

Shadows *of* Saigon

Air Commandos in Southeast Asia



Photo: USARP

Elton Fletcher

Shadows Of Saigon Air Commandoes In Southeast Asia

John Andreas Olsen



Shadows Of Saigon Air Commandoes In Southeast Asia:

Shadows of Saigon Elton Fletcher, 2001-05 *Shadows of Saigon* is a work of fiction based upon real people and factual events during the Vietnam War. The book covers the time period from the American Invasion of Cambodia in May 1970 to May 1971 when Vietnamization and U S troop withdrawals are well underway. During this time the Vietnam War takes a major swing westward into the neighboring country of Cambodia. *Shadows of Saigon* is a compelling story of a young man who for various reasons leaves his chosen profession and the woman he loves to volunteer for service in the U S Air Force. The setting of the story revolves around Tan Son Nhut Air Base in Saigon Republic of Vietnam. Former teacher Lieutenant Paul Knight is fresh from officer's school and pilot training in Texas. He volunteers for Air Commando duty in the AC 119 Shadow gunship. Reporting for duty with the 17th Special Operations Squadron in Vietnam, he is assigned to Fighting C Flight at Tan Son Nhut Air Base in Saigon. It is not long after American ground troops are withdrawn from Cambodia that Charlie Flight with its five fixed wing gunships is assigned the task of providing twenty four hour air support for the Cambodian Army. Flying antiquated propeller driven transport planes converted to attack gunships, the Air Commandos are designated with the radio call sign Shadow. The Shadows are accustomed to hiding in the darkness of night on combat missions but now they must also operate during the day. The big black warplane becomes a most inviting target for enemy gunners as it flies low and slow to encircle the enemy with four side firing Gatling guns that rain death. Knight and his fellow Air Commandos deal with the increased dangers of flying missions eye to eye with the enemy in broad daylight. Knight's chances of surviving his twelve month tour of duty in Southeast Asia lessen with each combat mission. He soon learns that the gunship he pilots is not always reliable and that the monsoon season creates extremely hazardous combat flying conditions. No larger than the State of Missouri, Cambodia is a hotbed for U S air operations. Twenty four hours a day Shadow gunships from Saigon rotate every four hours to provide continual close fire support for the Cambodians. From the provincial capitals of Prey Veng, Kampong Cham, Kampong Thom, Siem Reap and the ancient ruins of Angkor to the nation's capital city of Phnom Penh and the nation's major seaport at Kompong Som, Shadows of Saigon are hell bent to provide uninterrupted direct air support for the newly formed Republic of Cambodia. Knight's world of war ranges from sheer boredom to stark terror. It constantly transitions back and forth between the relatively safe sanctum of Tan Son Nhut and the dangerous combat environment over hostile enemy territory in Cambodia and Laos. Laying his life on the line for an unpopular and seemingly never ending war, Knight struggles with his convictions that motivated him to volunteer for service. He wrestles with fears of getting killed or captured. With the enticement of Saigon just outside the gates of Tan Son Nhut, Knight takes advantage of the city to escape the rigors of war. Knight meets and eventually falls in love with a Eurasian war correspondent from Paris. She hates the Americans and what they have done to Vietnam. Three of Knight's pilot training buddies are also stationed in Vietnam. Their paths cross frequently as they too face the realities of war and the possibility of never returning home alive. Killer Dameron pilots AC 119G Shadow

