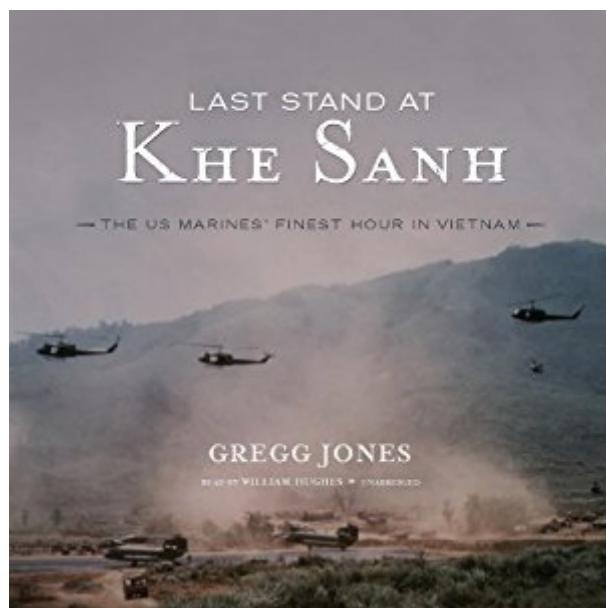


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# Last Stand At Khe Sanh: The US Marines' Finest Hour In Vietnam



## Synopsis

The vivid, fast-paced account of the siege of Khe Sanh told through the eyes of the men who lived it. For seventy-seven days in 1968, amid fears that America faced its own disastrous Dien Bien Phu, six thousand US Marines held off thirty thousand North Vietnamese Army regulars at the remote mountain stronghold called Khe Sanh. It was the biggest battle of the Vietnam War, with sharp ground engagements, devastating artillery duels, and massive US air strikes. After several weeks of heroic defense, the besieged Americans struck back in a series of bold assaults, and the North Vietnamese withdrew with heavy losses. *Last Stand at Khe Sanh* is the vivid, fast-paced account of the dramatic confrontation as experienced by the men who were there: Marine riflemen and grenadiers, artillery and air observers, platoon leaders and company commanders, Navy corpsmen and helicopter pilots, and a plucky band of US Army Special Forces. Based on extensive archival research and more than one hundred interviews with participants, *Last Stand at Khe Sanh* captures the courage and camaraderie of the defenders and delivers the fullest account yet of this epic battle.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The *Last Stand at Khe Sanh* was an intriguing read that documented the 77 day siege of the Marine basecamp. It seems like the author took the after action reports about the events and then humanized the report and breaking it down to squad level action to make it more readable. I especially like how he listed names of personnel and followed them through the battle where they either portrayed valor or shows how they died. My close friend, Doc Cecala was wounded during an ambush while on a patrol with B 1/26; most of his platoon was killed and at least half of the second

which came to reinforce them. Shot in the shoulder and legs, he managed to crawl back to the gates of the firebase and be rescued. The book also does justice to the hill fights surrounding the base, showing how they worked through their difficulties: ground attacks, incoming, lack of water, food and ammunition. Once finished, the reader is able to review the action taken by the American leadership and gage whether or not they did the right thing. Mr. Jones also documents the action within the white house and discussions between President Johnson, McNamara and Westmorland and how politics entered into their decisions. Highly recommended for those wanting to learn more about one of the monumental battles of the Vietnam War. Great job Gregg Jones for putting it all together for us. John Podlaski, author "Cherries - A Vietnam War Novel" and "When Can I Stop Running?"

I have taken this book on as a personal trilogy to be combined with my next two books: In Reflection by Robert S. McNamara, and Dereliction of Duty by H.R. McMaster. This book felt more like a continuation to Dr. Bernard B. Fall's work of "Street Without Joy" and "Hell In A Very Small Place: The Battle for Dien Bien Phu." The tragedy that lay within these pages are many, the valor recorded is above reproach, and the ability of the human being to find a way to survive is gut wrenching. In good conscience, I could not just dive into "In Reflection" as I believed it prudent first to read of something related to the Tet Offensive era which is the era to which SecDef McNamara departed his position from the Pentagon on 29 February 1968. This book is simply a book for the ages "there were good wars, and there have been avoidable wars" to the Betrayed Generation of Americans who served with dignity and honor "I as a Marine welcome you home now and always for the suffering you endured." Mr. Gregg Jones fully researched this work and deserves all the credit that can be provided in discussing the evolution of the Vietnam War in brief, the battle as it began, and the Tet Offensive to which it was linked. To my Gunnery Sergeant who served in Khe Sanh and to the memory of our Persian Gulf War experience "this book I read on your behalf. Semper Fidelis

This book plays with your emotions, but never takes your mind off the map, off the strategy, far from the psychology, it never takes you from the moment but expands on every moment, gives them, gravitas. It's a good book for war junkies and people who love the psychology of action alike. The psychology of the individual mind is an interesting thing in this book, as most people look at the military, at battles, as formations with structure, and order when it's far from that, its organized chaos with no edge, its a horizon that's upside down until its not. The format of the book lays things

out well and never takes you far from the overarching theme of the book, you don't feel the pages going by and hope that you're not done. The Epilogue is almost a different read all by itself, it pulls you forward, it gives you some solace at times, it talks about healing, it talks about loss, after so much loss. Enjoy it!

I approached this book with some degree of doubt because the Author wasn't even there so I wondered how accurate the book could be. That said as I started reading the book I found it to be expertly written and very factual and it covered everything that happened in great detail. It detailed all of the battles with names, places, and the actual events and it did that in great detail. I was a Combat Soldier in the Army so I wasn't there either but over the years I have made friends in the VFW and two of them were there. They were both in the 1/9 Marines and the things they told me were the same as described in the book in great detail. I was very surprised as one of my friends served under a Captain Radcliff who was mentioned several times in this book. The book is an excellent read about the battle at Khe Sanh that lasted 77 days and cost an enormous amount of lives and wounded by the US marines who fought valiantly to save the base from being overrun. This was the most protracted and long battle that happened in the Vietnam War and was a test of wills both on the Part of the US marines and the NVA. Our use of Air Power including B-52s did a major role in saving the base and breaking the back of the NVA as they killed thousands of NVA soldiers. This was counteracted by the NVA in their relentless pounding of the base with Artillery, Rockets and Mortars to the point where it nearly caused the USA to be unable to resupply the base. This relentless pounding of Khe Sanh was something soldiers were unaccustomed to in Vietnam. The use of this much artillery, rockets, and Mortars brought a new level of terror to the soldiers fighting there as their lives were soon driven underground in deeper and deeper holes to try to save themselves. I highly recommend this book as an excellent read about the biggest battle to take place during the Vietnam War.

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