyes, *Coke Kid And Our Platoon Leader, Lt Timor, With His Rto Who Was Known As "Water Buffalo", Vietnam*, February 1969



15. Jay Arthurs, *Group Of The Guys From The Mortar Platoon Who Operated The 4.2 Inch Mortars On The Hill, Near Chu Lai, Vietnam*



16. Jay Arthurs, *Batting Practice In Nam Lz Bayonet, Near Chu Lai, Vietnam*



21. Bill Noyes, *Joe Kempt, 1st Squad Machine Gunner From Louisiana, Fsb Wood 3, Near Cow Khoi Rubber Plantation, Vietnam July 1969*



22. Hadley Rome, *Marvin De Witt With Two Puppies, Special Forces Camp, Tay Ninh, Vietnam*



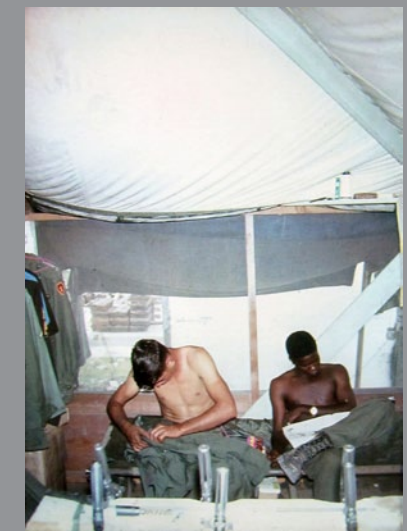
17. Jay Arthurs, *Coming Back From My First Day At The Beach At Chu Lai Uso, Vietnam*



18. Jay Arthurs, *Hootch Belonging To Battalion Headquarters Personnel, Lz Bayonet, Vietnam*



23. Richard Bergman, *Going On A Mission With Black Virgin Mountain In View, Cambodia*



24. Marvin DeWitt, *Hadley Sewing A Patch, With Williams Reading, Near Cu Chi, Vietnam*

Sequenced EXHIBITION IMAGES



25. Michael Eltrich, *Men In My Platoon On A Stand Down Watching Entertainment At The Americal Division's Base Camp, Chu Lai, Vietnam June 1970*



26 Michael Eltrich, *The Bunker We Built Đồi Lọc, Quảng Ngãi Province, Vietnam November 1969*



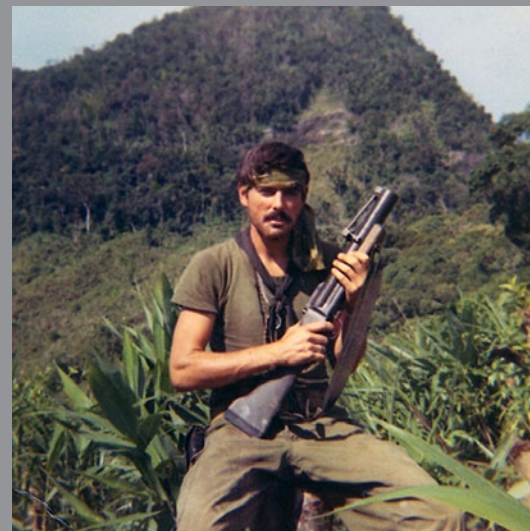
31. Gerald W. Lewis, *My Home While On Lz Stinson Fire Base, Vietnam 1970*



32. Gerald W. Lewis, *View Of Rice Paddies From Our Helicopter, Vietnam 1970*



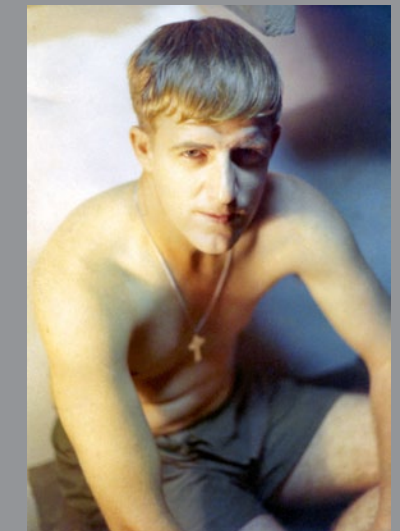
27. Michael Eltrich, *Two Old Buddhist Shrines Đồi Lọc, Vietnam November 1969*



