



## The Trash Haulers

*Richard Herman*

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Vietnam, 31 January 1968.

Over an action-packed 24 hours, three lives collide amidst war and violence.

Captain Mark Warren and his crew are trash haulers, airlifting supplies and personnel on their C-130 Hercules, the workhorse of tactical airlift.

Flying a Huey, the helicopter that symbolizes mobile warfare in Vietnam, Wilson Tanner is a Dust Off pilot who risks all to rescue the wounded.

At Se Pang, Colonel Tran Sang Quan comes into conflict with inept superiors as they initiate the People's Army of Vietnam's long-planned General Offensive and Uprising.

This is the beginning of the Tet Offensive.

Both sides face more than the enemy as superior officers manoeuvre for political advantage, and where cowardice, prejudice and treachery infiltrate the ranks – on both sides.

In the air and on the land, raw courage, tenacity, and honor are the marks of humanity that deal with the wreckage of war.

Fast-paced and gripping, 'The Trash Haulers' is an exciting aviation thriller from a master of the genre, and, in the telling, paints a rare portrait of the war.

Praise for Richard Herman:

"One of the best adventure writers around." - Clive Cussler

"Too many of today's geopolitical thrillers ring false, but not Herman's." - San Francisco Examiner

"Herman shines when he describes combat tactics... But it's his characters that carry the story." - Air & Space

"Simply great characters... His descriptions of the political posturing in Washington and an the international scene ring true." - Chicago Tribune

"A skilled storyteller... Richard Herman knows how to describe the pressure and unpredictability of battle... He has a sure command of what it takes to hold the reader." - Sacramento Bee

"Herman is a master." - Florida Times-Union

"Intricately woven...solid entertainment... Herman deftly negotiates murderous chicanery, political hanky-panky, gripping air combat, and steamy sex in a sweeping political epic of post-Cold War power struggles." -

Publisher's Weekly

“Suspenseful...well-drawn characters...an action-packed plot.” - Norfolk Virginian-Pilot

Richard Herman is a retired Air Force officer who flew C-130s and F-4s. While on active duty, he logged over 240 combat missions. He also taught at the Air Force Academy and served as an operations plans officer. After retiring, he turned to writing about the aircraft he loves, and is the author of fourteen novels – including critically acclaimed ‘The Warbirds’ and ‘Force of Eagles’.

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## **The Trash Haulers Details**

Date : Published July 27th 2015 by Endeavour Press

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Author : Richard Herman

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Genre : War, Military Fiction

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## From Reader Review The Trash Haulers for online ebook

### Abner Junkin says

#### **A real page turner, I found it very hard to put down.**

It is said that every generation has its war and Vietnam was mine. This book captures a simplified but vivid and very true picture of what that was like from the viewpoint of the pilot in command of a C130 in country. A very well told story.

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### Paul says

Actual rating: 3.5 stars.

I think this may be the first Dick Herman air war book I've read that takes place during a historical war, not a hypothetical one. The war is Vietnam, and the action centers on tactical airlift and helicopter operations during North Vietnam's 1968 Tet Offensive.

As always, it's an exciting story, and the pages fly by. I read it in two sittings and was ready for more. Herman's "can do" flyboys come to life. Side characters are equally well drawn, likable and unlikable alike. Herman's theme here is living up to honor and duty, with a strong emphasis on ingenuity in the face of adversity ... embodied in the phrase "flexibility is the key to air power." It's never hard to tell Herman's good guys and gals from the bad ones, but he can be subtle, too, and sometimes the characters you hate will surprise you. In any case, his stories are always engaging, and this one is no exception. In fact, it's hair-raising, suspenseful and full of twists. I was practically panting by the end.

I've read and enjoyed all Herman's novels. I should note that Dick and I used to fly together, and have maintained a close friendship. I don't think my reviews of his books are affected by our friendship, however. I'm probably harder on him than I would be with authors I don't know.

