

A Celebrated Author

John Del Vecchio graduated from Stratford High in 1965, the year the first American ground troops landed at Da Nang.



He graduated from Lafayette College in 1969, the year American involvement in Vietnam peaked at 540,000 troops.

Del Vecchio was drafted and sent to Vietnam in 1970, where he served as a combat correspondent in the 101st

Airborne Division (Airmobile).

In 1971, he

was awarded a Bronze Star for heroism in ground combat.

As his articles in *Screaming Eagle* newsletter piled up, it was the urging of an anonymous soldier in a 1971 campaign that brother about Del Vecchio's book (written as a novel) *The 13th Valley*. The book spent 7 weeks on the New York Times bestseller list and sold a million copies.

