Researching Australian military service: Vietnam War, 1962-1975

Overview


Nominal Rolls

The Nominal Roll of Vietnam Veterans [nominal-rolls.dva.gov.au/vietnamWar] was prepared by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA). The roll contains information from the Service records of more than 60,000 military members who served during the Vietnam War. It also contains the names of more than 1,600 Australian civilians who had been awarded or were eligible to receive the Vietnam Logistics and Support Medal.

Personal service records

Service records of those who served with Australian forces are held by the National Archives of Australia [www.naa.gov.au/collection/explore/defence/service-records/index.aspx#section7]. You can apply to the National Archives for copies of personal service records [reftracker.naa.gov.au/reft100.aspx?key=06PostWarDefRef].

Those who died while serving


Where they served

| Army | War diaries were kept by the commanding officer of the unit to record their daily activities and location. The war diaries are held in the Official records series AWM95, which have been digitised [www.awm.gov.au/collection/records/awm95/]. |
| Royal Australian Navy (RAN) | • Reports of Proceedings (ROPs), known earlier as “Letters of Proceedings”, are summaries of a ship’s or shore base’s activities. The reports were submitted by commanding officers to the Chief of Naval Staff. ROPs in the Memorial’s collection are being progressively digitised [www.awm.gov.au/learn/understanding-military-history/navy-reports].
  • Other ships’ records can be found by searching the RecordSearch database [www.naa.gov.au/collection/search/] using the name of the ship as your keyword. |
| Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) | • The Research Centre holds microfilm copies of operational diaries for No 2 Squadron (RAAF), 1961-1971, AWM66 28/1/4/1
  • Some records of RAAF operations in Vietnam are also held at the National Archives of Australia. These can be located using the RecordSearch database [www.naa.gov.au/collection/search]. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Information</th>
<th>Official histories are a detailed chronological record of all services and all theatres of conflict. Australian operations in the Vietnam War are chronicled in The Official History of Australia’s Involvement in Southeast Asian Conflicts 1948-1975.</th>
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For further information please refer to our guide Researching the history of a unit [www.awm.gov.au/research/guide/unit-history].

### Medals and awards
- Honours and Awards database [www.awm.gov.au/advanced-search/people?roll=Honours and Awards&people_roll_type=award]: please note that not all those recommended for an award received one.
- Campaign and service medals research guide [www.awm.gov.au/research/guide/campaign-medals]
- Australian military honours and awards research guide [www.awm.gov.au/research/guide/honours]

### Where to look for photographs
- Collections Search [www.awm.gov.au/advanced-search] provides access to digitised images of photographs held by the Memorial.
- Trove [trove.nla.gov.au] includes photographs and other images held by a range of major Australian libraries, archives and other cultural institutions

### Other sources of information
- Australia’s Vietnam War: exploring the combat actions of the 1st Australian Task Force [vietnam.unsw.adfa.edu.au/]: Database and website developed by the University of New South Wales Canberra which combines combat data with mapping and graphing software to produce an interactive battle map of the campaign in Vietnam. Incorporates maps from both the present day and the Vietnam War era to display details of combat incidents involving Australian and New Zealand troops from the 1st Australian Task Force in Vietnam in the 1960s and 1970s.