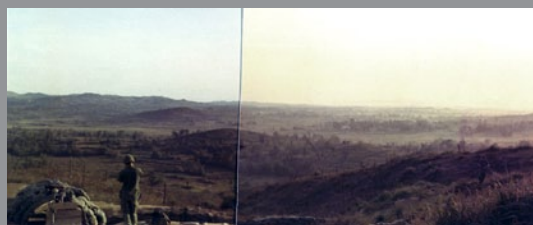
28. Michael Eltrich, *Me, In The Trường Sơn Mountains West Of Lz Stinson Vietnam 11 June 1970*



33. Gerald W. Lewis, *Dwayne Slater (Buzzard), Our One Man Army On Patrol In The Mountains Vietnam 1970*



34. Gerald W. Lewis, *Myself During Advanced Infantry Training In Tigerland, Fort Polk, La, After Receiving Orders For Vietnam 1969*



29. Michael Eltrich, *Panoramic View At Sunrise Looking Northeast From Lz Stinson, Vietnam, Jan. 1970*



30. Gerald W. Lewis, *Helicopters Coming To Pick Us Up From Tra Bihn Dong Village, Vietnam 1970*



35. Larry Diesburg, *Ch-54 Tarhe Skycrane Dropping Dozer At Lz, Near Tay Ninh, Vietnam*

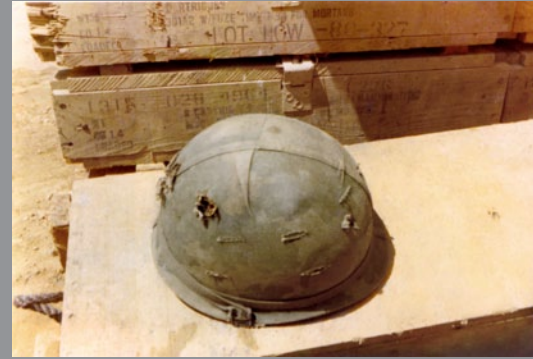


36. Larry Diesburg, *Spc 4 Diesburg Taking A Smoke Break After Filling Sandbags, Vietnam*

Sequenced EXHIBITION IMAGES



37. Larry Diesburg, 1st Air Cav 2/19 Artillery Firing 105Mm Howitzer On A Fire Mission Near The Cambodian Border, Vietnam



38. Merle Elliott, My Helmet With Two Bullet Holes, Firebase Lz Stinson, Quang Ngai Province, Vietnam



43. Richard Lynghaug, Me Playing With My New Petri 500, 35Mm Camera, Northern I-Corp, Vietnam 1969



44. Jim Fox, Dry Rice Paddies With Fox Holes And Hits From Mortar Rounds, Somewhere North Of Hue, Vietnam July – August 1968



39. Richard Lynghaug, Wounded Kit Karsen Scout, Waiting For Chopper Med Evac Northern I-Corp, Vietnam 1969



40. Richard Lynghaug, Army Tanks Stuck In Mud Northern I-Corp, Vietnam 1969



45. Jim Fox, Mile Upon Mile Of Utter Devastation Just South Of Dong Ha Area, Just Inland From The South China Sea



46. Jim Fox, Some Of The Guys I Was Stationed With At Phu Bai, Taken On My Last Night At Fort Lewis, August 1968



41. Richard Lynghaug, Birds Eye View Of Quang Tri River From Our Huey, Vietnam



42. Richard Lynghaug, After The Gun Ships Were Called In, Northern I-Corp, Vietnam 1969



47. Gene Bailey, Luminous Light At Night Used To Detect The Viet Cong Activity, Ninh Hoa, Vietnam



48. Gene Bailey, An 8 Inch Propelled Howitzer On Which My Position Was Gunner, Vietnam 1967

Sequenced EXHIBITION IMAGES



49. Gene Bailey, *One Of Numerous Claymore Mines Placed At Our Machine Gun Bunkers Around The Camp, Ninh Hoa, Vietnam 1968*



