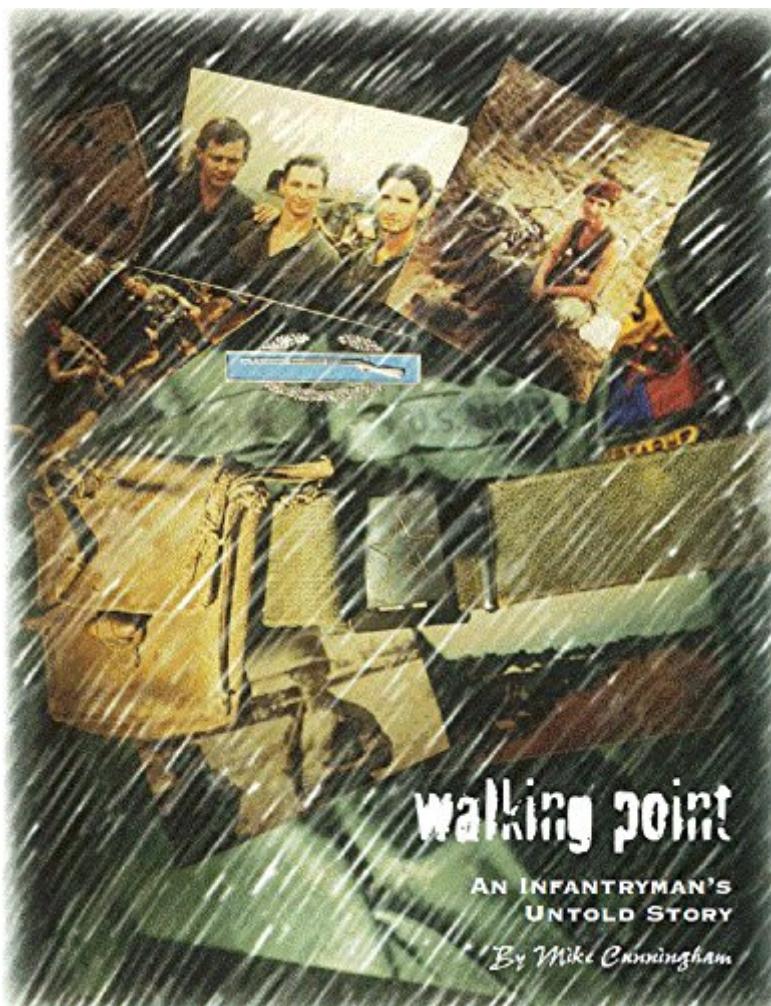


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# Walking Point: An Infantryman's Untold Story



## **Synopsis**

Que Son Valley is actually a large area of hills and valleys just to the west of Da Nang, Viet Nam. During the 1960s, units from the United States Marines and United States Army engaged the 2nd North Vietnamese Division in heavy and close combat. Our mission was to keep the enemy from capturing the cities of Da Nang, Tam Ky and Chu Lai and to pacify the area. We did prevent the enemy from capturing these vital cities but, the area was far from pacified. Many young, brave Americans were killed or seriously wounded in these hills and valleys in the belief they were helping the Vietnamese obtain freedom and peace. Although our altruistic beliefs might have gone astray, it was my honor serving with these fine men and women. I wrote this book in honor of them and to keep their memory alive. I hope that, when you read this book, you will understand the Vietnam Veteran better and you will understand, not the political Vietnam War, but the Vietnam War that an Infantryman lived through.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This is a great book- a must read about the Vietnam War. It's not easy to read- the subject matter is

troubling. But I don't think the author held back at all. It was a terrible time and you can feel the author's respect and affection for his comrades and all they went through during such a dark time in our country's history. Highly recommended if you want to get some idea of what it was like.

I didn't know how to rate this book, there were a lot of errors but more than anything it's the revelation of what went on in some infantry units. I've read a lot of books about Viet Nam to compare others experiences to mine. I was a LRRP, actually after January, 1968 the Department of Defense renamed the LRRP companies which were Long Range Reconnaissance patrol units to Ranger Company's. I served with Co. N 75th Infantry, 173rd Airborne brigade (sep). I know most infantry units were not as disciplined as we were in the field but what I just read shocked me! It's like these guys thought they were going there for a good time and were surprised to find a war! There was actually insubordination and no one cared, no one bothered to report it! There were a couple squad leaders I thought had it together but allowing members of the squad to get laid, smoke pot and drink beer when they're supposed to be on a night ambush! All the months they spent in the field, the missed opportunities for KIA's or captures! Unbelievable! I just hope that this Company was the exception to the rule. I don't know why but we had no blacks in the company, there were Mexicans and native Americans and they were fine men I was proud to serve with but no one ever called it a "White Man's war"! It was an American war! I realise the majority of these men were draftees, maybe that was the difference. Thank God it's all volunteer now. The Rangers in my company were known as " triple volunteers" , we volunteered for the Army, for Airborne and for the Rangers.

This is the best book I've read about the experiences of our servicemen in Vietnam and what it was really like over there. Kudos to Michael Cunningham for producing this well-written, straight-forward, and honest book. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and would recommend it to anyone interested in reading about what our servicemen went through in Vietnam.

"Walking Point: An Infantryman's Untold Story" by Michael Cunningham tells his story as a grunt during the Vietnam War. This 1st person tome reads like a diary of events occurring either that day or during a period of time with limited dialog throughout; his tour spanned seven months during 1968. Although, the author does an admirable job of telling his story, his characters are one-dimensional and known only by their names. Granted war is hell and the infantry soldier seems to suffer the most while living in the jungles for most of their time there. Death is around every corner, and being a point man was especially dangerous with a short life expectancy. Hopefully,

readers that were not there are able to pick-up on the foul living conditions, pesky insects, cold food, lack of sleep and water. War is not as glorious as depicted in a video game! I do applaud the author for writing and publishing his story, it is a difficult task requiring time, dedication, sacrifice and an understanding family. As a note to Michael, if you want to invest more time to make this rough diamond shine, you may want to consider a rewrite with much more descriptive prose, dialog and characters that readers can relate to. If not, I would suggest that as a minimum you solicit the help of a line editor to go over your story and correct the many grammatical errors within. With guidance, your story will flow much better. Still recommend "Walking Point..." for readers interested in learning what life was like for a grunt during the Vietnam War. John Podlaski, author Cherries - A Vietnam War Novel

I was disappointed in this book. It is not a bad account of the war but not the best I have read. The author admits, and it obviously was, written as a cathartic enterprise. I can't say much about the author's actual experiences--I neither know him nor know anything about what he actually experienced, but the story seems...maybe "thin" is the best way to explain it. The events are interesting, the point of view is interesting, but the story seems to jump about without much cohesiveness. The lack of cohesiveness was most apparent at the end when the author became sick mysteriously and was eventually sent home. The end of the book feels rushed and when the author eventually admits that he was "shamming" in the hospital there is no explanation, just a statement that he felt guilty because he was "shamming" and went home instead of back to the field. To me this was the most disappointing part of the book--an opportunity for him to explain what he did and why, but it is skimmed over in a page or two with almost no explanation.

Honest and straight forward. The "confession" and self-deprecation at the end sounded like more of a purging by the author, and I felt it was not needed or necessary. The young men who served in that environment were subjected to a culture shock unlike anything that can be experienced short of spending time in Viet Nam as a grunt. No excuses needed, it all sounded more like an extension of the survival instinct to me. I hope that the men who are brave enough to share their experience are blessed with some peace from the process. Tremendous job of sharing a harrowing life changing story that lasted a year, and stays with you forever. I salute you, Michael Cunningham.

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