



# **VIETNAM: THERE AND BACK**

COMPLETE LYRICS SET

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## REFLECTIONS

We met in country  
Two kids, both untried  
Fought many battles  
Damn near side by side  
Waded through rice paddies  
Dodged mortars and grenades  
Yes we made it through it all  
But came home to no parades

Met again in DC  
At the Hawk N' Dove pub crawl  
Paid our respects to buddies  
At the new black granite wall  
We're still life-long friends  
And we always get along  
Both of us have had some problems  
Caused by a war that went wrong

Those days have left their mark  
And paint the world we see  
They made us who we are  
And chain us or set us free

Getting older now  
Our days are numbered  
Had to tell these stories  
Hopin' they'd be heard  
Everything we've said  
Ain't nothin' but the truth  
Anyone who listens  
Knows it's how we lost our youth

REPEAT CHORUS  
REPEAT CHORUS  
REPEAT CHORUS

## JODY

On our first day of basic training  
We learned about a guy we'd come to hate  
Keeping in step we'd all march along  
As the drill instructor shouted out his name

Jody was the guy  
Who'd steal your wife  
He'd take your girl  
And tear apart your life

He followed us all the way to Chu Lai  
He always seemed to know where we were going  
Even in letters we got from back home  
Though we never saw him he made his presence known

REPEAT CHORUS

It got so bad some would pray  
For Charlie to ease the pain

REPEAT CHORUS  
REPEAT CHORUS  
REPEAT CHORUS

## INCOMING

Choppin' through the jungle  
Claustrophobia's creepin' in  
Silence surrounds us  
Morale is gettin' thin  
Got this eerie feelin'  
A clearing opens ahead  
The sound of mortar rounds  
Fills us all with dread

Drop to the ground rounds incoming  
Pull down your head rounds incoming  
Make yourself small rounds incoming  
Rounds incoming rounds

Scatter to find cover  
Shrapnel's flyin' everywhere  
Trapped out in the open  
With that thousand yard stare  
Nowhere to run or hide  
Panic's settin' in  
Walked into an ambush  
Never saw it comin'

REPEAT CHORUS

One guy's down yellin' I'm hit  
Some don't make a sound  
Suddenly all is quiet  
Bodies lie all around

REPEAT CHORUS

REPEAT CHORUS

## WHY US

Spent a year in Vietnam  
Landed in Chu Lai  
Three hundred sixty five days  
With the war always nearby  
Always out in the bush  
Always danger ahead  
With our buddies by our side  
Knowing there'd be bloodshed

Started out two hundred strong  
Seemed every day someone died  
Each of us wore that look  
Sayin' who's next in line  
It still haunts us to this day  
Wish it didn't and that's no lie  
We kept dodging bullets  
All along asking why

Why us  
Why did we survive  
When better men died  
Why us  
Does anyone know  
Why us

What is luck all about  
Why do some have it and some run out

REPEAT CHORUS  
REPEAT CHORUS

## LIVIN' IN FEAR

Waitin' on a chopper  
With my buddy Bean  
Sweatin' in the jungle  
What a crazy scene  
One day it's an ambush  
Next day take a hill  
Charlie's always watchin'  
Lookin' for a kill

Don't know what I'm doin' here  
Gotta make a year  
Hopin' I can last that long  
I'm livin' in fear  
I'm livin' in fear

Sniper fire overhead  
Then the jungle's still  
Don't know what's comin' next  
Man I've had my fill  
We're here in Vietnam  
Young and tough and mean  
I want to believe  
It's just a bad dream

CHORUS

I've got to get home  
It's all I want to do

REPEAT CHORUS  
REPEAT CHORUS

## PISSIN' 'N' MOANIN'

When we got in country  
It hit us right away  
Livin' in the jungle  
Day after lousy day  
Nothing good ahead  
Never enough rest  
Everyone was tired  
Moody and depressed

Pissin' n' moanin'  
Was all we could do  
All day long  
It helped us all get through  
Pissin' n' moanin'  
Was all we could do

The weather was hot  
It made it hard to breathe  
C-rats were lousy  
Damn ham 'n' lima beans  
Mosquitoes big as trucks  
Leeches everywhere  
Our so called leaders  
It was like they weren't there

REPEAT CHORUS

We'd only stop when we had to fight  
And in the dead of night

REPEAT CHORUS  
REPEAT CHORUS

## HILL 352

It's May 1968  
Somewhere near Que Son  
Damned near 100 degrees  
With the sun beating down  
Already been through so much  
Ever since we got here  
Don't know which way is up  
Smell of danger everywhere

