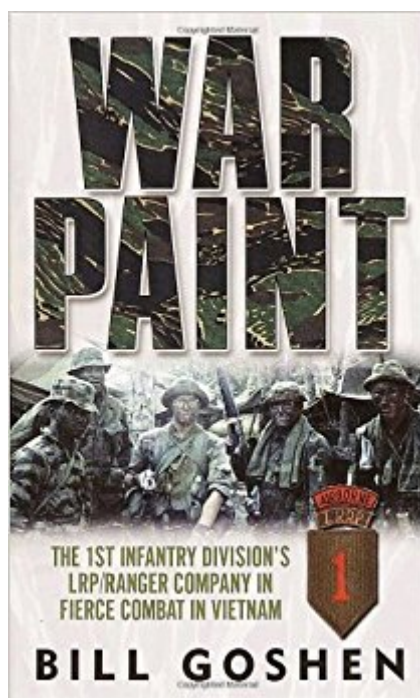


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# War Paint: The 1st Infantry Division's LRP/Ranger Company In Fierce Combat In Vietnam



## Synopsis

The men who served with in the 1st Infantry Division with F company, 52nd Infantry, (LRP) later redesignated as Company I, 75th Infantry (Ranger) --engaged in some of the fiercest, bloodiest fighting during the Vietnam War, suffering a greater relative aggregate of casualties than any other LRRP/LRP/ Ranger company. Their base was Lai Khe, within hailing distance of the Vietcong central headquarters, a mile inside Cambodia, with its vast stockpiles of weapons and thousands of transient VC and NVA soldiers. Recondo-qualified Bill Goshen was there, and has written the first account of these battle-hardened soldiers. As the eyes and ears of the Big Red One, the 1st Infantry, these hunter/killer teams of only six men inserted deep inside enemy territory had to survive by their wits, or suffer the deadly consequences. Goshen himself barely escaped with his life in a virtual suicide mission that destroyed half his team. His gripping narrative recaptures the raw courage and sacrifice of American soldiers fighting a savage war of survival: men of all colors, from all walks of life, warriors bonded by triumph and tragedy, by life and death. They served proudly in Vietnam, and their stories need to be told.

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## Customer Reviews

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Bill Goshen served with F Company, 52d Infantry (LRP), and I Company, 75th Infantry (Ranger), 1st Infantry Division, in the Republic of Vietnam from October 1968 through March 1969. He returned to the States after suffering serious wounds in an engagement with enemy forces. Goshen was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart. He was medically retired from the military in May 1970. He lives in Marble Falls, Texas, with his wife, Jackie, his son Kurt, and his daughter Wendy. *War Paint* is his first book.

An excellent account of the LRRPs with the 1st Infantry Division. A personal account of the author and his colleagues as they seek the enemy behind enemy lines. Mr. Goshen's harrowing narrative of his last firefight deep in enemy territory near the Cambodian NVA sanctuary reminds us all that the normal pleasantries of life can change into total disaster in a moment of time. We need to always be alert and ready for change. A very special account in that the author shares his spiritual journey both during Vietnam days and on his return home. The author found the Prince of Peace. Bill Goshen is also an accomplished poet--several of his poems are included in the text. A superb read.

The author's purpose for writing the book is mentioned in the introduction. He describes a need for the truth and sacrifice he and LRP's made during the Vietnam WAR. He mentions that much of what they did was both unrecognized nor appreciated. He felt compelled to tell the public with emphasis that why he writes is true and realistic. I believe he fears that readers may doubt the stories he describes passing off as exasperation. So with a compelling introduction underlining truth and realism, I expected to read a fast paced blood and gut war book. This was not the case. The author is patient, adding side notes, background and opinions throughout the entire book. This allows the reader to understand his perspective and understand what he's trying to say.

As such, readers can follow his struggle from beginning of his career to the end. Understand how the war has changed him and how he lives beyond the service. The book is not a blood and gut horrifically graphic read. But it's not a fairy tale either. It's a tasteful blend not too heavy, not too light (PG-13).

A good 4 star book. Chapters are short so it is easy to read to the next chapter before having to stop. Every chapter is a different story. He tells of the hell of being there, the unanswered questions of why the US had to have restrictions to fight and the other side didn't, and why it seemed the commanders had poor judgement and made foolish mistakes. It took him to get severely wounded to finally get out.

Being a Vietnam vet myself, I think this book will give the reader a real taste of the operations that seemed impossible. It depicts the extreme dedication and brotherhood of real warriors such as Bill Goshen. You can't write like this if you weren't there! Great book Bill!!!

Bill Goshen's new book, *War Paint*, is well written and comes from the heart. Though I served in Co.F/52nd Inf(LRP) and had DEROS'd before he arrived, I served with and knew many of the men in the stories and have since met others at our unit reunions. I would have proudly served with him as well. Bill does a great job of describing LRP/Ranger tactics, vividly recreates events in which he and others participated, and well describes both the best kind of patrols, and those that went badly. His book also shows how well teams fared when they received great support (which was usually) as well as how lonely 5-6 LRP/Rangers could be when left entirely without adequate support. In either case, they "carried on with mission". *War Paint* is an even-handed presentation of the day-to-day lives of our teams, without being macho or macabre. It also depicts the post-war struggles which he has overcome. A good read for those who also enjoyed Gary Linderer's books and the other great LRRP/LRP/Ranger memoirs that have appeared over the past 15 years.

This book is very well written and since I served in Vietnam with a helicopter company that was in close proximity to the locations this book details and describes, I found it very interesting.

While this book clearly speaks of what soldier's life was like during the Vietnam war, and the relationships developed; it was the last chapter titled *The Last Team* that tied everything together. During our current times, those thoughts and sayings are more true today than ever especially the

part were we must teach our children the past and the cost of freedom.

It told me somethings that I didn't know about my base camp but I think the LRRP were put together after I left Nam. I was there from 1965 to 1966 but we operated in all the areas mentioned in the book. It was HELL.

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