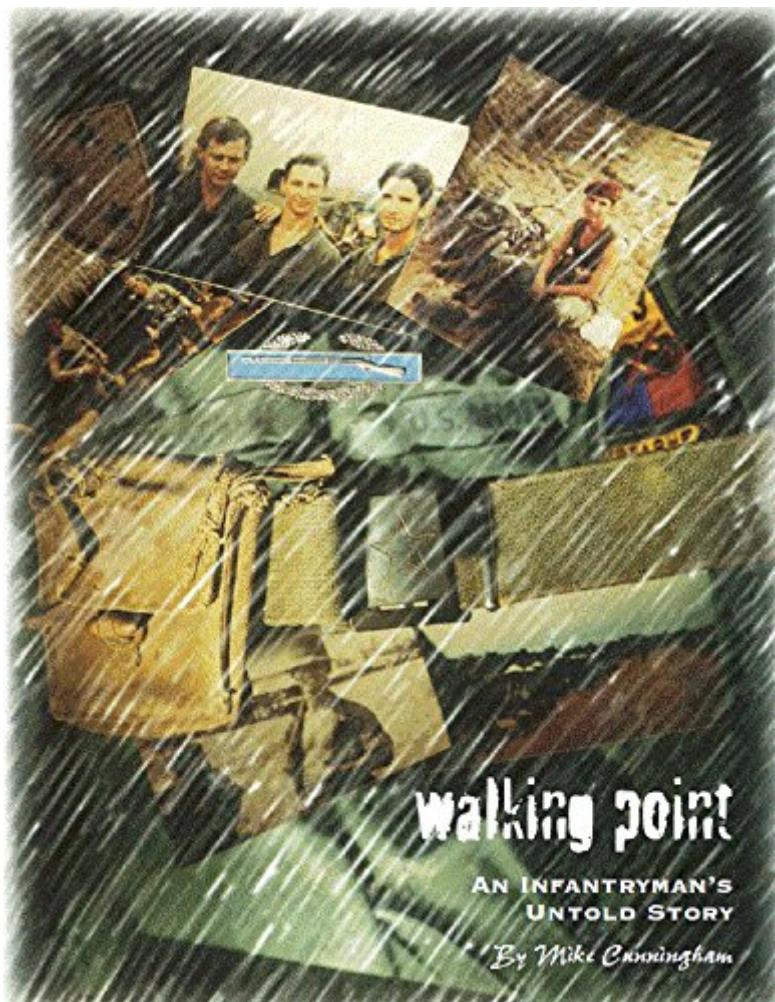


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# Walking Point: An Infantryman's Untold Story



## **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**

Only one in seven military aged males served in the U.S. military during the Vietnam War. Some of these did not go to Vietnam. Some not only went to Vietnam but had one of the most dangerous

assignments in the war---Walking Point. There was no one closer to the war than the point man.Cunningham knows the experience of seeing the elephant and he writes of it in a clear and concise manner. Anyone wishing to know the true history of the Vietnam War needs to include this work. It describes in detail what it was like and how American soldiers faced danger each day and overcame harsh resistance from the enemy. Readers will not be disappointed.

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.

"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 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.

I am of the generation that served in Vietnam. I have read a number of books about Vietnam and seen the classic movies that attempt to capture what the serviceman's experience was like. Cunningham's book nails it. From the boredom to the danger, from the bad food to the stupid orders, from the courageous actions to the horrors of the experience. Well written. His humanity shines through.

I could relate to the author's fear at having to walk point, but not his desire to do so! I always felt like I was on an island out there and that at any minute it was going to explode. He kind of accepts it too quickly and thinking that he alone can do it. I'm glad he made it and can't believe that he got out early with a disease that he never even found out about! Come on Michael, the least they could have told you was what noxious Vietnam invader got you! I'm still looking for the book that really gets down to the nitty gritty of how hopeless we felt, and the smells and misery that was every stinking day in the boonies! And you really wanted to go back to that?

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