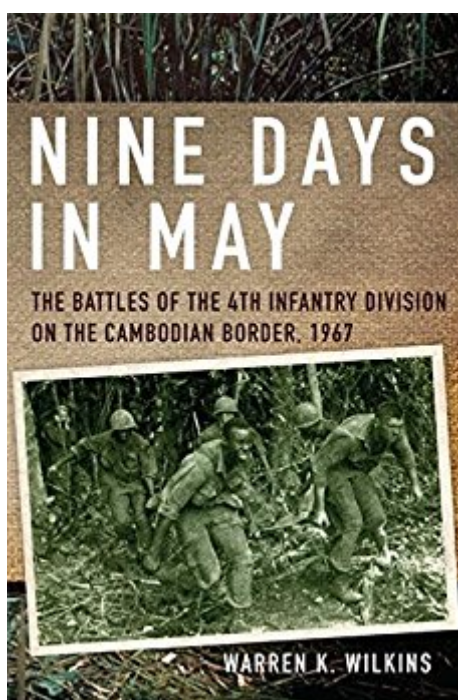


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# Nine Days In May: The Battles Of The 4th Infantry Division On The Cambodian Border, 1967



## Synopsis

Moving through the jungle near the Cambodian border on May 18, 1967, a company of American infantry observed three North Vietnamese Army regulars, AK-47s slung over their shoulders, walking down a well-worn trail in the rugged Central Highlands. Startled by shouts of “Lai day, lai day” (Come here, come here), the three men dropped their packs and fled. The company commander, a young lieutenant, sent a platoon down the trail to investigate. Those few men soon found themselves outnumbered, surrounded, and fighting for their lives. Their first desperate moments marked the beginning of a series of bloody battles that lasted more than a week, one that survivors would later call “the nine days in May border battles.” Nine Days in May is the first full account of these bitterly contested battles. Part of Operation Francis Marion, they took place in the Ia Tchar Valley and the remote jungle west of Pleiku. Fought between three American battalions and two North Vietnamese Army regiments, this prolonged, deadly encounter was one of the largest, most savage actions seen by elements of the storied 4th Infantry Division in Vietnam. Drawing on interviews with the participants, Warren K. Wilkins recreates the vicious fighting in gripping detail. This is a story of extraordinary courage and sacrifice displayed in a series of battles that were fought and won within the context of a broader, intractable strategic stalemate. When the guns finally fell silent, an unheralded American brigade received a Presidential Unit Citation and earned three of the twelve Medals of Honor awarded to soldiers of the 4th Infantry Division in Vietnam.

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## Customer Reviews

This is a well written battle book that tells a no nonsense , blow by blow accounting of the battles of the 1st Brigade 4th Infantry division during nine days of May in 1967. Warren Wilkins lays it all out in easy to read action narratives told by the soldiers in their own words. Operation Francis Marion took place in the rugged triple canopied mountains and valleys along the Cambodian border .The North Vietnamese Army had fortified safe places across the Se Sahn River from which they poured men and equipment into the 2nd corp area of RSVN. WE were forbidden to cross or fire into these safe areas....they came across to attack and kill U.S. G.I.'s.....but they got something more than they expected.Buy this book and read every word.Mike Horan B co. 3/12 Infantry 1966-1967 4th Infantry Division 9 Days in May Participant..Light Weapons Infantryman. Steadfast and Loyal.

Warren Wilkins has written a compelling book about the straight leg infantryman (grunts) of the First Brigade, Fourth Infantry Division, in the rugged jungles and big hills in the Central Highlands of Vietnam. He also gives us a modest history lesson containing battle plans and useful strategy used by our military leaders that lead our Infantry to victory after victory in those battles. The 4ID never loss a major battle.The bonding and camaraderie of the young warriors, who knew that all they had was each other when the action started, is effectively portrayed as he guides the reader down the path and paints a clear picture of their experience that will never to be forgotten. A war story of empathy and gut-wrenching reality of the horrific battles and sacrifices each man faced head on.Professionally written and keeping each detail in perspective with humble honor and respect. Wilkins dedicated himself to the men of the 4ID and in every aspect of the well documented book possesses the ability to convey a message of 'loud and clear ' to all concerned.This book is most commendable and will demand the attention of all readers of military history. Vietnam vets and all friends and family will learn the truth about the Vietnam War and appreciate the unbelievable stories and sacrifices of these men who were interviewed.Sincerely,Landis BargatzeA1/8 4IDVietnam 1967-68

This book, *Nine days in may*, is right on the money. How do I know, I served in the 3/8 infantry, and at one point were fighting for our Lives. The Author, interviewed many . many of my brothers in arms, and too include myself, to get each soldier's perspective on that bad week. although this happened more than 50 years ago, In My mind it seems like yesterday. although reading a book, never will make you a Combat veteran, this book will give you an idea what we "GRUNTS" went thru!

*Nine Days in May* is a well-written, very tight narrative of the ground actions conducted by the first brigade Fourth Infantry Division during spring of 1967 conducting operations along the South Vietnam - Cambodian border. Author Wilkins has displayed exceptional skill in weaving together both the strategic plan of operations along with the ground tactical plan, as well as providing considerable background information on each of the participants down to the private soldier level - not an easy task some fifty years after the events transpired. The overall impression that Wilkins provides is the soldiers of the brigade - mostly draftees serving in their first year or two years of military service - fought valiantly and in most instances, displayed exceptional courage and skill while under heavy enemy fire. The leadership of the brigade at the officer and senior NCO level was steady and skilled. The 4th ID fought a series of battles along the edge of Vietnam under the most difficult of conditions - heat, environment, terrain, and most of all, the skilled and tenacious North Vietnamese Army. It was, at the most basic level, a slugging match between two determined opponents and neither was going to withdraw. As a result, casualties were heavy on both sides. *Nine Days in May* is really worth reading! Any student of the military arts, and especially the Vietnam war, will want to read this book. Well-written, lucid and easy to follow the action (greatly assisted by map drawings and photos supplied by the participants), the story of the nine days of continuous, virtually non-stop battle in the outer most reaches of Vietnam unfolds for the reader wondering if the U.S. forces will hang-on against the superior in numbers NVA. Obviously, they do, but at substantial cost in men. It was, in many respects, a meat-grinder of an operation. *Nine Days in May* gave me a deeper respect for the infantryman of the Vietnam War and I believe most readers will share this appreciation.

The author has captured exactly where many of us survivors of the *Nine Days in May* had hoped for; not just another pro or anti war story; they can be found anywhere, but a personal look into the lives of the humans involved. Wilkins, having gained the trust of the men involved, has provided

details of those days that we haven't been able to tell each other. Bill May's company 1/8 Inf. 2nd Platoon's Nine Days in May by Warren Wilkins is the book I have waited many years for someone to write. I wanted to know about the men who fought in Vietnam - their names, their personalities - where did they grow up. Who were they and what did they think, feel and know about this war they were fighting. Mr. Wilkins is an excellent historian and author. He writes in a factual manner and still we get to know those who fought, those who survived and those who did not. I thank Mr. Wilkins for writing this very personal account of those Nine Days and highly recommend this book to all who would like to know more about war and in particular the War in Vietnam and those Nine Days in May. Diane May July 17, 2017

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