

## Foreword

David Bruhn's *Gunline* presents a comprehensive and illustrative study of the contribution during the Vietnam War of the U.S. and Australian surface warships and sailors that operated along the coasts of North and South Vietnam. Quite often the subjects that first come to mind with regard to naval actions in the conflict are the bombing campaigns conducted by the aircraft carriers of Task Force 77 and the river patrols and riverine assaults by U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam. But as Bruhn has demonstrated in this admirable work, U.S. battleship *New Jersey* (BB-62), the cruisers, destroyers, and other surface combatants of the Seventh Fleet and the Royal Australian Navy's destroyers played a major role in the war. His prodigious research has documented the involvement of the surface forces that battled North Vietnamese coastal guns in Operation Sea Dragon, provided naval gunfire support to allied ground troops locked in battle with Viet Cong guerrillas in South Vietnam, intercepted enemy trawlers attempting the seaborne infiltration of war materials in Operation Market Time, and protected the maritime evacuations from South Vietnam in 1975. Bruhn enlightens the reader about the sacrifices made by American and Australian sailors to enemy and friendly fire, shipboard accidents, and serving in the often storm-tossed South China Sea. The author does not shy away from controversial episodes such as Marcus Aurelius Arnheiter's command of USS *Vance* (DE-387) and the HMAS *Melbourne* (R-21) collision with *Frank E. Evans* (DD-754). Appendices identify personnel casualties suffered by Seventh Fleet ships, the surface combatants that served in Vietnamese waters, and awards earned by the Australian naval contingent. In short, this volume should be the first stop for anyone wanting to know the full story of the American and Australian sailors who "went in harm's way" along the combat-wracked shores of Vietnam.

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