50. Gene Bailey, *At A Party At Our Base Camp That Was Held For The Orphan Children Ninh Hoa, Vietnam 1968*



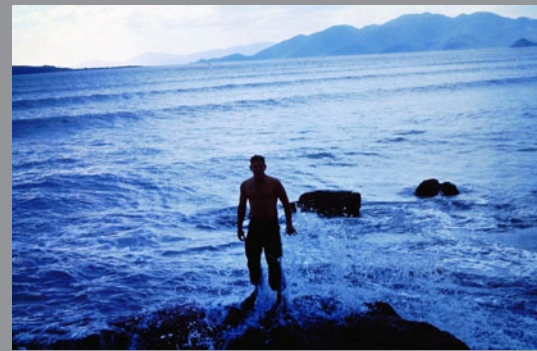
55. Mike Olson, *Laundry Day! Nha Trang, Vietnam*



56. Mike Olson, *Rural Vietnamese Agricultural Village, Near Nha Trang, Vietnam*



51. Gene Bailey, *After Filling Sand Bags For Our Bunkers At Our Base Camp, By The South China Sea Near Ninh Hoa, Vietnam 1968*



52. Gene Bailey, *A Picture Of Me After Swimming In The South China Sea Near Ninh Hoa, Vietnam 1968*



57. Mike Olson, *Wreckage Of A French Commercial Airliner Shot Down By The Viet Cong In The Early 1950'S, Nha Trang Airport, Vietnam*



58. Mike Olson, *Sunset On The Beach Of The South China Sea Nha Trang, Vietnam*



53. Mike Olson, *Vietnamese Fisherman Heading Out In Their Sampan To The South China Sea*



54. Mike Olson, *Specialist Brian Mowatt And His Sentry Dog Prince Running The Exercise Course*



59. Fred Gibbs, *Hands Of War, Fire Support Base Wood, Near Dau Tieng, Vietnam*



60. Mark Rabinowitch, *Untitled Saigon*

Sequenced EXHIBITION IMAGES



61. Greg Foye, *Bob Hope USO Christmas Show*
4258th Heavy Bombardment Wing, Utapao Royal
Thai Naval Air Station, Thailand December 1969



62. Dennis High, *The Boys*, Marble Mountain Air
Compound, Vietnam, 1970



67. Dennis High, *Barbed Wire*
Marble Mountain, Vietnam, 1970



68. Steve Maddox, *Make Your Own Kind Of Music*
An Ninh, Ninh-Thuan Province, Vietnam



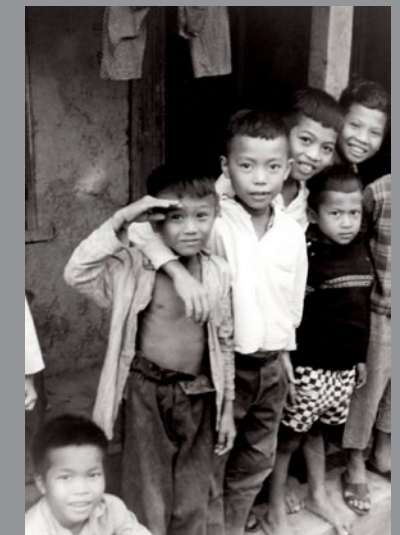
63. Dennis High, *Street Near Downdown Da
Nang*, Vietnam, 1970



