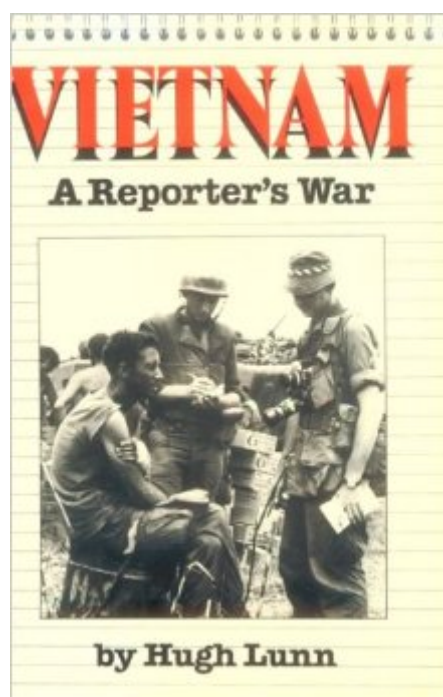


The book was found

Vietnam: A Reporter's War



Synopsis

From February 1967 to March of 1968, Australian journalist Hugh Lunn reported on the war in Vietnam for Reuters. He joined several military missions into the combat zones, learning the terror of jungle warfare from the front lines. Lunn's record of his experiences reveals attitudes to the war from numerous sides-American soldiers, foreigners living in the capital, and Vietnamese, some intrigued by the American presence and some outraged. Throughout Vietnam, Lunn discovers telling signs of how wrongheaded American strategy was and how desperate American journalists were to show the war as progressive. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

Vietnam: A Reporter's War is the 5th book by Australian journalist and author, Hugh Lunn. In it, Lunn details his year in Vietnam as a reporter for the Reuters agency. With his conversational style, Lunn presents a vast amount of information in an easy-to-assimilate form. His first-hand view of the US military propaganda machine in action, and the alternative sources a reporter might find, makes for interesting reading. He describes the intricacies of reporting from the field, sometimes under fire, and in a third-world country long before the existence of mobile phones, email and the fax machine. His description of the process by which newspapers get their stories from the wire services, who decides which story and which version will go to print, and how vastly this may differ from the facts, is quite a revelation. Other interesting subjects Lunn touches on: the attitude and behaviour of US servicemen towards the Vietnamese (brusque, insulting and completely lacking cultural sensitivity),

and how this lost them credibility; the bravery of the troops under fire; the acceptance of 10% mortality due to friendly fire; the impossibility of discerning who was Viet Cong; the laughable tactics the US military used to scare the seasoned Viet Cong guerrillas; the US idea that they could win over the Vietnamese by good works (dams, schools, bridges) whilst at the same time shooting, napalming and defoliating them or their country; the completely ridiculous barrier planned to keep the Viet Cong out of South Vietnam. Some of the statistics were mind-numbing (4000 choppers lost by the end of '67!). The extent to which the US Administration was out of touch with reality on the front was staggering.

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