gunships along with Knight at Tan Son Nhut He rejects his past life to become a renegade obsessed with killing the enemy Joseph Eric Thomas better known as JET flies AC 119K Stinger gunships that carry much greater firepower than its sister ship Shadow Youngblood is stationed at Phan Rang where he flies F 100 fighter bombe **United States Air Force Air Commandos** Madonna Yancey,2000-12 A special acknowledgment goes to Madonna Yancey for writing the manuscript for the front of this publication P 4 *SHADOW AND STINGER: Developing the AC119G/K Gunships in the Vietnam War* William P. Head,2007 Nicknamed the truck killer the AC 119K gunship and its counterpart the AC 119G were developed in the late 1960s in response to the needs of the US military in Vietnam This book examines the evolution of these aircraft and their role within Vietnam military policy and geopolitical realities **Night Hunters** William Pace Head,2014-03-18 In Night Hunters air power historian William P Head provides the first detailed study of the development and deployment of the AC 130 gunship While other airframes and other types of close air support CAS and interdiction weapon systems preceded or flew with the AC 130s this four engine cargo airframe proved to be not only the longest serving fixed wing gunship but also the most effective by far During the Vietnam War the US military developed new tactics and weapons systems to counter a diversity of enemy tactics and geographic features the difficult climate and the shifting diplomatic context One of the most important was the development of the AC 130 Its ability to transport heavier payloads at higher altitudes across longer distances made it the logical choice to be the final Vietnam era fixed wing gunship and the only one that continues to fly missions in the twenty first century In addition it employed many of the most advanced weapons sensors targeting devices and fire control systems of the 1970s or of any era By recounting both the technical development and the combat operations of the plane and by looking at the proposed alternatives for its use in the War on Terror Night Hunters offers a clear view of the role of gunships and of close air support in US wars In today s never ending brushfire wars the AC 130s continue to uphold their reputation for excellence Night Hunters William P. Head,2012 Storms over the Mekong William Pace Head,2020-04-30 From the defeat of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam at Ap Bac to the battles of the Ia Drang Valley Khe Sanh and more Storms over the Mekong offers a reassessment of key turning points in the Vietnam War Award winning historian William P Head not only reexamines these pivotal battles but also provides a new interpretation on the course of the war in Southeast Asia In considering Operation Rolling Thunder for example which Head dubs as too much rolling and not enough thunder readers will grasp the full scope of the campaign from specifically targeted bridges in North Vietnam to the challenges of measuring success or failure the domestic political situation and how over time Head argues slowly but surely Rolling Thunder dug itself into a hole Likewise Head shows how the battles for Saigon and Hue during the Tet Offensive of 1968 were tactical defeats for the Communist forces with as many as 40 000 killed and no real gains At the same time however Tet made it clear to many in Washington that victory in Vietnam would require a still greater commitment of men and resources far more than the American people were willing to invest Storms over the Mekong is a blow by blow account of

the key military events to be sure But beyond that it is also a measured reconsideration of the battles and moments that Americans thought they already knew adding up to a new history of the Vietnam War **Shadow Spirit** Elton Fletcher,2010-12-03 There is no available information at this time **War in the Shadows** Boston Publishing Company,1988 Picture essays cover the Golden Triangle and Edward G Lansdale **Airpower Applied** John Andreas Olsen,2017-05-15 Airpower Applied reviews the evolution of airpower and its impact on the history of warfare Through a critical examination of twenty nine case studies in which various U S coalitions and Israel played significant roles this book offers perspectives on the political purpose strategic meaning and military importance of airpower By comparing and contrasting more than seventy five years of airpower experience in very different circumstances readers can gain insight into present day thinking on the use of airpower and on warfare The authors all experts in their fields demystify some of airpower s strategic history by extracting the most useful teachings to help military professionals and political leaders understand what airpower has to offer as a continuation of politics by other means The case studies emphasize the importance of connecting policy and airpower operational effectiveness cannot substitute for poor statecraft As the United States its allies and Israel have seen in their most recent applications of airpower even the most robust and capable air weapon can never be more effective than the strategy and policy it is intended to support **Apollo's Warriors** Michael E. Haas,1998-05 Presenting a fascinating insider s view of U S A F special operations this volume brings to life the critical contributions these forces have made to the exercise of air space power Focusing in particular on the period between the Korean War the Indochina wars of 1950 1979 the accounts of numerous missions are profusely illustrated with photos maps Includes a discussion of AF operations in Europe during WWII as well as profiles of Air Commandos who performed above beyond the call of duty Reflects on the need for financial political support for restoration of the forces Bibliography Extensive photos maps Charts tables

Reviewing **Shadows Of Saigon Air Commandoes In Southeast Asia**: Unlocking the Spellbinding Force of Linguistics

In a fast-paced world fueled by information and interconnectivity, the spellbinding force of linguistics has acquired newfound prominence. Its capacity to evoke emotions, stimulate contemplation, and stimulate metamorphosis is really astonishing. Within the pages of "**Shadows Of Saigon Air Commandoes In Southeast Asia**," an enthralling opus penned by a highly acclaimed wordsmith, readers set about an immersive expedition to unravel the intricate significance of language and its indelible imprint on our lives. Throughout this assessment, we shall delve to the book is central motifs, appraise its distinctive narrative style, and gauge its overarching influence on the minds of its readers.

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Shadows Of Saigon Air Commandoes In Southeast Asia Introduction

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