Australia and the Vietnam War: A Select Bibliography

Jeffrey Grey
Jeff Doyle

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Introduction

In keeping with the wide range of concerns of the essays in this volume the bibliography has attempted to cover as many "subject headings" as seemed possible. Thus while the title "Select Bibliography" suggests that the compilers have collected only the major "texts" of concern, the following lists are an attempt to be as complete as possible at the time of final compilation. "Select" is meant to convey the fact that the editors are certain (most likely the only certainty prevailing in scholarly life) that the lists are not complete. This incompletion applies to some areas more than to others. Newspapers and the general daily print media, and their radio and television equivalent news industries are the chief areas of extreme selection. Transience is the one problem, and the, not unrelated, determination of importance, the other—the question of which of the thousands of such daily reports are worth reading is unfortunately beyond the collecting and sorting powers of a study such as this.

In the related area of electronic production, the overwhelming musical response to Vietnam in American popular and folk music areas, simply drowns most of the Australian output, but the fact that we have not here listed references to the little that was produced in Australia does not reduce its significance. A number of examples make the point—one would not look to Russell Morris' late 1960s single "The Real Thing" as directly related to Vietnam but its overall surreally apocalyptic lyrics, and the accompanying "nuclear explosions" (pre-David Bowie) of the promotional television "film" (note, film since it predated the current "rock video" genre), are redolently anti-war. It would pay research to look into the numerous other popular songs which conflate psychedelia with the general millenarianism which infected popular music—even that of "flower power"—in late 1960s and early 1970s culture. A major problem here is the overlap between Australian, British and American styles and influences. Later, in the 1980s Australian popular music found a number of voices, chiefly Jimmy Barnes and his band Cold Chisel's "Khe Sanh", redolently Bruce Springsteen in style, and the strong folk-politics of John Schumann and Redgum's "[I was] Only 19". Both "hits", and therefore in the public ear, so to speak, these songs too require more study, and they are worthy of inclusion, if only in passing in this note. Their context is widened in the same way as that of the fictional literature when the array of songs both newly written and revived, dealing with Australian involvement in other wars, largely and not unexpectedly devoted to the First World War, is taken into account. Eric Bogle's "The Band Played Waltzing Matilda" springs easily to mind as exemplary. Indeed the compilers felt that as its products came to light, the area of popular musical culture tended to grow so large that it required separate study.
It has also been editorial practice to distribute the material into sections, more through broad media and generic criteria than by breakdown into more numerous and quite specific "subject headings". Printed secondary texts have been the least distributed in this sense; so that where normal practice might find theses, monographs, articles, reviews and journalism as separate sets of entries, in section 2 they are all listed together. Effectively this presents the work of several scholars in one section, demonstrating not only the quantity but the breadth of writing styles, genres and so on, in which they have worked. Additionally as remarked in the introductory comments, such a listing functions methodologically—demonstrating the strengths, weaknesses, and the wider contexts of its production of any single example of Australian writing on the Vietnam War and its aftermath.

A Note on the bibliographic practice

In preparing this material for an American audience it seemed sensible to identify the origin of publication as the city in Australia, rather than the sometimes specific, but to a general US audience often more obscure, suburb which the strict bibliographic practice of taking the location from the cataloguing-in-publication information, or the title-page, would require. Thus, in the following lists, and especially in section 1.e, and section 2, for example, a text published in Gladesville, 1965, will be listed as Sydney, 1965. There are two exceptions. Penguin books will be listed as published in Ringwood, and not as Melbourne, and University of Queensland Press at St. Lucia, as these are the common and well known points of origin of these major publishers.

1. Primary Sources

Primary Sources: a) Archives

All records generated by the Australian Federal Government are subject to the Archives Act (1983) which provides for material to be released to public access thirty years after its creation, the so-called "thirty years rule". Australia also possesses a Freedom of Information Act (1982), but unlike in the United States the provisions of this legislation do not cover records generated before its enactment.

In consequence, records relating to Australia's war effort remain closed to public researchers; the current official historian of Australia's involvement in southeast Asian conflicts, Dr Peter Edwards (whose paper opens this Vietnam Generation Special No.) and his staff, have full and unhindered access to all such material for the writing of the history, but non-official historians will have to wait until 1993, when the first records related directly to Australian involvement in Vietnam will be due for release.

