

★ ★ **RECOMMENDED READING** ★ ★

**Negro Youth's Book "G.I. Diary" Hailed A Classic**

Although scores of books have been written about Viet Nam by correspondents and politicians, the war is viewed for the first time through the actual experiences of a young American Negro draftee in a day-to-day diary.

David Parks, son of photographer-journalist Gordon Parks, describes his life as a foot soldier in the U.S. Army from his induction through eight months of active combat. Titled "G. I. Diary," the book will be published by Harper & Row on April 10.

In it Park relates his reactions to Army life, the shock of encountering race prejudice for the first time, the brutalizing poverty of the Vietnamese, and his horror as many of the men he fights with are killed.

David Halberstam, the Pulitzer Prize winning war correspondent, calls the book "an American classic." James Jones writes: "David Parks has written an honest and moving document. It is the more moving by its very innocence and unsophistication." Following are excerpts from "G. I. Diary:"

January 8, 1966, boot camp

"They work us harder than the average college student. But there's a reason. We are learning how to kill, while the college student is learning how to live."

January 15, 1966

"Three more funerals this week for soldiers killed in Vietnam. Guys who were trained here at Riley. It's depressing to hear the gun salute and the last bugle call for them. You can't help thinking they might be sounding for you someday."

March 10, 1966

"Never had such bad feelings against white guys before either. But then I've never met white guys like these before. They don't let you forget that you're colored and they're white for one minute. I've never thought so much about color before, even at school when I was the only soul."

January 16, 1967

"This is a real poor country. Everywhere you go people are on their knees begging. Some of the Whites dig this sort of thing and make a game of it. We're riding along and there's a group of hungry kids. Someone throws a piece of bread on the road. The kids go for it like a pack of wolves. Often one of them gets hit by a truck or several get hurt in the scramble."

March 7, 1967

"While we were making a body count Sgt. Young kicked a VC's body to see if he was really dead. He had to be. Bullets had punctured him from head to toe. Young asked for my Knife. I gave it to him and watched him cut off the VC's finger and remove a gold ring. I walked away real quick. I didn't wait for my knife because I was too sick."

May 8, 1967

"In the hospital again... God, some of the things you see here. One guy came in so badly shot up he tried to kill himself with a knife. I held him down while the medic put him out... An ARVN came in this morning with a foot blown off, dripping blood all over the floor. He didn't say anything or cry out. Probably just wondering where he would get another foot."

September 9, 1967

"I never felt that I was fighting for any particular cause. I fought to stay alive, and I killed to keep from being killed. Now that it's all over there is a funny feeling running through my stomach, when I think of what could have happened to me."

**"The Black Power Revolt"**

Americans are buying the President's Riot Commission Report at the rate of 100,000 copies each day. Such unprecedented response demonstrates a desire by Americans to uncover the roots of profound social questions that lock the nation deep in crisis.

Porter Sargent will help provide some answers with publication April 22 of THE BLACK POWER REVOLT. Insiders who have seen galley proofs say THE BLACK POWER REVOLT will be required reading for all persons concerned with America's social crisis.

A collection of 36 essays, the new book traces the concept of Black Power to the first shouts of black protest three centuries ago and defines its demands for power in 1968.

"White people will not enjoy reading this book -- but they would be foolhardy to ignore it," is the comment of Jonathan Kozol who received the National Book Award on March 6 for DEATH AT AN EARLY AGE, an account of his experiences teaching children in Boston's Negro ghetto.

Dr. Howard Zinn, a Boston University professor active in the civil rights and peace movements, says of THE BLACK POWER REVOLT:

"This is a powerful book speaking right out of the bones of the past into the heart of the present -- a set of angry, eloquent statements from David Walker to Du Bois to Stokely Carmichael.

"Everyone in America should read it to understand the mood of black people challenging this country today, and to begin to think about how to respond."

Adds John Henrik Clarke, editor and social critic:

"This book is the first comprehensive collection of work relating to Black Power.

"If this is Black Power then Black Power is a part of the promise of the American Constitution."

Twelve essays in THE BLACK POWER REVOLT are published for the first time, including contributions by CORE Director Floyd B. McKissick and playwright LeRoi Jones. Jones wrote his essay just after last year's riot at Newark.

Stokely Carmichael, Malcolm X, and Adam Clayton Powell are among other black leaders represented in the book.

Among 12 documents reflecting Black Power's historical origins are an autobiographical statement by Nat Turner made in 1831 and a letter written from Banneker to Thomas Jefferson in 1791.

Floyd B. Barbour, a Boston playwright, edited THE BLACK POWER REVOLT, part of the publisher's Extending Horizons series.

The book is the April selection of the Negro Book Club.

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**BOYS CLUB #2 HOLD  
NEW MEMBERS PARTY**

The Boys' Club is pleased to report the success of our recent New Members Party. Fifty New Members joined the club on the night of the party. This number along with about thirty regular members, made for a merry gathering of boys for fun and excitement in a party-type setting.

Many of our loyal members volunteered much time and energy toward the making of a successful party for their Boys' Club. A special Thank You to all boys involved in this program. Among those volunteering were: William Johnson, Michael Johnson, Robert Porter; Jeffrey Palmer, Robert Earl Johnson, Jerry Washington, Gary Porter, and our recent winner of the Boy of the Year Award, Tommy Thomas. These boys were involved in all phases of the program, from working to obtain food and beverage, for the party to cleaning up the mess after it was over.

We are grateful for the support of some of our local merchants and friends. Among those contributing toward the important food and beverage part of our program were: Anderson's Dairy, Food City, Food Fair and Arden Farms Dairy.

The Boys' Club learned all about the life of a young seaman, from one of its own; as Junior Rogers was attending his club for the last time before heading for Viet Nam.

We heard that a Navy Man, first and foremost, is required to be disciplined, as well as, physically conditioned. Junior says he still has time to retain his sharpness as a Table Tennis player. Before his enlistment into the Navy, it was commonly accepted that Junior Rogers was the best Table Tennis player for his age division in many County Tournaments.

The Boy's Club extends best wishes for one of its better members, to have a successful and safe tour of duty as a Navy Man.

The Boys' Club cordially invites the public to attend our forthcoming Parade of Champions. Come out and see many boys receive awards for outstanding participation in many Boys' Club activities.

Refreshments will be served everyone attending the Parade of Champions. This event and the refreshments, will be followed by an Open House where boys may play any games with their guardians.

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**Voter Registration  
By Mail For Military**

Young men and young women who are members of the military, who have attained the age of 21 or will be age 21 by September 3, 1968, and who were residents here when they entered the service, may apply for voter registration by mail.

In making this announcement, Registrar of Voters Tom Mulroy reminds parents or relatives of such young people to so advise their sons or daughters without delay, so they can become qualified to vote in the September 3rd Primary election.

Those who will not be age 21 by September 3rd, but will be 21 by November 5th, may also become registered by mail but will only be eligible to vote in the November 5th General election.

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