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## A TIMELINE OF CONFLICT

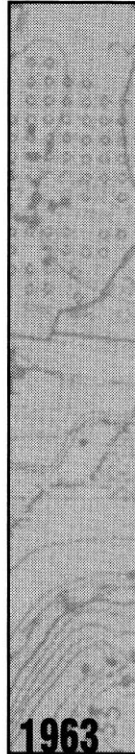
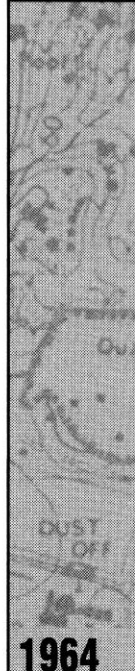
At the end of the Vietnam War, the Vietnamese people had effectively been part of various conflicts for more than 100 years. Barry Petersen and his involvement with the Montagnard was only a brief interlude in a violent history.


<b>1627</b>	French Jesuit missionaries spread influence in Vietnam.
<b>1847</b>	French forces clash with Vietnamese mandarins as they try to push out the missionaries.
<b>1852</b>	Napoleon III sends military force to Vietnam to protect missionaries and gain trade concessions.
<b>1861</b>	French forces capture Saigon and gain religious, trade and political concessions.




<b>1863</b>	The French extend control over Cambodia.
<b>1883</b>	France takes control over much of Vietnam.
<b>1890</b>	Ho Chi Minh born in central Vietnam.
<b>1914</b>	World War One breaks out and several hundred thousand Vietnamese go to France in labour battalions.
<b>1919</b>	Ho Chi Minh unsuccessfully tries to petition US President Woodrow Wilson at the Versailles Peace Talks for self-determination for Vietnam.
<b>1920</b>	Ho Chi Minh joins Communist Party and goes to Moscow.
<b>1932</b>	The French puppet emperor Bao Dai ascends throne.
<b>1934</b>	Barry Petersen born in Queensland.
<b>1940</b>	Japan invades Vietnam but leaves French administration in charge.
<b>1941</b>	Ho Chi Minh secretly returns to Vietnam and forms Viet Minh to fight both Japan and France.
<b>1945</b>	<p><i>15 August</i> Japanese surrender and transfer of power to Viet Minh.</p> <p><i>2 September</i> Ho Chi Minh declares the independence of Vietnam.</p> <p><i>13 September</i> British forces under General Douglas Gracey land in Saigon and use rearmed Japanese troops to help return authority to the French.</p>
<b>1946</b>	France renegs on peace deal with Ho and Viet Minh forces attack French troops in the north.
<b>1949</b>	The French appoint puppet Bao Dai as nominal leader of Vietnam as war continues.

 <b>1950</b>	<p>14 <i>January</i> Ho declares Democratic Republic of Vietnam is the only legitimate government. China and Soviet Union recognise Ho's government.</p> <p>26 <i>June</i> The Korean War starts.</p> <p>26 <i>July</i> US President Harry Truman grants US\$15 million in military aid to France for use in Indochina.</p>
 <b>1954</b>	<p>13 <i>March</i> Battle at Dien Bien Phu begins as Viet Minh mount largest attack on French forces.</p> <p>7 <i>May</i> French defeated at Dienbienphu.</p> <p><i>July</i> Geneva Peace Accord divides Vietnam at 17th Parallel pending nationwide elections.</p> <p>8 <i>September</i> South East Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) formed, including US, UK, France, Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Thailand and Philippines.</p> <p>9 <i>October</i> French forces leave Hanoi. US gives South Vietnam US\$100 million in aid. US Navy helps hundreds of thousands flee from North to South.</p>
 <b>1955</b>	<p>The US begins training South Vietnamese army. Australia sends an infantry battalion and artillery units to Malaya to join British units.</p> <p>20 <i>July</i> The South Vietnamese government under Ngo Dinh Diem rejects Geneva Accords and refuses to participate in nationwide elections. US backs his decision.</p> <p>23 <i>October</i> Diem deposes Bao Dai in referendum to become prime minister. Diem proclaims Republic of Vietnam with himself as president.</p>
<b>1956</b>	<p>Diem cracks down on Viet Minh and other dissidents.</p>
<b>1957</b>	<p>Viet Cong start war on Diem regime, killing 400 officials.</p>
 <b>1958</b>	<p>North Vietnam starts using the Ho Chi Minh Trail to deliver arms, men and supplies to the Viet Cong.</p>