My only negative comment on The Trash Haulers likely applies to all of Herman's air war novels, as well as to those of Tom Clancy, Dale Brown, et al: military techno thriller writers have to jump through hoops to explain and spell out military concepts, terminology, and acronyms, especially during opening chapters when unfamiliar concepts and terms are introduced. Yes, many readers need to have these things spelled out, but it makes for awkward reading if you know the subject.

Dick does better than most at keeping explanations out of the dialog, and I appreciate that. Some authors would simply have a character say "The colonel is attached to MACV, which is pronounced 'mac-vee' and stands for Military Assistance Command, Vietnam." Dick knows no human would ever say such a thing, and he doesn't force characters to speak unnaturally. Instead, he steps in as omniscient narrator to explain terms and acronyms. Still awkward, though, and I wish it didn't need to be done.

In spite of that quibble, The Trash Haulers is a good, exciting read. Dick knows a hell of a lot about Vietnam, since he was there, and I think there's more to come.

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## **Daniel Hutmacher says**

### **An excellent novel**

I have read several novels by this author and have loved all of them. This one is no exception. It's a great read.

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## **Scott Voyles says**

### **Great story**

The storyline is interesting and flows along. As a former air force kid the C130 holds many memories for me. I found the story funny and easy to read

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## **James J gallmanSr says**

### **A must read for those of us who have flown in the back of a C-130.**

I could not put the book down. It took me back to my 20's and my friends who flew the C-130. Even if you have never flown in a C-130, you will find yourself reading one more page to see if the crew makes it to the next pick up or if they deliver their cargo. The jet jockeys got the fame but the garbage haulers were the real heroes.

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## **John says**

Really enjoyed reading this book. Being a Air Force Veteran, I can relate to a lot of what Harman is writing about.

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## **Dave says**

A great book about the Vietnam war which follows the crew of a C130 Hercules, the crew of a Huey Cobra and a company of Vietnamese communists during a single 24 hour period. The story is fascinating and a brilliant page turner. The author has captured the brutality and violence of this war and the lasting bonds of friendship that form in groups of military personnel. The three groups come into contact with each other and the outcomes reveal the horrors, black humour and fears of the protagonists.

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## **steve says**

## **Riveting**

I was up all night finishing this wonderfully written tome. I was captivated from page one. I admit, as a pilot myself my fascination was partially technical but the story and the way it was told were top notch. I appreciate a tale that piques my professional interest and still stimulates my dramatic bent. I look forward to more of the authors works and to him I can only say this; Sierra Hotel good sir! and thank you most sincerely.

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## **Jim A says**

Pretty good story covering Jan 31, 1968 (first day of Tet Offensive) from the eyes of a C-130 Trash Hauler crew. Also from the eyes of a Dust Off Huey crew and a colonel in the NVA. Toward the end game Herman got a little carried away trying to make the story more exciting. I thought that was a mistake on his part. The story was excellent up to that point.

Taken from Herman's own experiences as well as the stories told by Viet flyers over the years.

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## **Tom Burkhalter says**

### **A Long Day for Roscoe 2-1**

This book is an excellent evocation of a long-ago war and those who fought it. I hoped to read it over several days, but somehow I just kept turning pages and finished in less than a day. Besides, I've always loved the Herky bird and her crews. This book is a proper tribute.

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## **Bob says**

Five years before the setting of this tale I traveled from Georgia to Viet Nam in a c130 for a 6 month tour in small Special Forces camp called Gia Vuc. Our grass landing strip was only big enough for a c123, but reading Trash Haulers defiantly took me back there. This was a very good tale about the work of the C130 crews as they ran missions towards the ending of the conflict. Not always strictly by the rules or on missions originally assigned, but needed to support the troupes on the ground. Well done.

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## **Andrew says**

Could not put this one down! It is 1:35am and am disappointed the story has ended. Great people, humorous ribbing, non-stop action; and all in a little seen aspect of the war...strange, considering logistics is what wins or loses all wars.

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