



POINT MAN  
INTERNATIONAL



Section  
(Army Infantry)  
Gallatin Valley, MT

# VIETNAM

July 1970 – July 1971

Having completed basic training, advanced infantry training, paratrooper school and 6 months of Special Forces, I found myself getting off the plane in Vietnam. Thank you, United States

Army. I had received more training than most guys entering Vietnam and had only arrived at this time because I was tired of the training.

In Vietnam, I was assigned to the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne, located at Hue, where I proceeded to volunteer for a six to eight man Recon Team. After being out in the jungle for nine months, with one month spent at Nha Trang in Recondo Training and six months of walking point in the bush, I finally received a rear job that lasted for about a month.

The rear job was making sure that everyone on the bunker was doing their job. Myself and another sergeant did this together every night. One night while performing this job I became involved in a situation where the sergeant I was working with was threatening to tear another man's throat out. He had this other American soldier by the throat and told my Commanding Officer and myself that he would kill him. My Commanding and I both knew that he was capable of doing this to the soldier that he had his grasp. As the situation continued to get worse, I had to shoot this American soldier. I didn't want him to die --- but he did.

Over the years I have asked the question many times...

## **WHY DID THIS AMERICAN SOLDIER HAVE TO DIE?**

Hopefully the following will help you understand WHY as it has for me.

# **WHY?**

Have you ever asked God Why?

What different attitudes have you seen displayed when God is asked Why?

- Anger
- Hurt
- Seeking knowledge
- Lovingly
- Fearful
- Thankfulness

In the Old Testament we see a man named Job ask God Why. What do we know about Job?

**Job 1:1** – was blameless

**Job 1:5** – was concerned for his family

**Job 10:3** – Job asked God, *“Is it right for thee to oppress, to reject the labor of thy hands, and to look favorably on the schemes of the wicked?”*

**Job 10:7** – Job asked God, *“Why didn’t you deliver me?”*

**Job 40:6** God speaks to Job and asks him, *“Who are you to question God?”*

**Job 42:1-6** responds.

God allows Satan to do things to Job and in doing so, Job became closer to God and God was glorified in it.

At different times in our lives we ask God WHY, and even though there may be more than one reason, the final reason is so we may turn to God and give him the glory.

God is glorified when his different attributes are magnified. Some of these would be:

- His power
- His mercy
- His forgiveness
- His grace
- His love

Many times, over the years I have asked God WHY. Especially concerning one situation in my life. God has shown me many reasons to this question, although probably not all of them. May he receive the glory.

Before going to Vietnam, I wasn’t a Christian and I didn’t really believe in God. I did hear about God when I was a child when I went to Sunday school a couple times with a neighbor friend.

While in Vietnam I had to shoot an American soldier that was going to kill some other American soldier. I didn’t want to kill him, but he died.

I’ve asked God many times – WHY did this soldier have to die?

Before this happen, I had decided out of fear that there might be a God. I started wearing a cross around my neck as if that would make a difference. But God wasn’t real to me.

I had already used alcohol to try to escape reality, and at this time I started using all kinds of drugs to do the same.

Even though I didn’t know God when I left Vietnam, in his grace, He allowed me to be able to leave the drug life there.

For nine years after Vietnam, I would have this reoccurring nightmare where the soldier I killed would have me by the throat, trying to kill me.

Christ worked in my heart over the years and I came to believe that He is my Savior and He could forgive me; and continues to forgive me.

The very night that I had accepted Christ as my Savior by the power of the Holy Spirit. God in his grace answered my prayer and removed the nightmare from my life. PRAISE GOD!!

At the time I asked God "Why did that soldier have to die?" **I think God answered:** *"You need to deal with the anger inside of you."*

Years ago-seeking God's direction-I asked God, "Why did that soldier have to die?" God answered: *"So you can understand what others are going through and I can use you to help them find peace in Jesus Christ."*

The reason why:

**God can be glorified!!**

**? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?**

When God doesn't allow us to see the answer right away, remember this:

**W-H-Y**

**W-** Who are we to question why God allows something to happen?

**Job 38:4**

**Job 42:2**