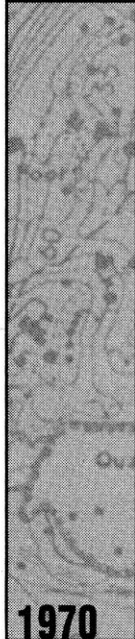
<b>1959</b>	<i>31 August</i> Lieutenant Barry Petersen posted to Malaya for Malaya Emergency.
<b>1960</b>	Resistance in Vietnam to Diem's repressive regime grows beyond communists. <i>11 May</i> Attempted coup against Diem fails.
<b>1961</b>	<i>17 April</i> With approval from President John F Kennedy, the CIA launches disastrous invasion of Cuba with anti-Castro expats. US expands military aid to Diem regime including around 500 military advisers. <i>12 November</i> Lieutenant Petersen completes posting to Malaya.
<b>1962</b>	<i>8 February</i> US military advisers reach 2394. US Military Assistance Command set up in Saigon. <i>27 February</i> Two South Vietnamese pilots bomb Diem's palace. Diem survives. <i>March</i> Captain Barry Petersen approached by Colonel Ted Serong to ask if he would be interested in going to Vietnam to train native tribesmen in military tactics. <i>May</i> US Admiral Harry Felt, visiting Australia, requests nominal commitment of Australian military advisers. <i>24 May</i> Australia's Menzies government announces deployment of Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV), a group of 30 experienced jungle fighters, officers and senior NCOs, to go as instructors. <i>30 July</i> Colonel Ted Serong, commander of AATTV, tours Vietnam and sets up arrangements with US military and CIA for deployment of the team. <i>3 August</i> Thirty AATTV members arrive in Vietnam. <i>October</i> President Kennedy forces Soviet Union to withdraw missiles from Cuba. <i>31 December</i> US military strength in Vietnam reaches 11 000.

	<p>2 <i>January</i> Viet Cong units defeat South Vietnamese forces at Ap Bac on the Mekong Delta.</p> <p><i>January</i> Captain Barry Petersen undergoes torture survival training in Sydney.</p> <p>8 <i>May</i> Buddhist riots in the central Vietnamese city of Hue.</p> <p>11 <i>June</i> Venerated monk Thich Quang Duc immolates himself in Saigon in protest at Diem persecution of Buddhists, sending shockwaves around the world.</p> <p>27 <i>August</i> Petersen arrives in Saigon and told by Serong he will be seconded to CIA to train Montagnard.</p> <p><i>September</i> Petersen taken by CIA contact to Ban Me Thuot.</p> <p>1 <i>November</i> Diem overthrown in US-approved coup and murdered along with his brother.</p> <p>6 <i>November</i> General Duong Van Minh takes over as president.</p> <p>22 <i>November</i> President Kennedy assassinated.</p> <p><i>December</i> 15 000 US military advisers in Vietnam along with few dozen Australians.</p>
	<p>30 <i>January</i> President Minh ousted in coup by General Nguyen Khanh.</p> <p>8 <i>June</i> Australia increases AATTV to 80.</p> <p>20 <i>June</i> General William C Westmoreland takes over as commander of US forces in Vietnam.</p> <p>2 <i>August</i> North Vietnamese patrol boats attack US destroyer <i>Maddox</i> in Gulf of Tonkin. US warplanes bomb North Vietnam.</p> <p>Viet Cong increase attacks on US bases.</p> <p>14 <i>August</i> Australia sends six Caribou transport aircraft to Vietnam.</p> <p>19 <i>September</i> Montagnard rebellion in Petersen's Darlac Province.</p> <p><i>November</i> Riots break out in Saigon protesting against the Khanh regime.</p> <p>24 <i>November</i> The Australian Liberal government brings in conscription.</p>