There is one significant exception to this state of affairs, and that involves material used in evidence before the Evatt Royal Commission on the use of herbicides, pesticides and other chemicals by the Australian Army. These records, all operational in nature, were released to public access in 1982, and are located at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra in a temporary record series, AWM 181. This series comprises some thirty shelf metres (approx. 93 shelf feet) of documents and contains important runs of operational records generated by Headquarters 1 Australian Task Force, MACV combined campaign.
plans 1966-1972, intelligence summaries and some unit records, as well as some administrative files. The unifying principle lies in the observation that all this material contains references to the use of chemical agents in Phuoc Tuy province. The total run of operational records, some 500 shelf metres (approx. 1600 shelf feet) of material, is contained in AWM 95 and is subject to the thirty year rule. This is the case for all other Australian Government records relating to Australia’s Vietnam War, such as those generated by the Departments of External Affairs or Labour and National Service.1

Private records and those created by non-Government agencies are subject to no such restrictions (unless private embargoes, or normal copyright rules are applied); there are important collections relating to the various anti-war, anti-conscription movements held in State and university libraries around Australia. To give but two examples: the records of the Campaign for Peace in Vietnam, a pressure group formed in 1967 and based in the state of South Australia, are held in the State Library of South Australia in Adelaide (the state capital) as record Group 124; they occupy nearly nine shelf metres.2 Most states spawned a branch of the Vietnam Moratorium Campaign, formed in 1970, and these records are held in the State Library in South Australia’s case, but in the University of Melbourne Library in the case of the state of Victoria.

The National Library of Australia in Canberra holds a number of important collections of anti-Vietnam War material; prominent among these are the records of the Save Our Sons group (MS 3821), the Vietnam Moratorium Committee (MS 4969), and the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (MS 7755). The papers of significant individuals in the protest movements are often valuable sources of material; at the National Library, to give but two examples, the papers of Ian Turner (MS 6206), radical Melbourne academic, contains three boxes of anti-Vietnam War records, while the collection donated by Andrew Reeves (MS 8076) concentrates particularly on student radicalism and anti-war agitation. A further source of anti-war material is to be found in trade union records, many of which are held by the Archive of Business and Labour based at the Australian National University in Canberra.

Private groups which supported Government policy in Vietnam are much less well documented. Perhaps the principal organisation with relevant papers in the public domain is the Returned Services League (the equivalent of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars), the records of whose federal body likewise are held by the National Library (MS 6609).

As Terry Burstall’s paper demonstrates, there are considerable though as yet relatively untapped US sources for the Australian participation in the Vietnam War. As well as operational records, held by the National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C., and the papers of senior military figures held, for example, by the United States Army Military History Institute, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, there are numerous items relating to foreign policy and governmental relations in the papers of the State Department. There are in all likelihood more references scattered through other American resources.

1 There is a lengthy, unpublished series guide to AWM 181, held at the Australian War Memorial. See also Helen Creagh, “Search and Re-search: Operation Mitchell: Information
A bibliography of Australia's Vietnam—A Select Bibliography

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Primary Sources: b) printed texts—Government and government institutional documents

As well as the following short list, one of the most essential resources for Australian Parliamentary matters are in the daily Hansard transcripts of all matters before the two houses (Representatives and Senate) of the Australian Parliament, for example in Commonwealth Parliamentary Debates, vol. H[ouse]of R[epresentatives] 43, 1964. A specific speech or report will be listed under the date it was given.


Australia's Military Commitment to Vietnam. Paper tabled in accordance with the Prime Minister's Statement to the House of Representatives 13 May 1975, Department of Foreign Affairs.


———Australian Experience in Joint Armed Service Activities, Historical Monograph 10, Directorate of Instructions, Orders and Manuals, Administrative Services Branch, Canberra, 1979.


"Repatriation Benefits for Special Overseas Service", Pamphlets from Repatriation Department.


