



## THE 521 FALLEN AUSTRALIANS VIETNAM RESEARCH BY BARRY HAMPSON

Australia's military involvement in the Vietnam Conflict was the longest in duration of any in Australia's history. From July 1962 when Australian troops arrived in South Vietnam until the 11th January 1973, when the Governor-General formally declared Australia's participation in the war to be at an end, over 60,000 servicemen and women had been deployed to the conflict; resulting in over 3,000 being wounded and 521 being recorded on the Roll of Honour as having lost their lives. Arguably, Australia's most contentious conflict.

Each of these 521 individuals has a story that needs to be recorded *before it becomes too late*. Coupled with their story, is the story of how each death impacted and continues to impact their families, friends and the mates they served with.

Whilst there have been numerous books written on Australia's participation in the Vietnam Conflict, they are written about units, battles or from an individual's perspective of the conflict; not on the sacrifice and lives of those recorded on the Roll of Honour.

I am endeavouring to chronicle the lives of each of *"THE 521"*, who they were, to tell their stories and how their loss impacted on their families, friends and mates.

*My reason for writing this book is because I want to ensure that current and future generations remember "THE 521", to keep their memory alive, to put a face to each name on the Roll of Honour, record their sacrifice, how their loss/death effected and continues to affect their families, friends and the mates they served with.*

Additionally, as part of my research for my book I am endeavouring to visit the final resting places of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the Vietnam Conflict and to place a flag and poppy at their final resting place as mark of respect to them.

To assist me in this endeavour I would like to interview family, friends and anyone who served with any of these 521 fallen Australians. Please contact me directly via my email [bazz662@bigpond.com](mailto:bazz662@bigpond.com) or via the contact page on my webpage [www.barryhampson.com](http://www.barryhampson.com) or ring me on my mobile **0424 750 943**. Please note that anyone interviewed will be asked to elect whether they are happy to be quoted as a source of information in the book or *remain totally anonymous*.

**M**y background; I enlisted in the Australian Regular Army in 1980, as a Private, serving some 25 plus year and working my way through the ranks. When I enlisted in the Army the majority of my Corporals, Sergeants, etc were Vietnam Veterans. Additionally, my father is a Vietnam Veteran having served with the 1st Battalion Group in 1965-66, as a driver with the 1st Australian Logistic Support Company. For myself, I have served overseas in the Middle East and East Timor.

I am a member of the following historical associations:

### **Professional Historians Association - (Associate Member)**

([www.historians.org.au](http://www.historians.org.au))

The association represents qualified historians who are professionally employed or commissioned to undertake historical work.

### **Australian Historical Association ([www.theaha.org.au](http://www.theaha.org.au))**

The association was founded in 1973 and it is a national organisation of historians, academic, professional and others working in all fields of history.

### **Oral History Association of Australia ([www.ohaa.net.au](http://www.ohaa.net.au))**

The association was founded in 1978. Its objectives are to promote the practice and methods of oral history, to educate in the use of oral history methods, to encourage discussions on all aspects of history and to foster the preservation of oral history records.

If required, I am happy to provide additional information either about my research or myself to anyone who requires it, if so, please do not hesitate to contact me.

