



The Ravens: The True Story Of A Secret War In Laos, Vietnam

By Christopher Robbins

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"These are the heroes no one told you about" - Tom Clancy.

Officially the war in Laos did not exist - both North Vietnam and the USA denied they had troops there. In fact, thousands of North Vietnamese were invading the country and pouring down the Ho Chi Minh Trail on their way to the south, and the Americans were fighting a vigorous war against them from the air.

The Ravens were the pilots, all volunteers, who flew through heavy groundfire to identify targets and call in air-strikes. Their mission was so secret that they were 'sold' their prop-driven planes for a dollar apiece so they could be struck from US Air Force records. They wore no uniform and carried no identification. Refugees from the bureaucracy of the war in Vietnam, they accepted the murderous casualty rates of what was known as the Steve Canyon Program in return for a life of unrestricted flying and fighting.

Devoted to the hill tribesmen they fought alongside, the Ravens did their job with extraordinary skill and crazy courage and with a humour that was all of its own. This is the story, brilliantly told for the first time, of these extraordinary men. Based on extensive interviews with the survivors, it is a tale of undeniable

heroism, blending real-life romance, adventure and tragedy.

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Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #78195 in eBooks
- Published on: 2012-06-01
- Released on: 2012-06-01
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The Ravens were American forward air-controllers who directed strikes from vulnerable, low-flying spotter planes, mainly in support of a Meo general named Vang Pao in Laos. "Advised" by the CIA, this fierce warlord fought to keep the North Vietnamese out of the strategic Plain of Jars. Robbins (Air America) conveys the unique flavor of Raven-style combat and also explains how the diplomatic-military dynamics of the clandestine war in Laos fit into the overall American effort in Southeast Asia. The cast of characters is memorable: a swaggering, rowdy bunch of mavericks whom their parent service (the U.S. Air Force) had great difficulty controlling, they seemed to get by on sheer cussedness. According to the author, they suffered the highest casualty rate of the Indochinese War. Robbins describes the poignant plight of displaced Meo/Hmong tribespeople who have settled uneasily in the United States including General Pao and their ongoing struggle to "propitiate the alien spirits of America." Photos.

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From Library Journal

In 1961-75 the CIA ran a secret war in Laos, using Hmong tribesmen and covert U.S. Air Force air support. Ravens, USAF forward air controllers (FACs), flew low and slow over the battlefields, calling in air strikes on North Vietnamese soldiers. These men exposed themselves to every sort of risk. Robbins provides a detailed, readable account, with ample history and background to provide context. He is critical of U.S. military strategy and command, generally dismissive of extravagant claims against the CIA, and partial to the FACs. Likely to be popular with military buffs. Military Book Club main; Literary Guild alternate. Edwin B. Burgess, U.S. Army TRALINET Ctr., Fort Monroe, Va.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Sheila Walker:

Now a day folks who Living in the era wherever everything reachable by match the internet and the resources within it can be true or not demand people to be aware of each details they get. How many people to be smart in obtaining any information nowadays? Of course the answer is reading a book. Reading a book can help men and women out of this uncertainty Information especially this The Ravens: The True Story Of A Secret War In Laos, Vietnam book because this book offers you rich details and knowledge. Of course the info in this book hundred per cent guarantees there is no doubt in it you probably know this.

Lauren Marine:

The guide untitled The Ravens: The True Story Of A Secret War In Laos, Vietnam is the book that recommended to you to see. You can see the quality of the reserve content that will be shown to you. The language that author use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The writer was did a lot of exploration when write the book, and so the information that they share for your requirements is absolutely accurate. You also might get the e-book of The Ravens: The True Story Of A Secret War In Laos, Vietnam from the publisher to make you a lot more enjoy free time.

Ronald Johnson:

Often the book *The Ravens: The True Story Of A Secret War In Laos, Vietnam* has a lot associated with on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of gain. The book was published by the very famous author. This articles author makes some research just before write this book. This particular book very easy to read you can get the point easily after scanning this book.

Michael Ramsey:

That reserve can make you to feel relax. This particular book *The Ravens: The True Story Of A Secret War In Laos, Vietnam* was bright colored and of course has pictures around. As we know that book *The Ravens: The True Story Of A Secret War In Laos, Vietnam* has many kinds or style. Start from kids until adolescents. For example *Naruto* or *Private investigator Conan* you can read and think that you are the character on there. So , not at all of book are generally make you bored, any it offers you feel happy, fun and rest. Try to choose the best book to suit your needs and try to like reading which.

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