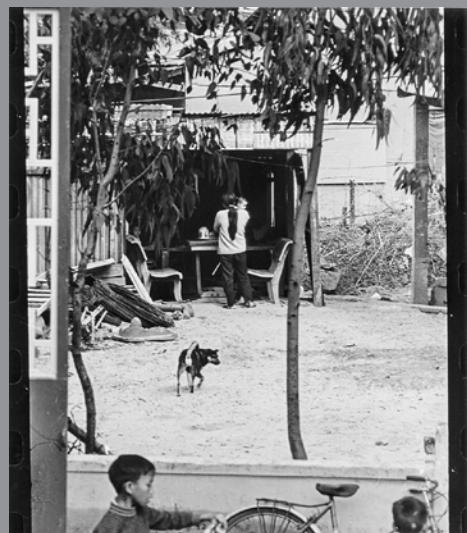
64. Dennis High, *Boy*
Da Nang, Vietnam, 1970



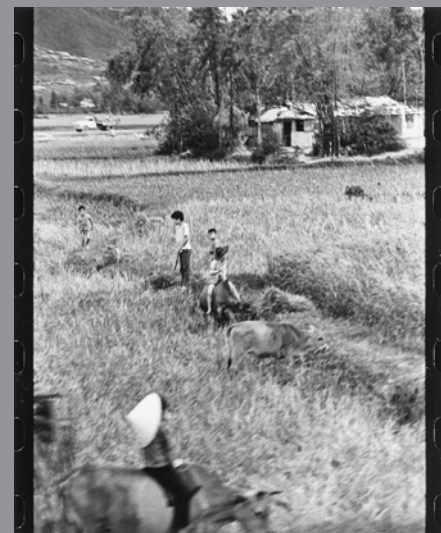
69. Steve Maddox, *An Thanh*
An Ninh, Ninh-Thuan Province, Vietnam



70. Steve Maddox, *Salute*
An Ninh, Ninh-Thuan Province, Vietnam



65. Dennis High, *Boy With Bicycle*
Da Nang, Vietnam, 1970



66. Dennis High, *Girl On Water Buffalo*
Da Nang, Vietnam, 1970



71. Steve Maddox, *Heading Home Hug*
An Ninh, Ninh-Thuan Province, Vietnam



72. Steve Maddox, *Mission Bound*
An Ninh, Ninh-Thuan Province, Vietnam

ABOUT: The Highground

The Highground commissioned this exhibition 2015 and launched MY WAR in 2016.

The Highground near Neillsville, Wisconsin is a 150+ acre managed veterans memorial park that pays tribute to the dead, and honors the survivors, their service, and their sacrifices. The Highground fulfills its mission of healing and education by bringing past lessons into our hopes for the future. We seek to have The Highground continue to be a focus of healing for all who come, regardless of the name of the battle which left the scars.

The park includes tributes to veterans of WWI, WWII, Korea, and Vietnam, Persian Gulf (Desert Storm/Shield to the present) as well as, a National Native American Vietnam Memorial, a Meditation Garden, a handicap accessible treehouse, an exact replica of the Liberty Bell, Effigy Mound, a Learning Center (with a library) and 4 miles of hiking trails. Honoring our canine veterans, The Military Working Dog tribute was dedicated on June 2, 2018. Located three miles west of Neillsville on US Hwy 10, the park is lighted and open to visitors year round 24 hours a day. "More than for all veterans, more than for those who did not come back, The Highground is a place for all of us." Incorporated in 1984 as the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Memorial Project, Inc., this grass-roots effort continues only because of the dedication of countless individuals, families, organizations, and businesses who have given of their time, talents, and financial resources.

Volunteers and Contributors are the Heart of The Highground.

The Highground is a place for all of us.



CURATOR: Marissa Roth

Marissa Roth is an internationally published freelance photojournalist and documentary photographer. She has worked on assignment for numerous publications including The New York Times, and was part of The Los Angeles Times photography staff that won a Pulitzer Prize for Best Spot News Coverage of the 1992 Los Angeles Riots.

