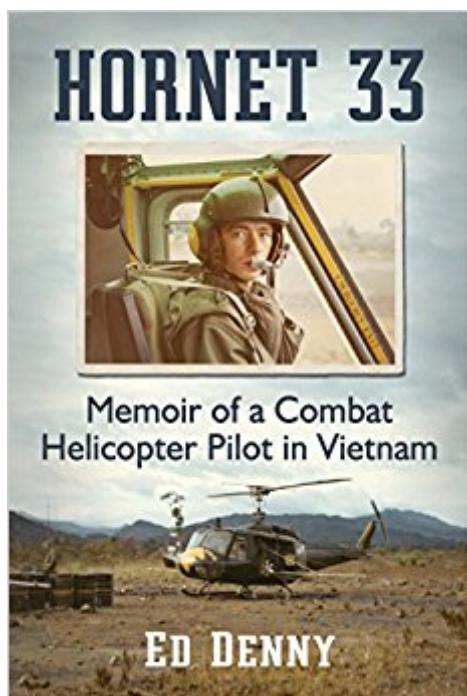


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# Hornet 33: Memoir Of A Combat Helicopter Pilot In Vietnam



## **Synopsis**

Combat helicopter pilots in the Vietnam War flew each mission facing the possibility of imminent death. Begun as a series of attempted letters to the Department of Veterans Affairs, this compelling memoir of an aircraft commander in the 116th Assault Helicopter Company--"The Hornets"--relates his experience of the war in frank detail. From supporting the 25th Infantry Division's invasion of Cambodia, to flying the lead aircraft in the 101st Airmobile Division's pivotal Operation Lam Son 719 invasion of Laos to cut the Ho Chi Minh Trail at LZ Hope, the author recounts the traumatic events of his service from March 1970 to March 1971.

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## **Customer Reviews**

I too served in the 116th Assault at Cu Chi base camp - 1968/69. Had this book been about any other assault company I would not have bought it. Having read it I can say.....Totally real. Emotionally raw. Politically neutral. Mission oriented, the way a soldier and an Army pilot must be.

Thank you Mr. Denny for bringing back memories both good and bad of my time with the Hornets. Kudos to the Army Warrant Officer flight training program from which we saw some of the bravest and most competent young men ever to go in harms way. I served with fourteen Hornets who were KIA. I always felt like we were rough and ready but never really had confirmation until I read your book. Unlike your experiences in I Corps, we were always treated with respect and deference by the 25th Infantry Division at Cu Chi. I gather your Cu Chi experiences in support of the 25th were about the same. I recommend the book "Hornet 33" to anyone who wants to better understand what it is like to be an Army Combat Assault Helicopter Pilot. Not a lifer but a citizen soldier, just doing the best he can. Hornet 38 - Captain - Flight leader and slick pilot

This is a gritty, raw autobiography of one year in Ed Denny's life as a combat helicopter pilot in Vietnam. I have read many of these books explaining what it was like to be a helicopter pilot in that era, but his is at the top of my "best" list. What makes this exceptional is the "emotional" content that explains moment by moment how he was feeling. I thought the beginning of his tour when he was told "Just Take It" was amazing. Anyone would have done what he did at that moment, I am sure, and that incident defined the rest of his tour as far as I could tell. The accounts of his combat experience leaped off the page as I read it, very mesmerizing. My only criticism was the lack of a bio that would have explained what happened after he returned. The last chapter left the audience hanging and since it was a "downer" chapter in terms of his emotional state, it would have been nice to know what happened to his marriage. I could only surmise since the book was dedicated to his wife and four children that it survived. My guess is that he went back into the military again needing financial support rather quickly after his wife at the time depleted his savings from his tour.

He didn't explain what happened to him throughout his life. Did he stay married to Jane, what kind of job did he get, did he ever fly again, were there any reunions with his fellow flyers. I wish he could have met up with the nurse later in life.

As a former US Navy member and almost-aviator, I enjoy reading books about military aviation, particularly WW2 and Vietnam. The typical Navy stories involve what I call the brotherhood of war, shared suffering, courage, excitement, near-misses and some losses. When a death or killing occurs it is usually at some distance--a bomb kills some unknown persons; a pilot is never seen again. Ed Denny's stories are quite different. There is nothing glorious about his war. The deaths he witnesses (and causes) are up close, bloody, terrifying. The deaths of his friends are personal. The

war in Vietnam was horrific for many. It's no wonder so many veterans suffer from PTSD. Denny's horrors got only worse as his year in Vietnam progressed, ending in an unimaginable battle for survival at what was supposed to be a routine flight. There is nothing glorious about Denny's war. It was awful, dirty, bloody, wasteful, insane.

This book is on a particular if not better than chicken hawk. Both pilots flew slicks. To take a 21 year old and get them to perform beyond their years and understanding is one thing. To get them to follow orders given by egotistical officers with no consideration or understanding of what they are asking is reprehensible. This book is a brutal look at a war that should never have happened and the toll it took. These guys are on a particular with pilots in any other war and we do not even acknowledge their or any of the other combatants. When you read this book it gives you an understanding as to why we have so many lost souls out there and so many screwed up families. This book is an Awsome read . Ed Denny is an Awsome guy and auther . It's a pity he has not followed on after Vietnam. Maybe he might.

I've read literally hundreds of books written by veterans telling of their personal experiences in Vietnam. Whether written by a grunt, a helicopter pilot, a jet pilot, a doctor or a nurse, every story is unique and deserves to be told. I particularly enjoyed Hornet 33. Ed Denny tells his story on a very personal level, with no hype and virtually no political views. His writing exposes the raw gut wrenching emotions he experienced as a combat helicopter pilot. At times the story had me laughing out loud, and at other times, I found myself reading with tears running down my cheeks realizing the inhumanity and horror experienced so often by Hornet 33, a very moral and decent human being. I highly recommend this book!

I found his story to be so powerful that I found myself reading chapter after chapter captivated by his words. This is a realistic and powerful account of Pilot Denny's actions flying a helicopter with troops on board into live combat situations where many brave young men are wounded and killed. As his friends perish around him he has a strong belief that he should have been the one that died. A powerful ac ount of

Excellent book by a combat helicopter pilot. His stories about his combat tour puts you in the seat next to him. He flew in different types of terrain thought out Viet Nam. Northern I Corps was the toughest area to fly. .

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