



## **The 521 Fallen Australians - Vietnam Research by Barry Hampson**

There are 521 Australian Service personnel recorded on the Australian War Memorial Honour Roll as having lost their lives as a result of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam Conflict, arguably in Australia's most contentious conflict.

Each of these 521 Australians has a story that needs to be recorded, *before it is too late*, their lives before they entered the military, their military service and how they lost (*their sacrifice*) their lives. Coupled with their story, is the story of how their death effected and continues to affect their families, friends and the mates they served with, which also needs to be recorded.

I have started researching each of '**The 521**' to produce a book honouring and documenting their lives, how each touched those around them, how they lost their life and the affect that their loss on their family, friends and the mates they served with.

***My reason for writing this book is because I want to ensure that current and future generations remember them, remember the sacrifice they made and how their loss effected and continue to affect their families, friends and the mates they served with.***

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

**To assist me in this endeavour I would like to talk to and interview anyone who served with any of the 521 Australians; this includes members of their families and friends.** Please contact me directly via [bazz662@bigpond.com](mailto:bazz662@bigpond.com) or via the contact page on my webpage [www.barryhampson.com](http://www.barryhampson.com) or my mobile **0424 750 943**. ***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.***

A bit about myself, I have a military background having enlisted in the Australian Regular Army in 1980, as a Private, serving 23 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 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Group in 1965-66; as such I hold those who have served in Vietnam with the utmost respect. 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** ([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 to anyone who requires it, please do not hesitate to contact me.