Her photographic work has been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions and are in museum, corporate and private collections. A commissioned portrait project by The Museum of Tolerance/Simon Wiesenthal Center, to photograph the Holocaust survivors who volunteer there, "Witness to Truth," is on permanent exhibition at the museum. "One Person Crying: Women and War", Roth's 31-year personal photo essay that addresses the immediate and lingering impact of war on women in different countries and cultures around the world, is currently a globally travelling exhibition.

Her most recent book *Infinite Light: A Photographic Meditation on Tibet* (2014), with a foreword by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, is also a traveling exhibition. She has 3 additional books to her credit, *Burning Heart: A Portrait of The Philippines*, *Real City: Downtown Los Angeles Inside/Out*, and *Come the Morning* (2000).

June Berg / The Highground

June Berg was The Highground's Learning Center coordinator from 2010 to 2016, although now no longer with The Highground. She credits her life experiences with giving her strong intuition and compassion. Many veterans were comfortable discussing their service with her, and she incorporated their histories and experiences into educational programs and honoring tributes in The Highground Learning Center's exhibits. Her understanding helped create this powerful, personal view of the Vietnam War. While Berg was assisting veterans to convert their photographic slides and negatives taken during their tours of duty in Vietnam into digital format, they would share their stories behind the photos.

Berg met Marissa Roth in 2014, and their subsequent collaboration resulted in this exhibition. Berg hopes that the viewers will empathize with these veterans, and will come away with a better understanding of the war through their personal photographs.

IS THE WAR EVER REALLY OVER?

I am indeed one of the lucky ones. No pain-filled, heart-wrenching flashbacks darken my days and nights. No PTSD symptoms lurk in unvisited hiding places in my psyche, waiting for the right moment to lay waste to a world filled with positives, attainable dreams and blessing upon blessing. No Agent Orange-related illnesses disrupt or threaten my existence or that of the people I truly love.

Still, the war must never really end for me until all the ills and nightmare scenarios to which it gave birth, are somehow made right. As long as my brothers-and-sisters-in-arms have to live beneath the long shadow cast across their lives by the war; as long as there are those who disrespect and condemn the participants in, rather than the architects of that terrible, wasteful conflict; as long as there are those unlucky enough to be plagued with psychological and physical afflictions resultant from their participation in the war; as long as our government continues to see and to use armed conflict as the primary and inescapable response to international conflict; as long as each returned veteran fails to receive his due; as long as there remain scores, even hundreds whose fate remains unknown, be they MIA or KIA; I will feel compelled to keep the war from fading, from ending for myself either.

Those of us who came home more or less intact, more or less whole, have a deep obligation to those who were not able to do so, those for whom the fighting and the suffering never ends, as well as to those characterized as "collateral damage", their lives forever altered by and inescapably bound to every casualty and fatality we, as a nation, suffered and continue to suffer. Count the legions of homeless, lost, unemployable, addicted, walking wounded who have no place in the very society to which they were so unceremoniously and impersonally returned, left to find each his own way. There seems to be no end to the growing tide of suicides, overdoses, and societal write-offs this country helped create and silently, even heedlessly continues to endure. Though the war today is a different war, being fought in a different place by a different generation, the need and waste, the disruption, inequities and suffering created and exacerbated by war, continue unabated. The wrongs and omissions continue unresolved and all too often ignored by the multitudes whose lives it never really touches.

It as been said, and rightfully so, that in Vietnam our military won every battle, while our country lost the war. I submit to you, that no one has ever won a war. War produces in its aftermath only losers in varying degrees. The deepest loss is in our inability or unwillingness to learn from our mistakes. No, by-gone wars are never really over and there seems ever to be a new one looming on the horizon, ready to take its place and exact its toll.

Steve Maddox

Captain, U.S. Army Infantry, MAT 234, team 45, Military Assistance Command Vietnam
Ninh Thuan Province, Vietnam September 1968 – February 1969



Above:
HEADING HOME HUG
An Ninh, Ninh-Thuan Province, Vietnam
Steve Maddox

Back cover:
MISSION BOUND
An Ninh, Ninh-Thuan Province, Vietnam
Steve Maddox



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