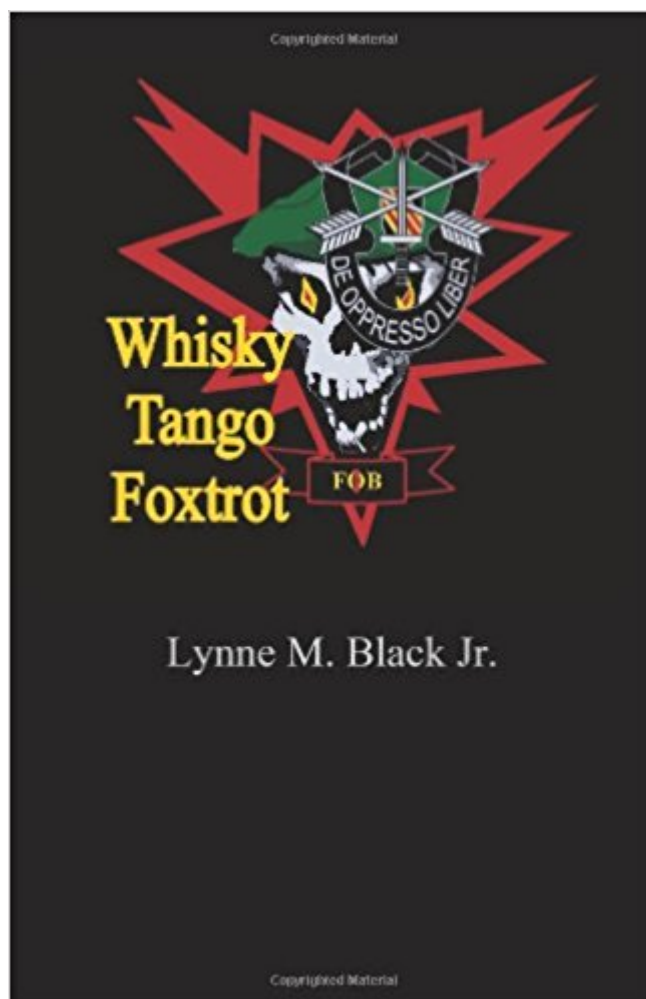


The book was found

Whisky Tango Foxtrot



Synopsis

Lynne Black is one of those warriors who have added one more piece to the puzzle which was known as MACV-SOG and the secret projects that fought the silent, bloody contacts across the fence in the Second Indochina War. His details of a Saigon Headquarters debriefing by Chief SOG, Colonel Steve Cavanaugh, are the first, in-depth recorded recollections of one of those taut, sometimes combative, sessions between the desk jockeys and the men whom they sent, all-too-often, to their deaths. His narration of the events which a History Channel program labeled "Jungle Ambush," which is part of series titled "Heroes Under Fire", will immediately immerse the reader in what it meant to "win" The Lottery at FOB 1. The Target Area encompassing the crossroads of Routes 92 and 922, best known by the one name that to this day will conjure images of death and destruction to any recon man who ever ran there: Oscar Eight; was the "prize." That aspect of the book is sufficient to make the reader become glued to the pages, as the recon team faces what will eventually be revealed to be very, very long odds. The book is not simply about running and gunning, but also contains some intimate insight into the mind-set, the motivations, of these young men thrust into situations which few readers will ever come to understand. The fact that Black clearly states his initial motivation to return to Vietnam for a second tour does not mean that it truly reveals what will eventually be recognized by some readers as the great "game" - "the subconscious need to feel the rush of these missions. In what can only be called an existentialist bar scene, the "liars' dice" played by the veterans of cross-border missions is a reflection of the "game" played for real by the teams on the ground in Laos, Cambodia, North Vietnam and in the DMZ. A careful reading of that chapter reveals much about the unwritten code of survival that was passed from veteran recon man to the new guys and will certainly draw the inevitable comparison to Remarque's All Quiet on the Western Front. Black also keeps the reader interested in his narrative by the generous use of some greatly humorous stories of the relationships between the men of recon company, their "little people" and with his adventures in the rear. Although in some instances (see the Chapter dealing with "Sean Flynn") he leaves his readers wanting more answers (whatever happened to Bucky?) to some interesting side trips on which he leads us, it is fair to say that regardless of the destination, it will be memorable. Despite this very small criticism ("I gotta know" - to quote from Dirty Harry) my unquestionably favorite Black Op involves his experimentation with an unorthodox method to successfully capture a North Vietnamese Army POW. If that little episode does not put a smile on your face, you should check your pulse.

Book Information

Paperback: 376 pages

Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform (September 24, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1463797796

ISBN-13: 978-1463797799

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviewsÂ (130 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #501,008 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #345 inÂ Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders & Notable People > Military > Vietnam War #853 inÂ Books > History > Military > United States > Vietnam War #5211 inÂ Books > History > Asia

Customer Reviews

"Whisky Tango Foxtrot" is a memoir about the early life of a unique man who was part of an exceptional period in American history, experiencing events and life and death situations a scant few will ever know about. It is the story of Lynne M. Black, affectionately known as "Blackjack," and his triumph over adversity as an elite member of the "Studies and Observations Group" during the Vietnam War. This is also a story of a man that faced hardship in various forms, nevertheless always finding a way of coming out triumphant regardless of the fiasco. While in his acknowledgement in "WTF," he gives kudos to his wife Judith for the encouragement to complete this seven year endeavor, Black asserts that this book amounted to: "Picking at very personal wounds and grievances in order for me to better understand my place and contributions in this life. Sog: The Secret Wars of America's Commandos in Vietnam The theme of this memoir is clearly determined perseverance regardless of the calamity anyone is faced with. Black never had a childhood. He was born on April 22, 1945, the same day Adolf Hitler declared defeat in Nazi Germany, deciding he would commit suicide as a consequence. As an adolescent, Black was reluctantly placed in charge of his two younger brothers, as well as forced to defend his masculinity due to being taunted about his name by his peers. Black graduated from high school in 1963 in Seattle, Washington. Immediately following that, he was informed by his parents that he either starts paying rent to live at home or move out. Faced with either homelessness or three hot's, a cot and a rifle, he enlisted in the Army.

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