



**Life and Death in the Central Highlands: An
American Sergeant in the Vietnam War, 1968-1970
(North Texas Military Biography and Memoir
Series)**

James T. Gillam

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

Life and Death in the Central Highlands: An American Sergeant in the Vietnam War, 1968-1970 (North Texas Military Biography and Memoir Series)

James T. Gillam

Life and Death in the Central Highlands: An American Sergeant in the Vietnam War, 1968-1970 (North Texas Military Biography and Memoir Series) James T. Gillam

In 1968 James T. Gillam was a poorly focused college student at Ohio University who was dismissed and then drafted into the Army. Unlike most African-Americans who entered the Army then, he became a Sergeant and an instructor at the Fort McClellan Alabama School of Infantry. In September 1968 he joined the First Battalion, 22nd Regiment of the 4th Infantry Division in Vietnam. Within a month he transformed from an uncertain sergeant—who tried to avoid combat—to an aggressive soldier, killing his first enemy and planning and executing successful ambushes in the jungle. Gillam was a regular point man and occasional tunnel rat who fought below ground, an arena that few people knew about until after the war ended. By January 1970 he had earned a Combat Infantry Badge and been promoted to Staff Sergeant.

Then Washington's politics and military strategy took his battalion to the border of Cambodia. Search-and-destroy missions became longer and deadlier. From January to May his unit hunted and killed the enemy in a series of intense firefights, some of them in close combat. In those months Gillam was shot twice and struck by shrapnel twice. He became a savage, strangling a soldier in hand-to-hand combat inside a lightless tunnel. As his mid-summer date to return home approached, Gillam became fiercely determined to come home alive. The ultimate test of that determination came during the Cambodian invasion. On his last night in Cambodia, the enemy got inside the wire of the firebase, and the killing became close range and brutal.

Gillam left the Army in June 1970, and within two weeks of his last encounter with death, he was once again a college student and destined to become a university professor. The nightmares and guilt about killing are gone, and so is the callous on his soul. *Life and Death in the Central Highlands* is a gripping, personal account of one soldier's war in the Vietnam War.

Number 5 in the North Texas Military Biography and Memoir Series

“Jim Gillam experienced real combat in his Vietnam tour. His stunning accounts of killing and avoiding being killed ring true. Although wounded several times, Jim did not leave the field for treatment in a field hospital, so he never generated the paperwork for a Purple Heart or two or three. Although he would be appalled at the thought, his attention to duty was ‘lifer’ behavior, a concern for the well-being of his squad that represents the best of NCO leadership in any army.”—**Allan R. Millett**, author of *Semper Fidelis* and coauthor of *A War to Be Won*

“[Gillam] looks back on his experiences of Vietnam not solely as a participant in the war, but also with the critical eye of a trained historian. . . . [He] uses an impressive array of after action reports, duty officer logs, battlefield reports, and other primary source material, to back up and reinforce his recollections.”—*Journal of Military History* review by **James H. Willbanks**, author of *The Tet Offensive*

“Gillam, a ‘shake and bake’ sergeant, presents a good account of small unit infantry action during the war. He is very good at explaining the weaponry, tactics, and living conditions in the field.”—**James E. Westheider**, author of *The African-American Experience in Vietnam*

 [Download Life and Death in the Central Highlands: An Americ ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Life and Death in the Central Highlands: An Amer ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Life and Death in the Central Highlands: An American Sergeant in the Vietnam War, 1968-1970 (North Texas Military Biography and Memoir Series) James T. Gillam

From reader reviews:

Gary Cornejo:

The book *Life and Death in the Central Highlands: An American Sergeant in the Vietnam War, 1968-1970* (North Texas Military Biography and Memoir Series) can give more knowledge and also the precise product information about everything you want. So just why must we leave a good thing like a book *Life and Death in the Central Highlands: An American Sergeant in the Vietnam War, 1968-1970* (North Texas Military Biography and Memoir Series)? A few of you have a different opinion about guide. But one aim which book can give many information for us. It is absolutely appropriate. Right now, try to closer with your book. Knowledge or information that you take for that, it is possible to give for each other; you could share all of these. Book *Life and Death in the Central Highlands: An American Sergeant in the Vietnam War, 1968-1970* (North Texas Military Biography and Memoir Series) has simple shape however you know: it has great and massive function for you. You can search the enormous world by available and read a e-book. So it is very wonderful.

Wanda Sousa:

The e-book with title *Life and Death in the Central Highlands: An American Sergeant in the Vietnam War, 1968-1970* (North Texas Military Biography and Memoir Series) has lot of information that you can understand it. You can get a lot of profit after read this book. This book exist new expertise the information that exist in this e-book represented the condition of the world currently. That is important to yo7u to find out how the improvement of the world. This kind of book will bring you inside new era of the syndication. You can read the e-book on your smart phone, so you can read it anywhere you want.

Paula Lauria:

Is it you actually who having spare time subsequently spend it whole day simply by watching television programs or just telling lies on the bed? Do you need something new? This *Life and Death in the Central Highlands: An American Sergeant in the Vietnam War, 1968-1970* (North Texas Military Biography and Memoir Series) can be the respond to, oh how comes? The new book you know. You are so out of date, spending your time by reading in this completely new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these guides have than the others?

Lisa Robinson:

As we know that book is vital thing to add our knowledge for everything. By a guide we can know everything we want. A book is a range of written, printed, illustrated or even blank sheet. Every year was exactly added. This publication *Life and Death in the Central Highlands: An American Sergeant in the Vietnam War, 1968-1970* (North Texas Military Biography and Memoir Series) was filled about science. Spend your extra time to add your knowledge about your science competence. Some people has various feel when they reading a new book. If you know how big benefit from a book, you can really feel enjoy to read a

book. In the modern era like at this point, many ways to get book you wanted.

Download and Read Online Life and Death in the Central Highlands: An American Sergeant in the Vietnam War, 1968-1970 (North Texas Military Biography and Memoir Series) James T. Gillam #3NSRDV4C2BW

Read Life and Death in the Central Highlands: An American Sergeant in the Vietnam War, 1968-1970 (North Texas Military Biography and Memoir Series) by James T. Gillam for online ebook

Life and Death in the Central Highlands: An American Sergeant in the Vietnam War, 1968-1970 (North Texas Military Biography and Memoir Series) by James T. Gillam Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Life and Death in the Central Highlands: An American Sergeant in the Vietnam War, 1968-1970 (North Texas Military Biography and Memoir Series) by James T. Gillam books to read online.

Online Life and Death in the Central Highlands: An American Sergeant in the Vietnam War, 1968-1970 (North Texas Military Biography and Memoir Series) by James T. Gillam ebook PDF download

Life and Death in the Central Highlands: An American Sergeant in the Vietnam War, 1968-1970 (North Texas Military Biography and Memoir Series) by James T. Gillam Doc

Life and Death in the Central Highlands: An American Sergeant in the Vietnam War, 1968-1970 (North Texas Military Biography and Memoir Series) by James T. Gillam Mobipocket

Life and Death in the Central Highlands: An American Sergeant in the Vietnam War, 1968-1970 (North Texas Military Biography and Memoir Series) by James T. Gillam EPub