



The Five Mile Press

MEDIA RELEASE



## The Vietnam War Experience 1957–1974

The **VIETNAM WAR Experience** is a unique new ‘book in a box’ with rare facsimiles and records that document the causes, course and aftermath of the Vietnam War.

An American army of 500,000 fought in Vietnam, alongside 50,000 Australians. The war was long and difficult, and had a traumatic effect on many of the soldiers. According to Tony Macdougall, who contributed the Australian content, ‘The Vietnam era was the most turbulent in the political history of the twentieth century in the United States – and in Australia, which had no fewer than five prime ministers between 1966 and 1972.’

More than 4000 Australians were killed or wounded in Vietnam. It was the longest war in our history, and was a war that nobody won. Fought with savagery, it has been followed by thirty years of peace, providing time to reflect on the follies of the era, bury bitterness and recount the story.

The **VIETNAM WAR Experience**, to be published by The Five Mile Press, is brought to life using over 200 powerful photographs and maps and 30 rare facsimiles of records of historic importance:

- Top-secret memoranda, telegrams, reports
- The Tonkin Gulf Resolution
- A telegram from Ho Chi Minh to President Truman in 1946
- The CIA report of the attempted assassination of President Diem
- POWs’ painted Christmas, Easter and postcards
- A pocket guide to *Namspeak* for American troops so they could win the hearts and minds of the Vietnamese
- President Nixon’s resignation
- Postcards, strike maps, phrasebooks and letters representing personal reflections

The book is accompanied by an audio CD which records dramatic first-hand accounts of Australian Vietnam veterans, as well as an interview with Pattie Amphlett – who was almost within earshot of the Australians’ epic battle of Long Tan in 1966 – plus selected eyewitness accounts which capture moments of truth and courage.

Beginning with the defeat of the French at Dien Ben Phu 1954, the book’s 30 chapters include: Australians on the Ground 1965, the Battle of Long Tan 1966, Border Battles of 1967, the Tet Offensives of 1968, the Tunnel Rats 1969, The Last Major Land Battles 1969, and climaxes with the fall of Saigon in 1975.

The **VIETNAM WAR Experience** was written and compiled by Gerry and Janet Souter, specialists in American history, and Tony Macdougall, editor-in-chief of *The Australian Encyclopedia* and author of the perennial bestseller *Australians at War*.

### The VIETNAM WAR Experience

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