Primary Sources: c) newspapers, magazines, journals

Researchers of the printed news media's reporting of the Vietnam War have produced a wealth of material in the US, particularly in search of the answers as to how influential (or otherwise) that media, in concert with the electronic media, were in bringing the war to an end. The relatively few studies of Australia's print media (which are listed below in section 2) have concentrated on its influence and other aspects, notably the political allegiances of the media, but there is yet to be any overarching study, partly no doubt due to the daunting task of collecting the data. The news media archives are easily available in the case of the major newspapers, the city dailies and weeklies, but the material is on the whole insufficiently indexed to allow effective access, other than reading...
through each text in toto. A number of groups are collecting, however, either with specific subject criteria in train or more generally. Two examples: first, the Politics Department of the Australian National University has a large clipping collection, devoted as one might expect primarily to governmental and policy references, and less to operational or "social" material; secondly, the "Representation of the Vietnam War in Australia" Project at University College, ADFA has for three years been collecting all references from all the major dailies (such as the Sydney Morning Herald, Australian, Age, and Brisbane Courier), and the periodicals (Quadrant, Nation, and so on), beginning in 1962 and progressing to the present, but the task is daunting, and requires significantly more funds and research time.

The following list provides the titles and in some cases the affiliations of a large selection of such organs, together with a selection of professional (military) journals, and the often short-lived journals of the various groups of the anti-war, draft resister's, Moratorium, and other peace movements. Most of the issues of the major newspapers will be held in hard copy or micro-form (fiche or film) in the various state and university libraries as appropriate. In some cases the publishers will also provide access (and more substantial indexing) of their publications. The more ephemeral material is often hard to find; some of it will be found in collections such as those listed under section 1. a, above.

The Advertiser [daily Adelaide newspaper]
The Age [daily Melbourne newspaper]
Army
The Army Journal
Australian [daily national newspaper]
The Australian Women's Weekly [weekly national magazine focussed on pre-feminist notions of women's issues]
The Bulletin [weekly national journal]
The Canberra Times [daily regional newspaper]
The Catholic Weekly 1963-1968
The Catholic Worker [Melbourne religious journal]
The Courier Mail [daily Queensland newspaper]
The Daily Bulletin [Townsville newspaper]
Debrief [Official Quarterly Journal of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (VVA) PO Box 369, Parramatta, NSW, 2150, Australia]
Department of Veterans' Affairs Pamphlets
Despatch
Dissent
Farrago [Melbourne University, Students' Representative Council newspaper]
Herald
Honi Soit [University of Sydney Student paper]
International: A Revolutionary Socialist Magazine
The Listening Post
Lots Wife [Monash University, Students' Representative Council newspaper]
The Mercury [daily Hobart, Tasmania]
The Mirror [daily Sydney newspaper]
Moratorium News [Official organ of the Vietnam Moratorium Campaign, Melbourne]
Mufti
Nation [periodical newsmagazine]
National Times [weekly national newsmagazine]
New Basis
Old Mole [Sydney University paper]
Outlook
Partisan
Peacemaker
Print [Monash Labour Club Newsletter]
Quadrant [monthly periodical current affairs and intellectual life journal]
Robelais [La Trobe University, Students' Representative Council newspaper]
Resist and Resistance Notes [Students for a Democratic Society Anti-Conscription Committee Newsletter, Melbourne University committee]
Reveille [Journal of the New South Wales Branch of the RSL]
The Returned Services League Newsletter
The Sun Herald [Sydney Sunday newspaper]
The Sunday Observer [weekend newspaper]
The Sunday Telegraph [Sydney Sunday newspaper]
The Sydney Morning Herald [daily Sydney newspaper]
Tharunka [University of New South Wales Student paper]
Tribune [weekly national political newspaper]
VerBosity [Repatriation Commission: Veterans' Review Board publication]
Vietnam Action [journal from the Vietnam Action Campaign group]
The Vietnam Digest, December 1968-July 1970 [7 no.s (ed. Peter Samuel for The Friends of Viet Nam]
Vietnam Today [Newsletter of the Australian Vietnam Society]
Woroni [Australian National University Student newspaper]
YCAC Newsletter [Youth Campaign Against Conscription]


Primary Sources: 3) printed texts—unit histories

Channon, James B. The First Three years: A Pictorial History of the 173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate), Brigade Information Office, 1966.


