



THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL FOUNDATION



Their forefathers fought at
Bunker's Hill, Gettysburg,
Belleau Wood, Normandy,
Okinawa and Inchon.

They were Americans meeting
their country's call to arms.

Some were volunteers. Some
were draftees. Most had
other lives to lead.

But when duty called, they
served.

Dear Member:

In this, the tenth anniversary year of the last American military operations in Vietnam, you may participate in an epic project in the field of 20th century military history.

It is the first and most important work of this type ever created to pay tribute to those Americans who served and fought in the Vietnam War. Many hundreds of hours--by Vietnam veterans, combat artists, skilled knifemakers, diemakers and military historians--have gone into this.

As further indication of the importance of this project, we have even received the participation of General William Westmoreland himself, the Commander of all military forces in Vietnam (Military Assistance Command, Vietnam 1964-1968).

This is the opportunity to own a lasting, tangible symbol of the bravery, courage and self-sacrifice of those Americans who served in the most important jungle warfare in U.S. military history since our troops recaptured Okinawa and the Philippines in 1945.

A military knife--symbolic of jungle warfare--was scheduled for this tribute.

But this is not just an ordinary military knife. It is the most famous knife of the Vietnam War--especially created for jungle fighting there. It is the Gerber Mark II Combat Knife.

This is the first time that the original makers of this famous knife

have ever agreed to issue a limited edition commemorative combat knife. (This is an important point in itself; collectors often find in future years that the "first" usually becomes more valuable).

Men who know and respect knives--and whose lives depended on them--selected and carried the Gerber Mark II in Vietnam. Men like the Green Berets of the Special Forces . . . the U.S. Navy's elite SEAL and UDT units . . . and the tough Recon Marines . . . even the hand-picked men of the top secret Project Phoenix (including one of our Foundation Members who recently reported to us in no uncertain terms exactly how effective his Mark II was).

The knives now available to you are not reproductions or simply stylized display pieces. Each is a genuine Gerber Mark II Combat Knife, constructed of the finest 440C stainless steel. The blade design is authentic to Vietnam and every bit as battleworthy as the ones that made it famous. Each blade is hardened, tempered, sharpened and honed by hand to a razor's edge; it's so sharp you can actually shave with it. All of these knives are the same model privately purchased by thousands of Vietnam servicemen.

But unlike any knives made prior to this, this limited edition has been given distinctive embellishments designed with the assistance of American combat veterans of each military service branch who served in Vietnam. The first knife in the collection honors the men of the U.S. Army.

The "Armorhide" hilt is painstakingly produced in the four colors of the Vietnam-era woodland leaf-pattern camouflage developed by the U.S. Army for jungle fighting. This is the "first" in the field of military knife collecting.

A gold-plated, fired enamel cloisonne medallion of the U.S. Army insignia forms the focal point of the grip. Here again, this is another first.

The combat scene deeply etched on the mirror-polished steel blade permanently records American troops making an airborne assault on the enemy--a tactical innovation developed in Vietnam.

Rifleman with their M16s jump from Huey "Slicks" (so called because initially they had no armament), while in the foreground M60 machine gunners, riflemen and an RTO (radioman) move out to secure the hot LZ (landing zone under enemy fire). You can almost hear the "whump-whump-whump" of the choppers' rotor blades overhead, the cracking of M16 fire, the staccato roar of the M60s and, in the background, the thud of mortar fire and the enemy's Russian-made AK47s.

On the blade shoulder is etched the insignia of the U.S. Army--Vietnam, representative of all Army units that served in Southeast Asia.

Or, if you prefer, the unit insignia of your choice can be etched in this position.

As a further distinction, the original Vietnam-era "wasp body" blade shape--no longer produced--will be reintroduced especially for this series.

You can also now register, without obligation, to reserve subsequent knives in this series--so you can systematically acquire a set. These tributes--one to the U.S. Marine Corps, one to the U.S. Navy and one to the U.S. Air Force--can be shipped to you one at a time in the weeks or months ahead.

Camouflage became the symbol of jungle fighting in Vietnam. It is only appropriate that each of your knives will have a different camouflage pattern hilt and gold-plated fired enamel cloisonne medallion, bearing the insignia of the particular service branch honored. And the combat scene deeply etched on the blade--designed with the technical advice of veterans who fought there--will reflect the heroic contributions of each military branch.

To display and preserve each Vietnam Tribute Combat Knife, you can reserve a specially designed, furniture-finished solid mahogany case of distinctive military design, with an olive drab Certificate of Authenticity recessed and fitted into the inner lid. Additionally, those participating in the Vietnam Tribute Collection will receive a copy of "Vietnam Tribute," written by General William Westmoreland and published by the Foundation.

But only 2,500 of each knife will be made--one to represent each one thousand Americans of the 2,500,000 who served our nation in this war. The limited edition serial number will be engraved on the reverse of each blade, inscribed on the Certificate of Authenticity, and registered in your name with The American Historical Foundation as further assurance of this strict edition limit.

After these knives are spoken for, the only way to acquire one will be to find an owner who is willing to sell one. It will be difficult to find such an individual--and there is no telling what price you would be forced to pay. So, if you are ever going to acquire one or more knives in this series, now is the time to act, while they are available in mint condition at the original issue price.

As a result of this project, contributions are being made by the Foundation to Vietnam veteran associations to help them continue to perpetuate the memory of the millions of valiant Americans honored by this Tribute.

If you or a member of your family served in Vietnam, if you supported the cause or if you are a patriotic collector, this stirring "Vietnam Tribute Collection" will give you a renewed sense of pride in

the Americans who answered the call to duty in the defense of freedom in Southeast Asia.

This project is being unveiled at a time when interest in the Vietnam War and in collecting Vietnam-era militaria has picked up substantially. As you look around, you can see this in books, movies, art exhibits, newspapers, and magazine feature articles and television specials. So "The Vietnam Tribute Collection" will attract considerable attention to your collection, now--and even more so in future years as interest in Vietnam continues to grow.

And as a person who enjoys collecting fine quality military knives, you will also recognize the historic importance of this issue. As the first commemorative Gerber combat knives ever issued, this series is destined to be highly sought after.

This is available exclusively through The American Historical Foundation. You may write, call, personally visit or use the reservation form enclosed.

Your reservation is placed without risk, and the shipping charges are included. You may inspect this knife at your leisure for a month. Should you be in any manner disappointed, simply return the knife in its original condition for an immediate refund.

If you are interested in reserving one of these knives, I encourage you to act promptly, while these knives are still available--at the original issue price. I personally guarantee you that you will be pleased.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Buerlein
President

RAB/pas

P.S. You may reserve only one knife if you wish. However, if you advance register for the four-knife collection, I will see to it that you receive a mahogany Master Display Cabinet in which all four knife cases can be stored and displayed. This is a savings to you of \$30.