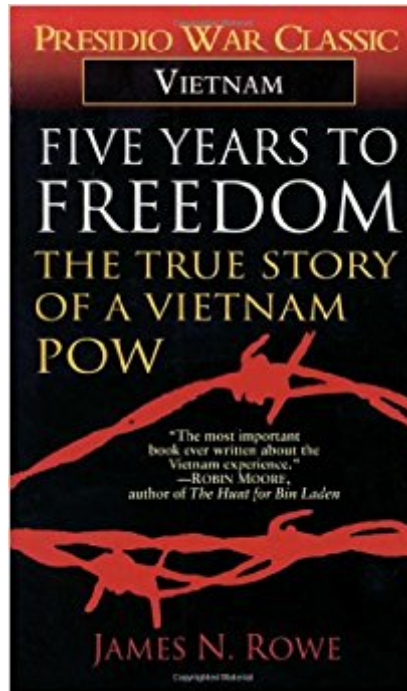




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# **Five Years To Freedom: The True Story Of A Vietnam POW**



## Synopsis

When Green Beret Lieutenant James N. Rowe was captured in 1963 in Vietnam, his life became more than a matter of staying alive. In a Vietcong POW camp, Rowe endured beri-beri, dysentery, and tropical fungus diseases. He suffered grueling psychological and physical torment. He experienced the loneliness and frustration of watching his friends die. And he struggled every day to maintain faith in himself as a soldier and in his country as it appeared to be turning against him. His survival is testimony to the disciplined human spirit. His story is gripping.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The Most Important Book Ever Written About The Vietnam Experience. The people of the United States can be immensely proud of Nick Rowe and Americans like him who have resisted and survived the worst abuse a brutal enemy could visit upon us."--Robin Moore  
"If you can read this story and not weep, you are inhuman."--The Cincinnati Post

When Green Beret Lieutenant James N. Rowe was captured in 1963 in Vietnam, his life became more than a matter of staying alive. In a Vietcong POW camp, Rowe endured beri-beri, dysentery, and tropical fungus diseases. He suffered grueling psychological and physical torment. He experienced the loneliness and frustration of watching his friends die. And he struggled every day to maintain faith in himself as a soldier and in his country as it appeared to be turning against him. His survival is testimony to the disciplined human spirit. His story is gripping.

Interesting read. I normally read 30 minutes a night. Couldn't put it down and found myself reading 1-1.5 hours a night. Would have liked to know how James N. Rowe adjusted to life after being a POW for 5 years.

the book was very well written and genuine. However, maybe someone can tell me what happened to the 3 Americans that were released leaving Rowe behind? Did they help the military find Rowe?

This is a great book. An amazing and realistic tale of survival and knowing how to work the system. Amazing fact is that you have to realize how much of this very control mentality is being imposed upon us more every day. This very communist takeover is growing more each day.

If you ever want to know the true strategy on the Viet Cong, this the book to read. We actually helped them win the war. Even though the war was unjust, how unjust is it to abandon our brothers, sons, friends. Major Rowe's surviving this time is incredible, a true American hero. The VC had convinced Tom Hadden & Jane Fonda, that they were not allowed to physically torture prisoners, but isn't starvation, lack of medical treatment, is another way of torture? Render the prisoners helpless, by starvation, so they are not a physical presence. The same way the Japanese did during the war. A couple of things that I trouble with. When he & the others were setting out to ambush the VC, once they came to the area, and only 5 VC ran from the houses, they were expecting a lot more, they should've known then it was a trap. The other, when he was rescued, he didn't think about calling his Mom & Dad immediately. All he talked about was how much he missed them throughout the story.

"Five Years to Freedom" by James N. Rowe is a first hand view of what it was like to be a prisoner of the Vietcong in the war in Vietnam. The numerous pages filled with repetitive descriptions of deprivation, illness, constant brain-washing and striving to maintain a will to live, give a painful account of survival. While no beatings, water-boarding or other forms of "torture" were visited on him, the lack of food, adequate treatment of illnesses, and demands to abandon the Code of Conduct were, indeed, a form of physical and psychological of torture. One must admire him for his courage and stamina under those very trying conditions.

There is little I can say other than this is an astonishing true story of courage and determination that makes me realize that any hard times I may have experienced in my life pale in comparison to what

Mr. Rowe went through during his 5 years in the "Forest of Darkness" at the hands of his brutal and sadistic captors. I will never forget his story. Mr. Rowe, sir, I salute you and God bless. Edit to say that upon further research, Mr. Rowe was shot and killed by terrorist in Manila in 1989 at 51 years of age. So sad and so unfair.

My Dad served in Vietnam and to read this man's story truly made me cry in frustration over the US reaction to our purpose in that war. I am indebted to the sacrifices of the many men who lost their lives and fought to come home to the freedoms that I enjoy because of their sacrifice. Thank you for your service to all! God bless the USA.

Col. Rowe's remarkable story provides us with an important reminder, particularly in the context of the current "prepper" and "zombie apocalypse" craze: the most essential survival tools are our knowledge and determination. Col. Rowe didn't have an arsenal of weapons or a stockpile of nonperishable food. He didn't have a bug out bag or a multi-tool at his disposal. As a prisoner of war, Col. Rowe had none of those things to help him. Typically without adequate shelter, fresh water, food, medicine and clothing, Col. Rowe was forced to rely on his training and resolve to survive captivity. His extensive knowledge of field medicine, hunting and gathering and the Vietnamese language and culture, were all essential to his survival and eventual escape. He was a truly amazing human being and his story reminds us of what our true "survival essentials" should be.

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