Primary Sources: e) printed texts—fiction, memoirs, poetry e'd drama

A number of texts in this section may appear initially as dubiously related to the Vietnam War. But as will be clear following the arguments put forward throughout the articles of this special number, Australia's response to the Vietnam War is tied intimately to its long and continuing relationships with the whole of the southeast Asian-Pacific region, and moreover to its own conceptions of its place within the myths and legends of a western tradition of warfare and colonialism. Focus of the texts below on occasion may fall less specifically upon Vietnam than on the wider region; as often on Vietnam, as on Indonesia, New Guinea, Japan, and Kampuchea/Cambodia, among others.

'Alexander, David' [McAulay, Lex]. When the Buffalo Fight, Hutchinson, Melbourne, 1980.
——— "Going, Going, Gone", [New Theatre Sydney], 1968.
——— A Soldier Returns: A Long Tan veteran discovers the other side of Vietnam, University of Queensland Press, St. Lucia, 1990.


McDonald, Roger. 1915, University of Queensland Press, St. Lucia, 1979.


Murray, Les. The Ilex Tree, Angus & Robertson, Sydney, 1965.


--- Collecting the Weather, Makar Press, [Sydney], 1978.


Sweeney, Gerald. Invasion, Angus & Robertson, Sydney, 1982.


Primary Sources: f) cinema, and television and radio programmes

For Australia, Vietnam was by no means the media war it is commonly held to have been (and seemingly remains) for the US, but there was a moderate, and as the war progressed increasing, electronic media response. Little of this has been touched on in any detail, nor listed in any comprehensive manner, with the exception of the work of Ann Mari Jordens in a paper delivered at the Macquarie University Conference in 1987. It would be impossible, however, to list every reference to Vietnam made in the television and radio media during the period of the war, and subsequently as it came to feature weekly, if not nightly (as it seems in the US), in the various network news and current affairs programmes. There are other complexities: in the case of the numerous short films made by the Commonwealth and State bodies, a number of these may exist in variant prints, and occasionally differing dating and production details appear within the catalogues; in addition scenes from some of the earlier films reappear as if contemporary to the later film’s footage; additionally much has been edited for use within other commercial current affairs material, again without noting their “file footage” status. The list given below is therefore even more selective and imperfect than the term “select bibliography” might imply.

Action in Vietnam, 1968, short film, Commonwealth Film Commission, for The Directorate of Defence Information [restricted access].
Army Nurses in Vietnam, 1972, short film, Directorate of Public Relations, Department of the Army.
Army Officers, 1966, short film, Department of Army, Commonwealth Film Unit.
Arts Vietnam: A Protest to Stop the War, 1968, short film, Sasha Ivanovich.
Australians Remember, 1977, short film, Film Australia Production Co., sponsored by the Australian War Memorial.
Call for Youth, 1966, short film, Christopher Productions and Youth Campaign Against Conscription.
Cambodia Year 10, 1990, John Pilger, TV Documentary.
Changing the Needle, 1981, film, director Martha Ansara, for Jequerity P.L. with assistance from Creative Development Branch, Australian Film Commission.
Deathcheaters, 1976, film, director Brian Trenchard Smith.
Democratic Process, 1979, short film, Jada Films.

Diggers in Vietnam, 1968, short film, Commonwealth Film Commission, for The Directorate of Defence Information [restricted access].

Diggers Relaxing, 1969, short film, Department of the Army.


Every Day, Every Night, 1983, short film (originally video), director Kathy Mueller, Swinburne Film & Television School.

Front Line, 1978, film, David Bradbury, sponsored by the Australian Film Commission, Tasmanian Film Corporation, and the Australian War Memorial.


Gallipoli, 1981, feature film, producers R&R Film, director Peter Weir, script David Williamson.


Hit the US Aggressors, documentary, [banned from Australian TV May-June 1966].

It's a New World For Sure, Australian Broadcasting Corporation TV Documentary Series, including 2 programmes on the Sixties radical movements.


The Last March, 1988, television documentary, producers Martyn Goddard, et al, Australian Broadcasting Corporation TV.