	<p><i>January</i> AATTV is increased to 100.</p>
	<p><i>5 February</i> Colonel David Jackson takes over command of AATTV from Serong, who leaves the Australian Army to work for the CIA.</p>
	<p><i>7 February</i> The Viet Cong make a daring attack on US base at Pleiku. The US bombs North Vietnam.</p>
	<p><i>18 February</i> With US approval Khanh is forced to leave the country as Dr Phan Huy Quat forms new government.</p>
	<p><i>2 March</i> Operation Rolling Thunder, the intense bombing of North Vietnam, begins.</p>
	<p><i>8 March</i> First US combat troops arrive in Vietnam.</p>
	<p><i>March</i> Petersen sent to Australia for short visit to brief chiefs of ASIS, Army and Foreign Affairs Department. Menzies congratulates him during a brief meeting. He is repeatedly asked how combat troops would fare in Vietnam.</p>
	<p><i>29 April</i> The Australian Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies, announces sending combat troops to Vietnam.</p>
	<p><i>11 June</i> Air Vice Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky takes over as prime minister and General Nguyen Van Thieu as president.</p>
	<p><i>July</i> President Lyndon B Johnson increases US combat forces to 200 000.</p>
	<p><i>August</i> Petersen forced out of Highlands by CIA. Spends two months in Saigon.</p>
	<p><i>14 October</i> Petersen leaves Vietnam.</p>
	<p><i>13 November</i> Warrant Officer Kevin Wheatley of the AATTV is posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.</p>
	<p><i>20 November to 20 December</i> Petersen posted to Borneo.</p>

 <b>1966</b>	<p><i>January</i> Harold Holt becomes Prime Minister of Australia.</p> <p><i>8 March</i> Australia boosts the size of its combat forces, settling in Phuoc Tuy province.</p> <p><i>10 March</i> Anti-government and anti-American riots break out in northern Vietnamese provinces.</p> <p><i>December</i> US troops strength reaches 400 000.</p>
 <b>1967</b>	<p><i>7 April</i> Major Peter Badcoe of the AATTV is killed in action and awarded the Victoria Cross.</p> <p><i>October</i> Massive anti-war rallies in the US and Australia.</p> <p><i>December</i> US troops reach 500 000.</p> <p>Australian Prime Minister Harold Holt drowns.</p>
 <b>1968</b>	<p><i>January</i> John Gorton appointed Prime Minister of Australia.</p> <p><i>30 January</i> North Vietnam and Viet Cong launch the Tet Offensive.</p> <p><i>16 March</i> A US platoon massacre 504 unarmed civilians including women and babies at the village of My Lai.</p> <p><i>4 April</i> Martin Luther King is assassinated in Memphis.</p> <p><i>5 June</i> Robert Kennedy is assassinated in Los Angeles.</p> <p><i>2 July</i> General Creighton Abrams is appointed US commander.</p> <p><i>November</i> Richard Nixon is elected US president with a promise to withdraw forces from Vietnam.</p> <p><i>December</i> US troop strength reaches 540 000. The US annual death toll in Vietnam is the highest yet at 16 869. The Australian death toll is 98.</p>



	<p>31 <i>January</i> US forces reach a peak of 542 400.</p> <p>18 <i>March</i> Nixon begins secret bombing of Cambodia. The US invents the term 'Vietnamization' to describe troop withdrawals.</p> <p>8 <i>May</i> Massive anti-war demonstrations in Australia.</p> <p>11 <i>May</i> Warrant Officer Ray Simpson of AATTV awarded Victoria Cross.</p> <p>24 <i>May</i> Warrant Officer Keith Payne of AATTV awarded Victoria Cross.</p> <p>8 <i>June</i> Nixon announces the withdrawal of 25 000 US troops.</p> <p>3 <i>September</i> Ho Chi Minh dies aged 79.</p> <p>18 <i>September</i> Anti-war marches in Australia.</p> <p>15 <i>November</i> Huge anti-war demonstrations in the US.</p> <p>16 <i>November</i> Revelation of 1968's My Lai massacre.</p>
	<p>20 <i>February</i> Secret peace talks begin in Paris.</p> <p>22 <i>April</i> Australia announces one of its three battalions in Vietnam will not be replaced when its deployment ends in November.</p> <p>29 <i>April</i> Petersen returns to Vietnam as a regular combat officer, a major in charge of a company.</p> <p>30 <i>April</i> Nixon says South Vietnamese and US forces have attacked communist sanctuaries in Cambodia.</p> <p>4 <i>May</i> National guardsmen kill four students during an anti-war protest at Kent State University in Ohio.</p> <p>12 <i>November</i> The US army's Lieutenant William L Calley goes on trial for his part in the My Lai massacre.</p> <p><i>December</i> US force down to 280 000 as withdrawals continue.</p>



