

A generation is

Thirty-two Vietnam veterans give first-hand accounts of the war as they are trained in savagery, sadism, and

If Americans know less than all there is to know about the terrible cost the war is imposing upon the civilian population of South Vietnam, they know next to nothing of the real cost America is paying for its adventure. The real price is in the sacrifice of an entire generation.

Mark Lane spent a year traveling abroad and in America, interviewing young men who had been in combat service in Vietnam. Some were deserters and some were disaffected. Some had received honorable discharges, some had even been decorated, and some were still in the service. But it all added up to an overwhelming testimony about the horrors and brutality of this war and what it is doing to our sons and brothers.

Conversations With Americans is one of the most shocking, eye-opening books ever encountered in the annals of wartime reporting. Universal in its impact, it has a special significance for us Americans—who are directly involved, and who will not relish this look at ourselves. Added to other revelations of the corruption of the human spirit, this book, we hope, can catch the conscience of our country before history attests the shocking bankruptcy of our moral coin, before our sense of outrage is finally numbed by repeated assaults on our humanity.

Some excerpts from *Conversations With Americans*

"They have a girl there, a pretty young girl in a clearing. There are a few guys, all GIs standing around, and a short fat officer, a lieutenant there. The girl is stripped and she's tied to two wooden stakes. I don't know what they had done to her before I got there. They pour gasoline all over the girl and light it."

"Was she Vietnamese?"

"Sure. And they just stand there and watch her burn up."

"So, he pulls out a grenade, throws the grenade in the bunker. Blows that old lady's body to a million pieces."

"Why did he do it?"

"Oh, he says he just wanted to do something."

"This little girl is standing there looking at us. Her little brother is crying, but she's just looking at us, sort of puzzled. Sort of in a daze. She was about five or six years old. The baby was less than a year old. I knew some guy was going to come along and shoot her while I was standing there—and I couldn't stand to see that. So I left."

"Guys would have ears hanging from their uniform. At first—this was 1966—they nailed ears, almost always right ears, to a tree. This was supposed to scare the Cong. Then they started wearing them in strings or hanging them up in hootches on strings. Then they started saving them in jars, with alcohol to preserve them."

"I had a friend of mine—I say a friend because I thought he was a friend, but he was just so dehumanized. I mean one day he just picked up a rifle on a patrol, it was in midday and he just picked up this rifle and said, 'See that farmer'—he was an expert rifleman, he was a sniper at one time—and he just shot him with his M-14."

CONVERSATIONS WITH

by **MARK LANE** • Just published • \$6.95 •

being brutalized

accounts of what is happening to our under 30's
torture, terrorism and murder.

"Who made the decision to throw the man out of the helicopter?"

"The S-2 officer. A lieutenant."

"Was just one thrown out?"

"No, there was not. We had five prisoners. Four were thrown out of the helicopter."

"What happened to the fifth man?"

"The fifth one talked."

"They rob them, terrorize them. I was with my squad and they stood in a hootch with two old ladies and two little girls, and they stayed there all night long and just tormented them. They would pull them out of bed and, you know, and then an old woman would get back in bed and someone would pull one of the little girls out of bed, and they would point the rifles at them and put them in their face, and you know, put the rifle in their ear and things like this and, you know, pinch them, smack them. One of the little children might cry out and one of the Marines would smack her a couple of times in the face, slap her."

"A friend of mine in A Company, which was our sister company, said one time that when A Company goes into a friendly village, if it's not VC when they go into it, it's VC when they leave. They do so much damage. A Company was sort of notorious for sex acts that they could force the Vietnamese women to perform."

"Are you talking about rapes?"

"Rape, and just making them do these—weird, perform weird sex things. I never heard of our company doing it. They raped a lot of women, but I never heard of them making them perform various things."

"And then they went down and shot the water buffalo. The old guy got mad and then we went down again and dropped a five-gallon tin of water on the old man. Killed him, I guess. It was just—just for fun."

AMERICANS

SIMON AND SCHUSTER