Living in the Field, 1968, short film, Department of the Army.

Malaya Posting, 1962, short film, Department of Army.

Minh: A Vietnamese, 1979, short film, Film Australia.


“My Lai”, 1990, documentary, Australian Broadcasting Corporation TV, Four Corners [weekly current affairs programme].


National Service Corps Training—Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, 1966, short film, Directorate of Public Relations, Department of the Army.


National Service Corps Training—Survey Regiment (Bendigo), 1966, short film, Directorate of Public Relations, Department of the Army.

National Service Officer, 1967, short film, Directorate of Public Relations, Department of the Army.


The Odd Angry Shot, 1979, feature film, Samson Productions, director Tom Jeffrey, script William Nagle [from his novel, The Odd Angry Shot, 1975].

On the Gunline, 1969, short film, Department of the Navy.

Once Upon a War, 1970, short film, director Patricia Penn.


One Shot, One Kill, 1967, British Broadcasting Commission, shown on Inside Australia Series.


"Power to the People", 5 May 1990, documentary, Geraldine Doogue, et al, for the Hindsight series, Australian Broadcasting Corporation TV [Australian Broadcasting Corporation Radio National held a phone-in forum the day following the broadcast].

The President Visits Brisbane, 1967, Premier's Department Queensland, Queensland Government Film Unit.

Public Enemy Number One, 1980, producers David Bradbury & Steward Young, for the Creative Development Branch, Australian Film Commission.

Ranger Advisors—Vietnam, 1972, short film, Directorate of Public Relations, Department of the Army.

Red Cross Civilian Relief in Vietnam, 1967, short film, Cine Service for the Australian Red Cross Society.

Rescue Vietnam, 1968, short film, Mathais, Kenyan & Merton Pictures, for Australian Red Cross Society.


Sad Song of Yellow Skin, 1976, film, directed Michael Rubbo (Australian) for the Canadian National Film Board.

The Siege of Fire Base Gloria, 1989, feature film, director Brian Trenchard-Smith, script William Nagle [ostensibly a US film, shot in the Philippines, the director and script writer are Australians or Australian trained; technical processing done in Sydney].

The Soldier, 1967, short film, Australian Broadcasting Commission TV.


A Street to Die, 1985, film, producer/director Bill Bennett.

Sword of Honour, 1987, TV miniseries, ATN7 Network, producers Simpson-LeMesurier, subsequently released on video.


This Day Tonight, Australian Broadcasting Commission TV news and current affairs programme, active in the Vietnam period.


The Trespassers, 1976, feature film, director John Duigan.

The Unlucky Country, 1967, short film, Australian Commonwealth Film Unit.

Vietnam, 1987, TV miniseries, TEN Network TV, producers Kennedy-Miller, directors Chris Noonan & John Duigan, script by Terry Hayes, Chris Noonan, John Duigan and others. [a version edited from the broadcast time (excluding advertisements) of approximately eight-and-a-half hours to six hours on two cassettes is available in the United Kingdom from CBS Video, American viewers should contact CBS US distributors to determine the availability of this version].


Vietnam Interpreters, 1967, short film, Department of the Army.

Vietnam Scene, 1967, short film, Department of the Army.


The Vung Tau Ferry, 1971, short film, Department of the Navy.

Warriors, Friends or Foes?, 1988, TV documentary series, episode 2.

White Paper No. 1—Conscription, 23 April, 1966, TV Debate, producers ATN 7 Network, Sydney University, & Ampol Petroleum Australia.


You Can't See Round Corners, 1968, feature film, David Cahill, based on the TV drama (soap), 1967-68, in turn an updated version of the novel by Jon Cleary. You Can't See Round Corners, 1947 [the novel deals with draft resistance and absenteeism in the Second World War, the TV and film updates presents the hero as a Vietnam draft resister].

In addition single episodes of various serial (or soap) dramas and situation comedies, have been devoted to Vietnam and/or Vietnam veterans; these include: A Country Practice, 1989; Col'n Carpenter, 1990; The Flying Doctor, 1990; and Winners, 1985. Occasional "sketches" in television comedy programmes have depicted Vietnam film stereotypes (especially Rambo-like crazed killers); these include: The Comedy Company, 1990; Let the Blood Run Free, 1990; and The Big Gig: Tuesday Night Live, 1989-90.