	<p><i>February</i> South Vietnamese forces backed by US Air Force attack communist strongholds in Laos.</p> <p><i>10 March</i> William McMahon becomes Prime Minister of Australia.</p> <p><i>29 March</i> Lieutenant Calley convicted of premeditated murder of civilians at My Lai.</p> <p><i>30 March</i> McMahon announces gradual reduction of Australian forces in Vietnam.</p> <p><i>24 April</i> 500 000 anti-war protesters fill Washington.</p> <p><i>1 June</i> Petersen completes second tour of Vietnam.</p> <p><i>18 August</i> McMahon announces all Australian combat troops will be out of Vietnam by Christmas.</p> <p><i>December</i> US troop strength down to 140 000.</p>
<p><b>1971</b></p> 	<p><i>25 January</i> Nixon reveals that Henry Kissinger has been secretly negotiating with North Vietnam for a peace deal.</p> <p><i>30 March</i> North Vietnam launches offensive across the demilitarised zone.</p> <p><i>15 April</i> Nixon orders the bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong.</p> <p><i>April</i> Viet Cong launch an offensive in Phuoc Tuy province, once protected by Australian troops.</p> <p><i>17 June</i> Nixon's Watergate burglars are arrested.</p> <p><i>August</i> Thieu rejects Kissinger's ceasefire agreement.</p> <p><i>12 August</i> The last US combat troops leave Vietnam leaving 43 500 US air force personnel.</p> <p><i>7 November</i> Nixon is reelected.</p> <p><i>2 December</i> Labor wins Australian election and Gough Whitlam becomes prime minister. His first action is to free conscientious objectors from jail. Whitlam orders Australian troops out of Vietnam.</p> <p><i>18 December</i> The AATTV are the last to leave Vietnam.</p> <p><i>18 December</i> Nixon orders further bombing of North Vietnam.</p>

<b>1973</b>	<p>27 <i>January</i> US and North Vietnam sign a ceasefire agreement in Paris.</p> <p>26 <i>February</i> The Whitlam government becomes the first Western nation to formally recognise the socialist government of the united Vietnam.</p> <p>29 <i>March</i> The last US troops leave Vietnam.</p> <p>1 <i>April</i> The last US prisoners of war released.</p> <p>14 <i>August</i> The US Congress forces Nixon to stop bombing Cambodia.</p>
<b>1974</b>	<p><i>January</i> Thieu says war against North Vietnam has started up again.</p> <p>9 <i>May</i> Impeachment process begins against Nixon over Watergate.</p> <p>9 <i>August</i> Nixon resigns, replaced by Gerald Ford.</p>
<b>1975</b>	<p>11 <i>March</i> The North Vietnamese capture Ban Me Thuot.</p> <p>15 <i>March</i> Thieu orders his troops to abandon northern provinces to defend Saigon.</p> <p>23 <i>April</i> Ford declares the war 'finished'.</p> <p>25 <i>April</i> Thieu flees to Taiwan.</p> <p>29 <i>April</i> Evacuation of last Americans begins.</p> <p>30 <i>April</i> The North Vietnamese capture Saigon; the South Vietnamese government surrenders.</p>
<b>1976</b>	<p>Jimmy Carter wins US election.</p>
<b>1977</b>	<p>The day after his inauguration, President Carter pardons most of 10 000 draft dodgers.</p> <p>25 <i>December</i> Vietnam invades Cambodia. Thousands of 'boat people' flee Vietnam. SEATO is dissolved.</p>
<b>1979</b>	<p><i>February</i> China invades Vietnam.</p>
<b>1989</b>	<p><i>September</i> Vietnam withdraws last troops from Cambodia.</p>

<b>1991</b>	The Soviet Union ends aid to Vietnam.
<b>1994</b>	President Clinton removes US trade embargo on Vietnam.
<b>1995</b>	The US opens diplomatic relations with Vietnam.
<b>2008</b>	The US opens talks to sell arms to Vietnam, mostly spare parts for vehicles, planes and helicopters abandoned after the war.