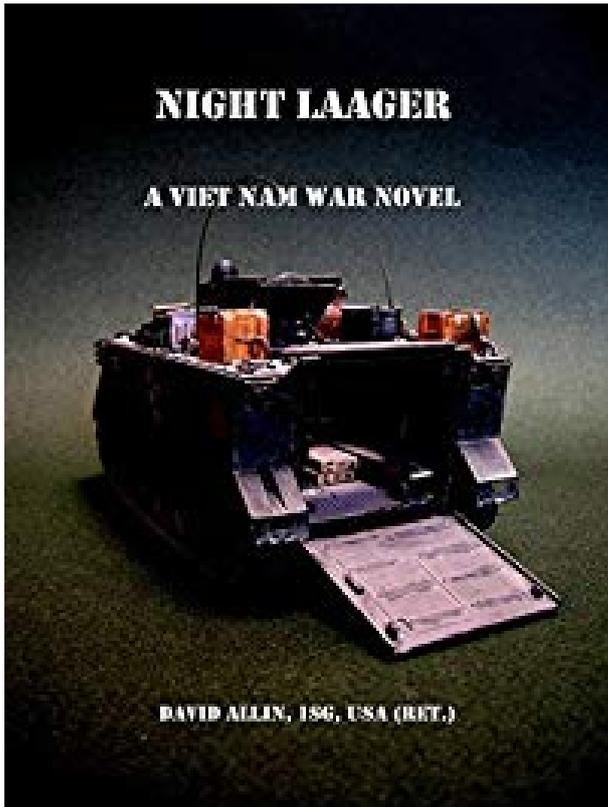


Night Laager: A Viet Nam War Novel



Author:	David Allin
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January 30, 1968. Alpha Company sets up its night laager, a temporary encampment with their armored personnel carriers forming a defensive perimeter. The laager is in the middle of some dry abandoned rice paddies about forty miles northwest of Saigon. The soldiers do their standard evening preparations, deploying RPG screens and Claymore mines, building small bunkers, and settling in for the night, but they are hoping for a stand down tomorrow. The Communists have agreed to a cease-fire on the Vietnamese holiday of Tet, and the infantrymen of Alpha have been promised a day to rest and do maintenance. Late that evening, however, they lose radio communications with their headquarters, and then they spot enemy movement in the distant tree line. It's not yet midnight, the official beginning of the truce, so they open fire, albeit with little noticeable effect.

Then the enemy replies with mortars and small arms. With no radio comms, they can't call for artillery or air support, so they'll have to fight with what they have on hand. Then things get worse.

A lot worse.

Night Laager portrays one terrible night in the lives of the ordinary soldiers who fought in Viet Nam—their gallows humor, courage, fear, frustration, and tragedies. During twelve hours of action and constant danger, the men struggle to survive until dawn, because the night belongs to the enemy. It's a few score Americans against an unknown number of North Vietnamese Army regulars who are determined to destroy their outpost.

It's the beginning of the Tet Offensive, the largest and most wide-spread enemy attack of the war. There's no one coming to their rescue, so they are entirely on their own.

They aren't fighting for God and Country; they're fighting for each other.