

## **On the Gunline U.S. Navy and Royal Australian Warships off Vietnam, 1965-1973**

***By David D. Bruhn, USN (Retired) and  
STGCS Richard S. Matthews, USN (retired)***

*Reviewer: B. R. Ditter*

(322 pages, photos, maps, paintings)

Overall Rating: Four Stars: Highly recommended. An excellent book.

To begin, this is a tin can sailor's book, notwithstanding the presence of other ships whose contributions were equally important. In addition to the 208 U.S. Navy destroyers, there were four Australian destroyers on the gunline. The only other country involved.

The authors provide a chronology of the actions of the Navy's involvement on the gunlines during the war, almost like the radio show years ago, "You are There." Their actions and the specific battles involved describe the history on an almost day by day review. Seven years of history.

Woven in the day to day experiences of those on the gunline is the story of LCDR Marcus A. Arnheiter, USS Vance (DD-387). His experience was the theme of the movie "The Caine Mutiny" as was the accounting of the USS Pueblo's (AGER-2) capture by the North Koreans in January 1968. The involvement of saving the refugees at war's end was a life or death situation for many South Vietnamese. This book is so replete with action and stories that one feels guilty leaving anything out but, space sets in.

My friend who spent two years on and off the gunline as a gunnery officer read this book and his reaction was, "Every tin can sailor needs to read this book and I will have one on my bookshelf."

I share his reaction.

Link: <http://www.destroyers.org/book%20reviews/tcs%20book%20reviews/000-br-on%20the%20gunline.htm>