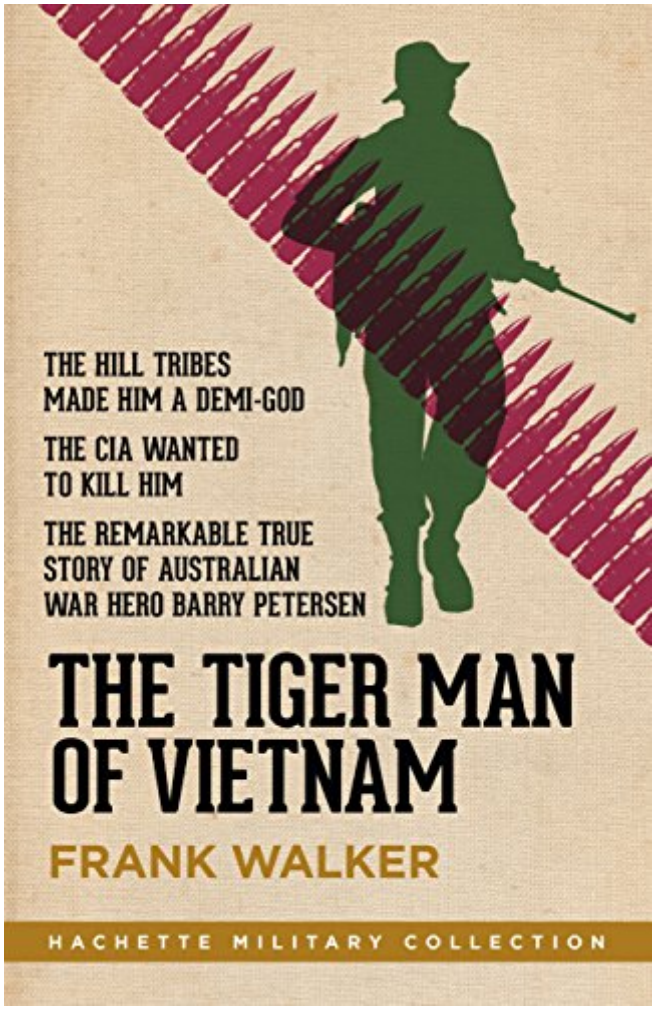
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The Tiger Man Of Vietnam (Hachette Military Collection)



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Synopsis

The Vietnamese hilltribes made him a demi-god. The CIA wanted to kill him. This is the remarkable true story of Australian war hero Barry Petersen.As he flew over South East Asia towards Vietnam, Captain Barry Petersen struggled to keep an aura of calm. Inwardly he was incredibly excited. Aged 28, highly trained, with experience in anti-communist guerilla warfare, he was about to embark on the biggest and most important mission of his life.In 1963, Australian Army Captain Barry Petersen was sent to Vietnam. It was one of the most tightly held secrets of the Vietnam War: long before combat troops set foot there and under the command of the CIA, Petersen was ordered to train and lead guerilla squads of Montagnard tribesmen against the Viet Cong in the remote Central Highlands.Petersen successfully formed a fearsome militia, named 'Tiger Men'. A canny leader, he was courageous in battle, and his bravery saw him awarded the coveted Military Cross, and worshipped by the hill tribes.But his success created enemies, not just within the Viet Cong. Like Marlon Brando's character in 'Apocolyse Now', some in the CIA saw Petersen as having gone native. His refusal, when asked, to turn his Tiger Men into assassins as part of the notorious CIA Phoenix Program only strengthened that belief. The CIA strongly resented anyone who stood in their way. Some in the US intelligence were determined Petersen had to go and he was lucky to make it out of the mountains alive. The Tiger Man of Vietnam reveals the compelling true story of little-known Australian war hero Barry Petersen.'One of those great untold stories and Walker tells it with verve and excitement and, with meticulous attention to detail' - Sydney Morning Herald'Drips with adventure and intrigue and has at its centre a personality boys of all ages will identify with' - The Age'Walker's finely researched book goes beyond the biographical account of an Australian war hero' - Sun Herald'Walker's book about Petersen, The Tiger Man Of Vietnam, is well-crafted and racily written' - Weekend Australian

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Customer Reviews

I have read many books re the Vietnam War, but Captain Barry Petersen carried out his duties to the highest level,inspite of the shady politics that were exercised during the war in Vietnam. He carried out his duties and did his best for the Montagnard Hill Tribe people, who had had a rough time from the North and South of Vietnam. Barry and other Australian Army Advisers were in the rough end of Vietnam,well before Australian Troops were officialy committed to this hopeless and unpopular campaign. The book brings to light many of the dirty tricks that were used in Vietnam.Barry Petersen trained his Montgnard Hills people, to hit the Viet Cong, do the required damage and get out.Captain Petersen did not always get the support from Senior members in the Australian Defence Forces.Several years later Barry Petersen now a Major went back to Vietnam with Australian Soldiers, who were now officially involved in the Vietnam Conflict...

`The Tiger Man of Vietnam' is a soldiers story of courage and service. Of bravery that goes above and beyond. But it reveals more than that when the spotlight turns to the political players who move the pieces on the chess board of war. Politics casts a dark shadow, and perhaps no war in our recent history has been more murky than the Vietnam war.Sadly, (particularly in that war) the soldier doing his duty became the focus of enmity when more appropriately, the political intrigue that created the war zone should have been the target. Special Ops, CIA, money, and politics - it's all there. A valuable and revealing insight into the Vietnam conflict.

An excellent book about a courageous man!

Well written and informative shows the capabilities of Australians in being able to adapt to local

situations and operate under difficult circumstances keeping their own ethics

This book was recommended to me and it did not let me down. A very good read and letting as have an insite on how our troops operate in Vietnam

The book is extremely well written and gives another view of a war caused so much pain to thousands of soldiers on both sides.

Being a historian, I prefer unvarnished looks at history. That is what readers find in Frank Walker's "The Tiger Man of Vietnam." It is a moving portrait of Barry Petersen, an Australian Army officer, who loved, and was loved by, the Montagnard of Vietnam's Central Highlands (specifically around Ban Me Thout). Having been among the Montagnard myself on multiple occasions, I can certainly emphathize with the protagonist's feelings. Much of their culture now destroyed, Walker recreates it in vivid detail with stories of the traditional rice wine (or num-pie) drinking ceremony, the induction into the tribe, and the lasting friendships ended by war and espionage.Petersen, according to Walker, learned to distrust Americans as the CIA tinkered with the handling of the war in Darlac Province, suggesting tactics like assassination squads formed of Petersen's Tiger Force. Petersen refused, earning him a quick trip out of Vietnam. The CIA believed he had "gone native" and was too close to the Montagnard. As for the Montagnard soldiers Petersen had trained, they were ultimately abandoned to the slaughter.Walker, it is clear, has no love for Americans, and that makes the book a difficult read for a U.S. citizen. Every aspect of the Americans' handling of the war is questioned, or seen as naive and illogical. It is important to note, however, that Peterson (and perhaps Walker) believed that Vietnam was a just cause. Petersen, who had also fought the Chinese communists in Malaya, validates the much debated "Domino Theory." The mistake, both Petersen and Walker contend, is the Americanization of the war.Perhaps Walker projects much more disdain for Americans than Petersen actually holds, but his book is written for an Australian and English audience. It will no doubt reinforce what many believe about the United States. However, perhaps those who read it will remember that if not for American intervention in Vietnam, the communist march may have continued to Darwin, Canberra or Sydney, in which case a book like this might not have been written.

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