2: Secondary Sources


——— “Did we bring the war home?: Vietnamese migrants cause violence and demonstrations similar to those of the Vietnam War era”, *Access*, 21, Winter 1985: 28-29.


“The verdict on Agent Orange still up in the air”, *The Australian*, 12-13 May 1990.


Barton, L.L. *Mentioned in Despatch*; being articles of Historical Interest Extracted from *Despatch* Volume 1 which was published in Sixteen Parts from July 1965 to December 1966, New South Wales Military Historical Society, Sydney, 1972.


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Burgess, Pat. Warpo: Australian Reporters at War, Heinemann, Melbourne, 1986.


——— Strength Within: Towards an End to Violence, Nakari Publications, Narre Warren East, Victoria, 1988
———. An Introduction to Australian Foreign Policy, Brisbane, 1973.
Carey, Alex. Of Professors and Pacification, author, January 1968.
Clark, Gregory. "Australia and the Lost War", Western Sun, 7, April 1966: 3.


— "It was right to be there: Australians in Vietnam", Quadrant, 31:10, October 1987: 8-12.


Healey, John (ed). *ANZAC Day The 75th Year*, Magabook P.L., Sydney, 1990, chap. 8: "Vietnam—the living room war": 72-87; 94-5; 101-2; 106-111.


Hughes, A. “Psychological disposition and political attitudes”, PhD, Australian National University, 1970, see especially chap. 8.


Jones, R.M. “In the beginning . . .”, Navy News, 26 April 1974: 1; 4-7.


——— "Beyond the National Interest: Australian Foreign Policy in the 1980s", in Henry Mayer & Helen Nelson (eds). *Australian Politics: a Fifth Reader*, Longman Cheshire, Sydney, 1980:


Maddock, Kenneth & Wright, Barry (convenors). “Papers from Vietnam Conference, Macquarie University, 27 April -1 May 1987”.


Matthews, P. “From College Unions to Colleges and General Union at La Trobe University”, Vestes, 16:1, March 1973: 13-30.


Australia’s Foreign Policy, Sydney, 1968.

Foreign Policy: Some Australian Reflections, Melbourne, 1972.


The Australian Peace Movement: A Short History, Peace Research Centre, Australian National University, Canberra, 1986.


Report from Indo-China, Quadrant, 14:3, (No.65), May-June 1970: 31-36.

“Lost, our spirits and our standards”, Age, 1 May 1985: 13.


Stapleton, T. "A New Role for the Australian Army", Australian Outlook, 25:1, April 1971: 3-12.


