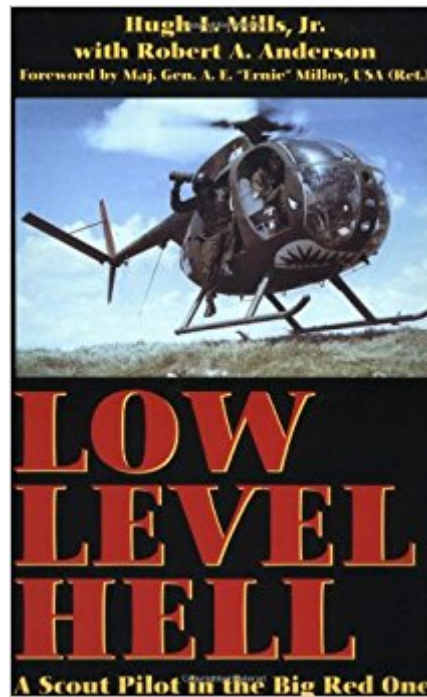




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# Low Level Hell



## Synopsis

The aeroscouts of the 1st Infantry Division had three words emblazoned on their unit patch: Low Level Hell. This was the perfect definition of what these pilots experienced as they ranged the skies of Vietnam. Mills tells the combat experiences of these aviators.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Hugh L. Mills, Jr. served two tours in Vietnam as a scout platoon leader and one as a AH-1 Cobra gunship pilot. He and his wife Sharyn live in Kansas City, Missouri. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

There are many reasons why you should read this book. Firstly it gives you a view into working a light helicopter at low altitudes in a wild and dangerous world of combat in the late 60s, I love helicopters and like the way Mills talks directly to the process of flying. It inspires my imagination takes you to a point of holding the throttle and collective ( sometimes with your left knee) or the cyclic, pitching, rolling and skidding around in a way you would not see as a civilian. Then there's the human aspect - one takes it in as the best and worst of humanity - It leaves me with gratitude and great respect to those who served. The author does not judge politically as people do now or did then or debate the rights and wrongs. The futility of war is not in question. As I finish the book I feel sad to be leaving the characters that make the book ( I like the footnotes on their lives after the book), and mourn for those young men lost in the campaign.

This book is an essential read for anyone involved or have known those involved in helicopter operations. I have fought wildland fires for 23 years, and have worked directly with several Vietnam helicopter vets. Their service to our country, both in Vietnam and domestically, needs to be recognized. Most have now retired or passed on, but their efforts were invaluable and should not be forgotten

This book is captivating. Although I was home when much of this transpired, it brought back so many memories being a member of the Big Red One. I was with the 5th Battalion, 2nd artillery twin 40mm Dusters. Were assigned the same areas with the 4th Cav on the ground. Phu Loi was our base and Lai Khe was a frequent stop. Compared to this story line "our Highway 13" was a Sunday drive. I found it difficult to put the book down.

A must -read for those of us who really appreciate the brave helicopter pilots whose skill and daring is amazing--the scouts were so vulnerable, flying low and slow. Hugh Mills is referenced in other books about the hunter -killer teams used so effectively in Viet Nam so it was exciting to read his first -hand account. Full of details about the hardware and the men, unforgettable.

The title almost says it all! If you are interested in what it was like to fly a Scout Loach helicopter in combat, this may be the best book you'll read. Hugh Mills, author and pilot is so descriptive and passionate in his writing that you will come to believe you are right there in his Loach as he intuitively on his search, find, fix and destroy missions. One of the best real combat books I've read. Many thanks for your service Mr. Mills. My brother flew slicks in Nam and he frequented many of the same places you described and named in your book. After three tours his manifestation of the stress was a full head of white hair. He was dark headed when he left. Hoorah to you and I'm glad you came home and wrote this book. Semper Fi!

Just finished "Low Level Hell"! What a book! This work is a masterpiece combining the best of detailed storytelling describing acts of extreme courage, violence in war, and interwoven with descriptive accounts of the characters involved. I've often read book reviews using the word "riveting". After reading this one, I now know what that word means. What a courageous group Mr. Mills and his Air Cav pilots, aircrew members, and support personnel truly were! If you like non-stop, start-to-finish action in your war book reading, do yourself a favor and get this read, you will not regret doing so.

An honest, clearly written appraisal in first person remembering the first year of combat for a LOH pilot. Hugh recalls his own experience in Vietnam both the high points and the lowest points. Readers will learn much about the thinking process in a deadly assignment. Setting one's chopper as a target to draw fire and expose enemy position in order to kill the enemy by using a killer team approach may be difficult for those who never heard of such tactics to envision. It takes special men to volunteer for such an assignment and do the job well. The citizens of the United States should be grateful that there were such men as Hugh Mills, who tells their story by sharing his own. So glad to have met Hugh at COL William Haponski's book signing of "Danger's Dragoons" at Cantigne, home of Big Red One Division Museum. SP5 Jason Holmes 1st Bn, 5th Cavalry, First Cavalry Division Air Mobile 1969.

Having been in a sister company to D Troop 1st Cav (B Co. 1st Avn Bn and arriving / DEROSing the same month as Hugh Mills) , I was very interested in reading his book. However, although I was in a maintenance roll in my Company and never in combat, I still found that while reading this book (about a week) it caused me to have bad dreams about being back in Vietnam, and for a short period after. This book is a realistic representation of what a LOCH helicopter crew would have experienced at this time. I can recall incidents mentioned in the book. I certainly rely on the experience of SP/5 DER (who was wounded and lost part of a leg while flying as crewchief on a LOCH during this time period and was in the same Company as me) in his confirmation of the accuracy of Hugh Mills story. But exclusive of Hugh, this book is a true representation of the experiences and responsibilities thrust upon the very young pilots / crew members of helicopter crew members in Vietnam.

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