



“Vietnam: From Eyes To Mind”

Author - Jim Arpey

Success Magazine: Jim, this book really touches on a lot of issues Vietnam veterans had and continue to feel. What made you put this work together?

Jim Arpey: My wish with this work was to try to explain the true and lasting effects of war to all those who have not experienced it firsthand. I wanted to illustrate that veterans become different people after they face combat.

SM: What is the most important thing, in your mind, that readers should take away from reading this?

JA: The most important thing for veterans, or anyone else involved in war, is “communication”—talk to anyone who will listen about your feelings and experiences, thus, setting your mind free from its own loneliness.

SM: In this time of conflict, do you think our current men and women in the armed forces can learn from your experiences?

JA: Yes, I believe so. Iraq and Afghanistan are no different. War is war no matter where it is fought.

SM: It’s been forty-one years since you’ve come home from Vietnam. How is society different today for returning soldiers by comparison to 1968?

JA: The difference in societal treatment of returning vets is vast and very complex. When I returned in 1968, our whole country was in turmoil due in part to the war in Vietnam.

SM: Politicians have said the effort in Iraq is

another Vietnam. Is this a fair comparison?

JA: The effort in Iraq is in some ways another Vietnam but, not having been in Iraq, I could not answer this in detail.

at first, but in the long run it will pay off.

SM: You’ve relived some pretty painful and horrible memories writing this work. Who should read it?

JA: If you know a Vietnam, Iraq, or Afghanistan vet, you should read this book.

SM: Families of returning combat vets are often unable or unsure how to approach their loved ones. What advice would you give to those families waiting at home?

JA: If you are a family member of the combat vet, approach your loved one with warmth, understanding, and a non-judgmental approach. If the vet is terribly disturbed about his or her experiences a professional counselor would be best utilized, along with the support of family.

SM: Jim, from all of us here at Success Magazine and our readers, thank you so much for your service to your country and for writing this book—as painful to relive as I am sure it was. How can our readers contact you and order this work?

JA: Order this book by sending a \$20 check or money order to:

James Arpey
14 Wilson Street
Greenwich, NY 12834

Please allow four weeks for delivery.

IS GOD

*For a long time, after, Nam, I didn't believe in God.
Because I could not believe God could allow this.*

*Now, I am wondering if God was more present there,
than He let us know at the time.*

I think I understand now. I was wrong.

The young faces of our dead wore God's expressions.

Through those young dead, He chose us to understand.

Understand what man must not do to survive.

The maimed, the crippled, the effected minds all bear the cross.

As the dead seem to disappear in an elusive conscious state,

The maimed and the crippled remain as a constant reminder.

Sooner or later, all must take a good look at them.

For some time I felt we suffered mentally for our deeds.

In the name of humanity we either saw or acted with and upon.

But perhaps the view or the acts were planned by God.

So that we may never do them again and pass on the pain to our

Children so that they will know,

And in turn perhaps they will tell their children, the children

Of the world.

Then, a generation of progression may begin, rather than destruction

And confusion.

SM: Your book talks a lot about the conflict at home as well as the war— it’s an intense read. What advice would you give to returning combat vets who have witnessed some of the same horrors you have seen?

JA: My advice is to communicate. I can't stress this enough. Talk to someone about your experiences. It may be painful