

THE FILM ARCHIVE

Ngā Kaitiaki O Ngā Taonga Whitiāhua The New Zealand Film Archive

ON DISK

*A MOVING IMAGE RESOURCE FOR
NEW ZEALAND CLASSROOMS*

VIETNAM

VIETNAM

NEW ZEALAND AND THE VIETNAM WAR

Contents:

INTRODUCTION

In the Shadow of Vietnam (extracts)

THE DECISION: 1964–1965

Vietnam: The New Zealand Story: Part 1: Decision (extracts)

ENGINEERS TO GUNNERS

Vietnam: The New Zealand Story: Part 1: Decision (extracts)

ESCALATION: 1966–1968

Vietnam: The New Zealand Story: Part 3: Escalation (extracts)

CONDITIONS OF WAR

In the Shadow of Vietnam (extracts)

WITHDRAWAL

Vietnam: The New Zealand Story: Part 4: Withdrawal (extracts)

AFTER EFFECTS

In the Shadow of Vietnam (extracts)

INTRODUCTION

In the Shadow of Vietnam (extracts)

Top Shelf Productions 1995. Duration 2:47

Vietnam veterans talk about why they went to war. Briefly explores the cultural values of New Zealand in the 1960s.

THE DECISION: 1964-1965

Vietnam: The New Zealand Story: Part 1: Decision (extracts)

TVNZ 1982. Duration 12:30

This section shows the pressure on the New Zealand Government from our allies, the United States and Australia, to send troops to Vietnam. Describes the collective security agreement (ANZUS). The country was divided and the extract shows the different groups and their perspectives on the war. Under increasing pressure, the New Zealand government sends the Royal Engineers to help build schools and market places in 1964 and a year later a combatant unit: the V Force, the first New Zealanders killed in action in 1965.

ENGINEERS TO GUNNERS

Vietnam: The New Zealand Story: Part 1: Decision (extracts)

TVNZ 1982. Duration 4:00

National Film Unit newsreel footage is interspersed with a veteran's memories of first experiences. The gunners take over from the engineers.

ESCALATION: 1966-1968

Vietnam: The New Zealand Story: Part 3: Escalation (extracts)

TVNZ 1982. Duration 25:01

Explains what the term 'escalation' means and how this military strategy was employed by Lyndon B. Johnson to try to win the war as quickly as possible. President Johnson's visit to New Zealand in 1966 was the first ever by a US President. Pressure on the New Zealand Government to send troops increases. Shows use of 'psychological objectives' by the US, targeting specific groups in New Zealand, to swing public opinion in favour of the war. US Vice President Humphries and Australian Prime Minister Harold Holt visit New Zealand to put additional pressure on the Kiwis. Explains why, in spite of the all-out offensive, the Americans were still not winning the war. More New Zealand troops sent Oct 1967.

CONDITIONS OF WAR

In the Shadow of Vietnam (extracts)

Top Shelf Productions 1995. Duration 10:58

The conditions of war for the New Zealanders as recounted by several veterans. Issues of hygiene, heavy kit, long spells on duty, dysentery, health and jungle fighting. The reality of war hit home for these young men and they recall some of the sad incidences experienced. The tactics of the American directed war are also described.

WITHDRAWAL

Vietnam: The New Zealand Story: Part 4: Withdrawal (extracts)

TVNZ 1982. Duration 12:59

Shows the demonstrations in New Zealand on National Mobilisation Day. April 30, 1971 demanding that the government withdraw all NZ troops from Vietnam. 1971-1972 NZ troops withdrawn from Vietnam. 35 killed, 3430 served, Cost \$13 million. Looks at impact of the war on New Zealand as spoken by Alistair Taylor, an RSA and a Business Council representative and John Marshall, deputy Prime Minister. Discusses the state of the media reporting on the war and how most of the images and news came from American sources and seen through their eyes. Initially it was mostly propaganda but then more and more news came from independent sources finally breaking the back of public support for the war both here and in the US

AFTER EFFECTS

In the Shadow of Vietnam (extracts)

Top Shelf Productions 1995. Duration 4:01

Footage showing veterans recounting their feelings on their return to New Zealand and the reactions of the people towards them. They discuss the dishonour that most of them experienced in spite of their belief that they were serving New Zealand. Explains some of the after effects of the campaign such as the effects of Agent Orange and Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome. Explains in general terms, the mistrust experienced by some people for the Government and the Army following the war.