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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 February</td>
<td>United States and United Kingdom recognise the French sponsored government of the former Emperor Bao Dai.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8 February</td>
<td>Australia recognises Bao Dai Government.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9 March</td>
<td>Percy Spender, External Affairs Minister, speaks of the Domino Theory in the House of Representatives.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8 May</td>
<td>United States provides $10 million in military and economic aid to the Bao Dai Government.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td></td>
<td>ANZUS treaty signed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jean Letourneau, French Minister in charge of Indochinese matters invited to visit Australia to discuss aid.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>7 May</td>
<td>The Battle of Dien Bien Phu lost by the French and Bao Dai forces.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8 September</td>
<td>South East Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO) formed with initial signatories United States, United Kingdom, France, Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Thailand, and the Philippines.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9 October</td>
<td>France leaves Hanoi.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td></td>
<td>US aid is provided directly to Saigon. Australia sends troops to aid in Malayan Emergency.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Ngo Dinh Diem, President of South Vietnam, visits the USA.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>September</td>
<td>Diem visits Australia.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>20 December</td>
<td>The National Liberation Front (NLF) is founded by Hanoi for the liberation of South Vietnam.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td></td>
<td>Laos crisis. Indonesia incorporates former Dutch West New Guinea colony as Irian Jaya.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17 November</td>
<td>United States seeks diplomatic indications of Australia's stance on, and willingness to assist in, South Vietnam.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td></td>
<td>Establishment at North West Cape, Western Australia of a Very Low Frequency &quot;joint&quot; US-Australian naval communications station.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>13 January</td>
<td>Operation RANCH HAND (defoliation) begins.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>24 May</td>
<td>Athol Townely, Minister of Defence, announces that 30 advisers are to be sent to South Vietnam.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>July-August</td>
<td>The first of the Training Team arrive in South Vietnam.</td>
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<td>1963</td>
<td></td>
<td>Malaysia formed. Indonesia embarks upon Confrontation.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1 June</td>
<td>William Francis Hacking, an adviser is the first Australian casualty, killed 40 miles west of Hue. 15,000 American advisers in South Vietnam, and $500 million aid is given.</td>
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<td>Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td><strong>Australian advisers increased to 83.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Robert Menzies, Australian Prime Minister, visits Washington, D.C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 August</td>
<td>USS Maddox incident in the Gulf of Tonkin.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 August</td>
<td>USS Turner Joy incident.</td>
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<td>7 August</td>
<td>US Congress passes Tonkin Gulf Resolution.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 November</td>
<td>National Service (Conscription) Act proclaimed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td><strong>Agent Orange first used.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>American marines land at Da Nang.</td>
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<td>29 April</td>
<td>Menzies announces the commitment of Australian combat troops.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May-June</td>
<td>1RAR (800 men) arrive in Bien Hoa, to join the USA 173rd Airborne Brigade. US troop commitment reaches 50,000 men.</td>
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<td>13 May</td>
<td>Save Our Sons (SOS) founded.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Morgan Gallup Poll shows that 56 per cent of Australians in favour of Australian participation, 28 per cent in favour of withdrawal, ten per cent undecided.</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 October</td>
<td>First arrests (65 people) for anti-War demonstration in Sydney.</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>26 January Harold Holt succeeds Menzies as Prime Minister and leader of the Liberal Party.</td>
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<td>8 March Government announces an increase in troops - two Battalions and support, and the Special Air Services, to be sent to Phuoc Tuy province, a total of 4500 men including 500 conscripts.</td>
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<td>16 March 2000 people march in protest against the war organised by the SOS group.</td>
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<td>May Seamens' Union refuse to load supplies for Vietnam on the <em>Boonaroo</em></td>
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<td>24 May Errol Wayne Noach, the first conscript killed in action.</td>
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<td>14 June 5th and 6th Battalions RAR and supports in place at Nui Dat, with logistic support base at Vung Tau, 30 kilometres (16 miles) south.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>30 June Holt visits Washington D.C., and in speech utters the famous &quot;all the way&quot; in support of L.B. Johnson's Vietnam policy.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>18 August The battle of Long Tan, Australia loses 18 KIA, for a claimed 245 Vietnamese KIA.</td>
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<td>21-22 October President Johnson visits Australia. One million Sydneysiders and 500,000 in Melbourne line the streets to welcome him on successive days.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>19 November Morgan Gallup Poll: 68 per cent in favour of conscription; 37 per cent in favour of sending conscripts to Vietnam.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Morgan Gallup Poll: 62 per cent in favour of the War; 24 per cent in favour of Australian withdrawal; 14 per cent undecided.</td>
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<td>2 October</td>
<td>A &quot;Teach-in&quot; titled &quot;National Forum on Vietnam&quot; held at Monash University, Melbourne.</td>
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<td>17 November</td>
