

## WHAT THE CRITICS SAY

*Best We Forget* is a brilliant parody of the phrase of remembrance. I found this book riveting as it took me on a roller coaster ride on a sea of emotions known to most vets written by a guy who went through it all himself. At times it is a brilliantly funny book, at others gut-wrenching.

It delves very deeply into the hearts and souls of Diggers with short, sharp bayonet-like thrusts and yet one paragraph later there's a belly laugh.

Simpson becomes involved, through no fault of his own, in some astonishing escapades, from a plot to assassinate the leaders of both North and South Vietnam to forays into the Tu Do Street bars with the irrepressible little Polish-Australian entrepreneur Ned.

The major plot twists and turns through some extraordinary events, and it is these and the people who are involved in them which are the really meaty reading in the novel.

The characters are painted with cinematographic clarity; that is, they seem so real in such an "unreal" celluloid of time. So often I found myself smiling wryly and saying, "yeah, that's right."

The novel touches on the subject of rejection of vets in what appears to be a rather cursory fashion. And yet after I'd finished it and was reflecting on its messages, I realised with not a little surprise that it is absolutely central to the book's *raison d'être*.

*Best We Forget* is essential reading for those Vets who did think "best we forget", because by now they will realise they were wrong and are maybe reliving the torment.

It is a must-read for the families of Vets. It will help them understand the things so many Vets have always struggled to explain.

It may well re-open a lot of old wounds, and in doing so, offend those who would prefer to keep Vietnam imprisoned in the dustbin of history. So be it.

They have no wounds of consequence to heal. For those of us who still bear the scars, *Best We Forget* adds another little building block in the restoration of our pride.

- **Peter Thomas (Capt, rtd), *Mufti* magazine.**

*Best We Forget* is at times hilarious and at other times gut wrenching.

- **Jim Tennison, *Melbourne Herald-Sun***

The rampant drinking, Saigon bar girls, corrupt South Vietnamese army, boredom, big spending and big living Americans and loneliness were just as much a strain on servicemen as foes in the bush in this story ...

- **Paul Stewart, *Sunday Herald-Sun***

The frontline stories have been told before, but Clancy was uniquely placed to observe and experience a different Vietnam through the eyes of a 22-year-old "Nasho".

- **Mike Bingham, *Hobart Mercury***