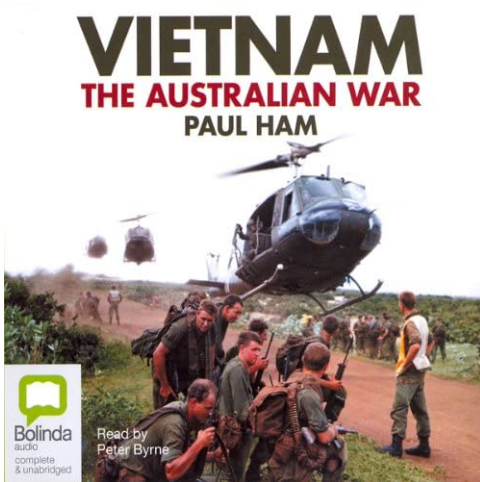


[PDF] Vietnam: The Australian War

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Author: Paul Ham

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Vietnam has granted Australians restricted access to a battle site in order to mark the 50th anniversary of a bloody incident in the Vietnam War. More than 1,000 Australian veterans and their families travelled to Vietnam to commemorate the battle of Long Tan. A commemoration ceremony, gala dinner and concert remain cancelled. Eighteen Australian soldiers and hundreds of North Vietnamese fighters died in the battle, deep in southern Vietnam, on 18 August 1966. "Several years ago we had the privilege to have the Long Tan cross on loan to the Australian War Memorial. I would very much like at some point for the Vietnamese Government to allow it to return on loan here." Related Topics. Known as the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV), its first 30 members were deployed to Vietnam in mid-1962. They were dispersed around the country and though they were supposed to be non-combatant advisors they quickly found themselves having to lead by example in combat situations. Colonel 'Ted' Serong. But by claiming that a beleaguered South Vietnam had asked for Australian involvement, Menzies was able to imbue the deployment with moral legitimacy. Both the Opposition Leader Arthur Calwell and his deputy Gough Whitlam were not present when Menzies made the announcement. Some Australians were against that. Others were against fighting in Vietnam at all. Because they believed it wasn't Australia's war to fight. So there were big protests across the country. And many young men refused to go. Today, memories of the Vietnam War are still very raw for those who took part. That's thought to be one of the reasons why the Vietnamese government canceled commemorations for the 50th anniversary of Long Tan at the last minute, disappointing more than 1,000 Aussie veterans who had traveled there for the day. where Australian troops had been in a guerilla war with communist insurgents. As the US was not involved, it seldom rates a mention. At about the same time, Australian special forces had been involved in an undeclared civil war in Indonesia when civil order larg. Continue Reading. There is much truth in the other answers. But history has largely forgotten the main reasons Australia went to war, because the history of the Vietnam war has largely been analysed from a US perspective. Vietnam was the last of a series of 3 or 4 wars that more directly threatened Australia. We had just come out of t