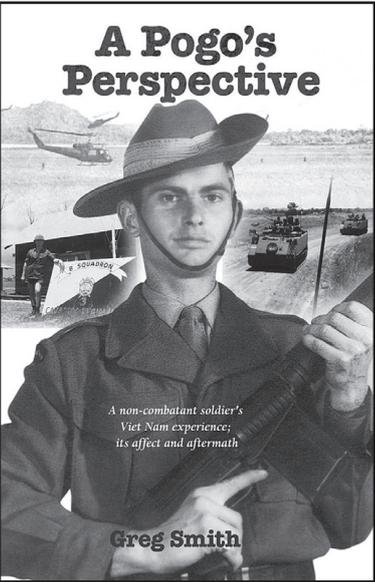


Book Review

A Pogo's Perspective

(A non-combatant soldier's Viet Nam experience: its affect and aftermath)

By Greg Smith



Greg Smith served as the Orderly Room Corporal in A Sqn 3 Cav Regt in Viet Nam 1970/71. He has written a book of his experiences and how it affected him.

He enlightens the reader how all who served, including Pogos, were affected simply in varying degrees. He speaks of the additional burden of guilt that Pogos experienced by not being able to physically support their mates.

He walks the reader through his call-up, training and discipline. He then details his role and experiences as a Pogo, which may be an eye-opener for some.

For 35 years he worried about acceptance by his mates because of his different role. This was all swept away in a heartbeat at the Melbourne reunion.

He now wears the Pogo tag with pride.

In a direct quote for his book Smithy says; "To every Pogo, be exceptionally proud of the excellent job that you did. Without that administrative support the combatant roles could not have proceeded. Do not be afraid to stand up and be counted as a Pogo; you will be surprised how many of your mates will thank you for a job well done. Seek out assistance to come to terms with the guilt that most of you more than likely feel; it is unfounded and you should not allow it to suppress you. Be proud to have served, be proud to have been a Pogo."

He writes of his lack of support and understanding on his return to a hostile Australia.

You will share his highs and lows. You will laugh and rekindle the good and not so good times.

With absolute honesty, he details his emotional decline and the subsequent recognition/diagnosis of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Finally he shares the treatment that has benefitted him and that what is available to all veterans.

This is a book for all Viet Nam veterans, their partners and families. In fact all will benefit from its message and provide better understanding.

Smithy wrote this book with therapeutic intentions, but now that it has gone to press, he has offered to donate a substantial proportion of the profit to our association for the benefit of members.

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