<td>Holt missing presumed drowned. John McEwan (Country Party - the Liberals' coalition partner) succeeds to Prime Ministership on 19 December.</td>
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<td>November - December</td>
<td>Australian commitment rises to a peak of 8,300 men.</td>
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<td>10 January</td>
<td>Australian Draft Resister's Union established.</td>
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<td>10 January</td>
<td>John Grey Gorton, Liberal Party leader, succeeds to Prime Ministership.</td>
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<td>31 January</td>
<td>Tet Offensive.</td>
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<td>12 February</td>
<td>Gorton announces semi-officially that there will be no increase in Australian commitment.</td>
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<td>16 March</td>
<td>My Lai occurs but remains unknown until 16 November.</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>National Services Act amended to impose two year civil gaol term for draft evaders.</td>
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<td>August</td>
<td>Paris student riots.</td>
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<td>Year</td>
<td>Month</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>1969</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>President Richard Nixon announces withdrawal of 25,000 men and the initiation of &quot;Vietnamization&quot;.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>August</td>
<td>Morgan Gallup Poll: 55 per cent in favour of withdrawal; 40 per cent of continuing the war; 6 per cent undecided.</td>
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<td>3 September</td>
<td>Ho Chi Minh dies aged 79.</td>
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<td>4 October</td>
<td>US Morgan Poll: 58 per cent believe the war is a mistake.</td>
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<td>15 October</td>
<td>Massive anti-war demonstration occurs in Washington, D.C..</td>
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<td>1970</td>
<td>22 April</td>
<td>Government announces one Battalion to be withdrawn.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4 May</td>
<td>Kent State incident.</td>
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<td>8 May</td>
<td>Approximately 120,000 march in the first Moratorium March in Sydney, and approximately 70,000 in Melbourne.</td>
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<td>18 September</td>
<td>Second Moratorium Marches in Sydney of 100,000 and Melbourne 50,000. More than 300 arrested.</td>
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<td>1971</td>
<td>10 March</td>
<td>William McMahon succeeds as Prime Minister.</td>
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<td>30 March</td>
<td>1000 men withdrawn.</td>
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<td>30 June</td>
<td>Third and final large anti-war march, 110,000 people.</td>
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<td>18 August</td>
<td>McMahon announces that most troops will be home by Christmas.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>17 December</td>
<td>Last major troop withdrawal.</td>
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<td>Year</td>
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<td>Event</td>
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<td>5 December</td>
<td>National Service ended; imprisoned Draft Resisters released.</td>
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<td>8 December</td>
<td>Last Australian troops leave Vietnam.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>18 December</td>
<td>Last advisers leave. Nixon renews bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong.</td>
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<td>1973</td>
<td>23 January</td>
<td>Nixon announces &quot;peace with honor&quot;.</td>
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<td>27 January</td>
<td>Ceasefire.</td>
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<td>26 February</td>
<td>Whitlam announces the establishment of diplomatic relations with Hanoi, but retains diplomatic recognition of South Vietnam.</td>
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<td>29 March</td>
<td>Last American troops leave Vietnam.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>4 January</td>
<td>South Vietnam's President Nguyen Van Thieu announces that war has been declared again.</td>
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<td>1975</td>
<td>17 April</td>
<td>Phnom Penh falls to Khmer Rouge.</td>
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<td>25 April</td>
<td>Australian embassy in Saigon is closed.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>30 April</td>
<td>Fall of Saigon.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11 November</td>
<td>Sir John Kerr, the Governor General, &quot;sacks&quot; the Whitlam Labor Government, appoints Malcolm Fraser, Liberal leader as &quot;caretaker&quot; Prime Minister.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>December</td>
<td>Fraser wins government. 1000 Indochinese refugees resettled.</td>
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<td>1976</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>First Vietnamese Boat people arrive in Australia.</td>
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<td>Year</td>
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<td>1978</td>
<td>Fraser Government introduces refugee component into immigration programme.</td>
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<td>1982</td>
<td>Arrival of the first Vietnamese migrants under the Orderly Departure Programme. Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service established.</td>
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<td>1983 June</td>
<td>4000 American veterans begin class action in New York State against the manufacturer of Agent Orange. Justice John Phillip Evatt charged with the Royal Commission into the mortality of veterans.</td>
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<td>1984</td>
<td>The AVHS mortality report published.</td>
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<td>1985 July</td>
<td>Evatt Royal Commission published finding Agent Orange &quot;Not Guilty&quot;. Vietnam Veterans Association rejects findings.</td>
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<td>1987 4 October</td>
<td>25,000 March in Sydney Welcome Home March.</td>
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<td>1989 July</td>
<td>At the Geneva Conference on refugees, Australia votes with ASEAN nations for the mandatory repatriation of Vietnamese refugees. Australia is committed to resettle 11,000 people during 1989-1992.</td>
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<td>1990</td>
<td>Two more Cambodian boats arrive.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1990 June-July</td>
<td>First Cambodian boat people arrive in Australia.</td>
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