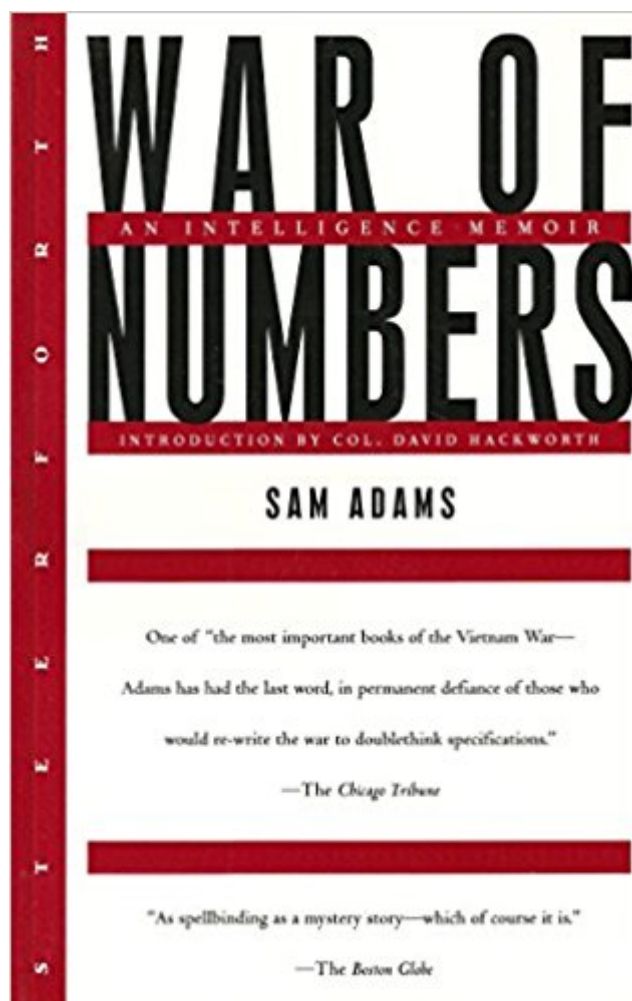


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# War Of Numbers: An Intelligence Memoir



## Synopsis

Sam Adams loved intelligence work, and that enthusiasm shines throughout this memoir of his years with the Central Intelligence Agency. His career was dominated by an epic struggle over Vietnam -- over military attempts to hide the true size of the enemy forces there, and over the integrity of the intelligence process. Adams's insistence on telling the truth caused an ungodly ruckus in both Washington and Saigon at the time, and years later, after the CIA had threatened to fire him (on thirteen occasions!) and he had quit the agency in disgust, Adams brought his story back up to the surface more loudly than ever in a CBS television documentary which eventually resulted in a notorious trial on libel charges brought by General William Westmoreland. After leaving the CIA, Adams sat down to write an account of his life at the agency. There is nothing else quite like the story he tells.~ ~ From the Trade Paperback edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I read this book as recommend in Mike Flynn's Field of Fight - which recommendation was the best thing in Flynn's book. Sam Adams tried to tell Westmorland that there were 500,000 Viet Cong, not

the 200,000 Westy and Tricky wanted to believe. If you remember the Viet Nam war, the nightly lies and the lighted tunnel will come gushing back. Go along get along and let 58,220 other people pay for the truth. Not to mention the untold Vietnamese. Putin would murder people like Sam Adams; our paltry comfort is that Adams lived and told. But then J Edgar was already gone.

This is an extraordinary account of poor utilisation of American Intelligence garnered but the CIA and ignored and suppressed by the CIA and especially the Military. Its veracity IÃfÂçÃ â ÑÃ â„çm in no position to judge but the stories that elements of the American Military were aware of the NVA built up well before TET and were in a position to advise troops to get ready has popped up elsewhere. The author like most whistle blowers seems to have had a terrible time.

This is a great book on Vietnam. A war of choice that killed 56,000 Americans and millions of Vietnamese. From the beginning the whole dang structure was rotten and based on lies. This is an important book. Good read too.

Such a valuable piece of history about why we lost the war in Vietnam. In hindsight it reveals the 20th century emergence of guerilla warfare that shock and awe can't beat. Well written with a refreshing sense of humor considering the subject is so profound. If you ever wondered what CIA analysts do, this is enlightening to say the least.

"Hey, it wasn't us! . . . It was the Army!" is the message of this poorly written apologia. Falsifying the numbers of the NVA and VC was central to the debacle that was the Vietnam War and this thinly veiled, self-serving defense of the CIA's culpability should be seen for what it is. He/they may think they can fool the public now that a half century has passed but there are still a few of us out here who know. The CIA has the blood of tens of thousands of good, young American troops on its historical hands and this is but one more attempt to divert attention to that. If you want to know more begin with something solid: try "A Bright and Shining Lie."

This is an outstanding book about the Vietnam War, because it explains why there were so many problems during and after the Tet Offensive of 1968, even though the US and South Vietnamese allies ended up winning all the battles. In spite of the lack of military acceptance of Adams' strength numbers, which are well documented in this book, the numbers are now generally accepted by historians as accurate, and most historians attribute this military/presidential sleight of hand as a

major reason that LBJ refused to run for president again, and that the American public turned against the Vietnam War, after the truth was revealed. Until I read this book I did not understand why the CIA had higher numbers than MACV. The book also explained the reasoning behind Westmoreland's law suit against CBS and Sam Adams. Colonel Hackworth's "Introduction" is the best summary of this book. If you are not yet sure that you want to buy it, read his introduction and you will know for sure. One reviewer described this book as one that shows what not to do in intelligence work, but it also shows what you should do. Adams showed the CIA how his detailed analysis could forecast problems in Africa, and he was praised for that analysis. He applied the same techniques in Vietnam, and was ignored because his analysis disagreed with too many high level military and political people. I love this book and I bought a hardback copy for my Vietnam collection. I was in Vietnam from Feb 1967 to Feb 1972, and until I read this book, I could not understand some of the things that happened, even after years of research on the Tet Offensive and its aftermath. Wikipedia says that 'the Sam Adams Award is given annually by the Sam Adams Associates for Integrity in Intelligence, a group of retired CIA officers, to an intelligence professional who has taken a stand for integrity and ethics. It is named after Samuel A. Adams, a CIA whistleblower during the Vietnam War.'

Written in an embracing style, like that of a friend telling you a story on an item of genuine interest. Sam Adams was brilliant, independent, and had higher levels of integrity than most of his seniors at the CIA. Definitely a recommended read for students of modern U.S. history.

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