We're going to take hill 352  
Straight to the top  
We're going to take hill 352  
Don't want to stop  
Take that hill 352  
We can't give up

Starting up a steep incline  
Packin' ninety pounds  
Things go right to hell  
Men droppin' all around  
"Medic" is all we hear  
Screamin', "Doc, I'm hit"  
Stopped before we started  
Then guys start losin' it

### REPEAT CHORUS

Had a hundred guys going up  
Struck down to thirty-two  
It's not in the cards today  
We aren't gonna break through

Didn't take hill 352  
It broke our backs  
Didn't take hill 352  
Ain't gonna happen  
Damn that hill 352  
It kicked our ass



## MONSOON RAIN

Fightin's died down  
All around  
None of us wants to start up again  
We're tired and beat  
Our only relief  
Because of the monsoon rain

I drift to sleep  
Against a tree  
Try to stay dry but there's just no way  
Soaked to the bone  
I feel so alone  
Out in this monsoon rain

If only it could erase all I've seen  
Wish it could drown out all of the screams

I start to dream  
Of you and me  
It's all I can do just to keep me sane  
As I disappear  
All I can hear  
Are sounds of the monsoon rain

As I disappear  
All I can hear  
Are sounds of the monsoon rain

As I disappear  
All I can hear  
Are sounds of the monsoon rain

## SHAMMERS

Every unit had them  
We had our share too  
Guys who shirked their duties  
And screwed me and you  
Looked for any reason  
Not to go and fight  
They'd even hurt themselves  
To avoid that chopper flight

Shammers, they knew better  
Would never do their share  
We needed help out in the bush  
Shammers didn't care  
They didn't care

Molter had his teeth pulled  
What a clever scam  
Kelly copped some illness  
Cause he didn't give a damn  
Cooper caught the clap  
Again and again  
These guys couldn't be found  
When the shit hit the fan

REPEAT CHORUS

They came home and told war stories  
While we still live it through our nightmares

REPEAT CHORUS  
REPEAT CHORUS

## NIGHT PATROL

Provost came back with the news  
We're all goin' out tonight  
Tell Bean and Louie to get ready  
Guys to count on in a fight  
Mow down some beans and franks  
Stock up on more ammo  
Paint our faces with camouflage  
Blend in like death's shadow

We're goin' on a night patrol  
It doesn't get much worse  
We know what we have to do  
No time left to rehearse  
Who knows who'll come back  
From the night patrol

Pack up our claymore mines  
And grab the old M60  
Nobody wants to go out tonight  
We're all tense and jittery  
It's hard to keep our heads on straight  
Knowing where we have to go  
Now it's time to mount up  
We cuss and we hit the road

REPEAT CHORUS

If we had a choice  
We'd stay right where we are

REPEAT CHORUS

Who knows who'll come back  
From the night patrol  
I hope I come back  
From the night patrol

## AMBUSH

Walkin' a trail in Tam Ky  
In a free fire zone  
Trained to shoot anything that moved  
This sure ain't like home  
Charlie showed himself ahead  
And we took the bait  
Chased him till we lost him  
We soon learned our mistake

Walked into an ambush  
Cause we couldn't wait  
Walked into an ambush  
We weren't thinkin' straight  
Walked into an ambush  
It just wasn't our day

Exposed in the open  
Point man took a burst  
Takin' fire from all sides  
It went from bad to worse  
We couldn't see where they hid  
Seemed to be everywhere  
Guys were fallin' all around  
We didn't have a prayer

REPEAT CHORUS

Our Sarge said he'd get that sniper that had us pinned  
Left with a grenade, came back with a grin

REPEAT CHORUS

We lost good men that day  
We lost good men that day

## **NOBODY CARED**

Left home for Vietnam in our prime  
Most of us turned 18 in '69  
Some were drafted and some volunteered  
Came from all over and swallowed our fear  
To fight a war we'd later answer for

We fought for God and Truth and Country  
But found that life and war ain't so easy  
Paid a heavy price for what we did  
When it was done we were no longer kids  
No one explained what's lost outweighs the gains

Came home a little bit broken  
And largely were ignored  
We weren't fully prepared  
To learn nobody cared

Tried to fit into society  
Worked in construction and factories  
Some went to school on the G.I. Bill  
Some tried self medicating with booze and pills  
Tryin' to erase what we could not face

REPEAT CHORUS  
REPEAT CHORUS