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# When Soldiers Cried

by David Shea

By the summer of 1967, the nation's Selective Service System was fueling the largest military build-up since World War II. Hundreds of thousands of young men, many too young to legally drink and vote, were inducted to wage an ill-fated war in Vietnam. Written as a narrative history, this story is a lasting tribute to those who answered the call and paid the ultimate sacrifice in the face of improbable odds.

Based on actual events, this book provides a unique, behind-the-scenes account of the draft and how the Vietnam War was actually conducted and fought. Although many of the scenes are shockingly vivid and the language is often raw, they have been included to describe the real conditions the young draftees had to endure. Woven throughout the pages of this book are the tragedies of loss and the instinctive drive to survive and rebuild.

Sadly, many of the men depicted in this book are among the over fifty-eight thousand fallen soldiers whose names are engraved on the hallowed, granite panels of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. Countless more were wounded or suffered from haunting, psychological problems, withdrawal, depression and suicide. In many ways, the sacrifices paid by their families were even greater.

To respect the privacy of the surviving families, many of the names in this book have been changed in order to protect their true identities.

## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

A native of California, David Shea is the son of a decorated, career Air Force officer who flew over Germany during World War II. While attending college in 1967, Mr. Shea was drafted, and after resisting an appointment to Officer Candidate School, was sent to Vietnam where he served a year with an Army infantry unit. In April 1969, he was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service.

After his tour in Vietnam, Mr. Shea enrolled in the University of Virginia and later graduated with a BS degree in commerce. Presently, Mr. Shea lives in Richmond, Virginia and serves as a division controller for a regional cooperative. This is a true account of his experiences with the draft and Vietnam.

### **ABOUT THE PUBLISHER**

Brandylane Publishers, Inc. is a small independent press that has been publishing fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and children's books since 1985. Brandylane is located in the Monroe district of Richmond, Virginia.

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