

[The Vung Tau Ferry by R. Knotts and N. Payne \(publication\)](#)

HMAS Sydney and Escort Ships (Vietnam 1965-1972) by Rodney Nott & Noel Payne.

Update: 3rd Edition NOW AVAILABLE FOR SALE

The third edition of this book, which contains a nominal list of all those who served in the The Vung Tau Ferry and her Escort Ships, has been expanded to include the names of the Ship's Army Staff, the crews of Jeparit and Boonaroo and the RAN band who toured Vietnam. It records the composition and dates of each Transport Task Force Group to Vietnam, and personal accounts from sailors and soldiers who sailed in the ships at the time are also included.

A number of archival documents are reproduced providing evidence of the threat and dangers the ships and their crews were exposed to whilst in Vietnam waters and the struggle to have that operational service recognised. The book includes more than 50 photographs, charts and maps with most being published for the first time.

The Vung Tau Ferry, written by Rodney Nott & Noel Payne is published in a high quality, hard cover edition.

To order your copy please send a completed ORDER FORM and cheque or money order for \$33.00 Aus [includes postage and handling] made payable to N & M Payne, PO Box 131, NERANG QLD 4211.

Review by Vic Jeffery

This is a book, which had to be written. It is the story of a ship, the men who manned her; the thousands who sailed in her and the ships, which escorted her.

Rodney Nott and Noel Payne are to be commended on their sterling effort in painstakingly researching and writing this book. Their accomplishment in bringing the importance of the RAN's Logistic Support role during the war in Vietnam will go a long way to correcting this oversight and gaining long overdue official recognition of that service.

The Sydney is probably the only ship in the Royal Australian Navy's history, which served so diligently during a conflict, is spoken of with such pride and growing fondness with the passing years, yet is still denied the Battle Honour 'Vietnam 1965-72'.

While in no way demeaning the efforts of the RAN ships awarded a Battle Honour for their participation in the 1992 Gulf War, the efforts of HMAS Sydney (III) in making 25 operational visits to the war zone over seven years ferrying approximately 15,600 Army and RAAF personnel, stores and equipment, and the subsequent overlooking of her efforts is incredible.

This 250-page book contains various archival documents providing evidence of the threat and dangers the ships and their crews were exposed to whilst in Vietnamese waters and the struggle to have that operational service recognised, some of this material is being published for the first time.

Another important first for this book is publishing accurate details of the positions in which HMAS Sydney and her escorts anchored in Vung Tau Harbour, correcting a previously published inaccurate anchorage sketch.

Some 38-pages of this book are devoted to a nominal list of the 9,916 names of those who served in the "Vung Tau Ferry" and her escort ships. There are also 50 photographs and illustrations plus three maps supporting the text.

THE END