

Tim O'Brien
Born October 1, 1941

Grew up in Worthington, Minnesota-“Turkey capital of the world”

O'Brien called his hometown-

"a town that congratulates itself, day after day, on its own ignorance of the world: a town that got us into Vietnam. Uh, the people in that town sent me to that war, you know, couldn't spell the word “Hanoi” if you spotted them three vowels."

Macalester College 1968
BA in Political Science and Draft Notice

Served from 1968 to 1970
Tour of duty was 69-70
3rd Platoon, A co., 5th Bat 46 Inf My Lai

After Nam-Harvard Scholarship
One of the only vets CIB

Left after a few years and worked as a journalist at The Washington Post

Published *If I Die In A Combat Zone*

Now teaches at Southwest Texas State
The Things They Carried-1990- Fiction

“One attribute in O'Brien's work is the blur between fiction and reality; labeled "verisimilitude," his work contains actual details of the situations he experienced; while that is not unusual, his conscious, explicit, and meta-fictional approach to the distinction between fiction and fact is extraordinary”

"story-truth" v "happening-truth"