



Red Clay on My Boots Encounters with Khe Sanh 1968 to 2005

By Robert J. Topmiller

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“My first day in combat and the worst day of my life had just ended--or so I thought. I had encountered the mass confusion of warfare and had begun to realize that I only knew the conflict taking place in my close proximity...The war had become my personal battle, the one I still fight every night when I go to sleep.”

THE BOOK: Broken hearts, ruined minds, wrecked families, and shattered lives are all realities of the Vietnam War. Real people suffered because of the fighting, death, and tragedies that occurred at the battle of Khe Sanh. This is a story of a Vietnam corpsman immersed in the bloodiest, most confusing, and controversial battle of the Vietnam War.

As the war ends, the author tries to re-build his life but finds his mind and heart are still on the battlefield in Vietnam. How did this happen? Why did I survive? When will the nightmares end? Was it all for nothing? He has been fighting his own internal war for the last forty years. This is his story.

THE REVIEWS: “Topmiller has provided one of the most valuable contributions toward understanding what happened: a personal memoir...This book recounts numerous incidents not otherwise in print and his poignant insights are most helpful to those who want to touch the reality of what happened at Khe Sanh and learn....Topmiller as a medical corpsman treating the wounds of warriors then, as he now does through this remarkable book.” -Chaplain Ray Stubbe, who served as a chaplain at Khe Sanh, and author of *Valley of Decision* and *Battalion of Kings*

“...Topmiller combines chilling personal recollections with his expertise as a distinguished scholar of Vietnamese history to create a unique and powerful account of the Vietnam War....Terrifying, heartbreaking, enlightening, above all, honest, *Red Clay on My Boots* is a story hard to forget.”

-Mike Archer, author of *A Patch of Ground: Khe Sanh Remembered*

THE AUTHOR: Robert Topmiller entered the U.S. Navy in 1966 at age seventeen and trained to be a Hospital Corpsman. He served in South Vietnam in 1968 with the 26th Marines during the battle of Khe Sanh.

Topmiller received his B.A. and M.A. from Central Washington University and his Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky. Currently, he serves as an Assistant Professor of History at Eastern Kentucky University where he teaches World History and the History of the Vietnam War.