



One Crowded Hour

Tim Bowden

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This is the story of Neil Davis, the celebrated combat cameraman in Vietnam.

One Crowded Hour Details

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Author : Tim Bowden

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From Reader Review One Crowded Hour for online ebook

Brian Grinter says

Picked this up in a collection on iBooks for Australia Day. I had no real knowledge of Neil, having been only 14 when he was killed. In fact, in my mind I had him confused with Damian Parer, a wartime cameraman from a generation before.

I found this a book I could not put down, a fascinating read both for its detailed examination of Asian conflict in the 60s and 70s and amazing career of Davis. This is a book I'm glad I found and I highly recommend it.

Brendan Brooks says

A very good biography of a significant Australian war newsman, cameraman and character. Which makes also for a compelling history of the Sth East Asian wars from 1965 to 1985.

Velvetink says

wow finally got hold of this- been on my wishlist forever. \$1. Mine has a different cover - A&R ed 1994.

Elise says

A terrifically compelling biography, the story of a great Australian journalist who's heart was always looking to understand and fairly present both sides of the story.

Before reading I was only generally familiar with the wars in Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand that Neil Davis so extensively covered, but this book has now given me a far greater understanding of the intricacies of each of those situations.

This book is definitely up there now next to one of my all-time favourite Australian bios, A Fortunate Life by A. B. Facey.

Cynthia Harris says

Superbly written, compelling and heartbreaking biography. Takes you right inside the Vietnam war and the character of Neil Davis, a Tasmania photographer and war correspondent. The book is a keeper for me.

Martin Augood says

For the biography Not the Man (Neil Davies) in question. from a non Australian take out The Oz FACTOR (add extra stars if in AU), overall consider this as pretty average biography from a Good read angle. That said from the Western perspective it does give a nice untainted view of this Troublesome era In Southeast Asia.

Nick says

This is an excellent biography of an Australian combat cameraman. Davis worked in Southeast Asia during the Indonesian Confrontation, Vietnam War and Cambodian civil war periods. He often experienced front line action, getting the pictures of soldiers in combat up close. He paid for this with his life in 1985. The high point of Davis's career was capturing the image of North Vietnamese tanks entering the US embassy in April 1975. His experiences in Vietnam and Cambodia during 1974-75 make for compulsive reading. I would give this a 4.5.

Savannah says

it was refreshing to read about an australian perspective of the atrocities of vietnam and cambodia. reading of the resilience of the south vietnamese gave me a side of the story i havent yet seen depicted in hollywood. i went into this with no strong understanding of these wars but found it accessible. davis had an incredible life and gave back so much through his work. a true aussie hero.

Fiona says

Bought this book on a whim my brother might like it & started reading it meaning to stop if it got boring. It's an interesting Australian biography; if you like Australian military history this book is a good supplement to official histories on Vietnam.

Andrew Vh says

Picked this up at an op shop and started reading it on a whim. Its a really interesting biography of an Australian war correspondent from the 1960s to 1980s. The book describes in simple prose how Neil Davis dealt with the extreme trauma of covering the Vietnam and Cambodian wars in such a good humored, even-handed and empathetic way. Although, after dodging many a bullet, Davis died in violent circumstances, it is not a sad ending because he lived his life with a Samurai-like acceptance of risk and death, and there is little doubt, despite the misery he saw and the friends he lost, that he lived a happy and colorful life. Throughout the book, I kept asking myself: how I would have responded to such horrors and extreme stress? The book also provides an entertaining insight into the correspondent lifestyle during this period, from Davis' many romantic dalliances (some of the stories might strike a modern reader as a little chauvinistic, although being an honest portrayal of the times) to his friendships with many of South East Asia's political elite. And

while its not a history of the Indo-China war, as such, it provides a remarkably succinct description of the main political and military dynamics in Vietnam and Cambodia (although probably nothing new for those more on top of their history).

There are some less interesting chapters, mainly to do with his assignments outside of Asia, but the book never gets bogged down.

Overall its a really easy, interesting read. I plan to track down the documentary on Davis to learn more about him.

karl levy says

Neil Davis an Australian hailing from Tasmania, was one of the worlds best war photographers and film makers and wrote in the front of each of his work diaries a quote by Thomas Osbert Mordaunt: "One crowded hour of glorious life is worth an age without a name", a line that is immortalized in his biography constructed by Tim Bowden. This is beautifully readable by anyone who cares to pick it up and can be begun without any knowledge of the subject and as other reviewers have mentioned the best biography they have ever read and it is not disappointing on any level. To those remembering his feats the book is a joy as his life is recalled, while his politically incorrect motions are airbrushed aside. The novelization by Christopher Koch, a fellow Tasmanian who knew him 'Highways to a War' should be read before this book otherwise not at all for its likeness to Davis' story will jolt. A must read about a famous Australian who burned twice as bright before losing his life while filming a coup in Bangkok at 51 years old.

Di says

Really interesting biography of Neil Davis, Australian cameraman and reporter during some if the terrible conflicts of the second half of C20th

Beejay says

My first "meeting" with Neil Davis was watching, on television, his death on the streets of Bangkok during one of those pathetic little coups that occasionally happened in that land of smiles, the camera rolling, rolling on a story that even at the last he couldn't abandon. I then met him again in Tim Bowden's excellent book. Davis did indeed live a "crowded life" and I can never hear the words of that poem without thinking of him, a person whose friend I would wish to have been.

Whoopass says

One Crowded Hour is a great read. Someone gave it to my dad, who had served in the army in Vietnam, and he encouraged me to read it as he knew I was interested in journalism. Tim Bowden has written a biography full of detail and excitement. He knew Neil Davis well and gives an honest portrayal of his character. There's a real warmth that flows throughout the book even though it's far from sentimental. It takes a specific person

to willingly put themselves on the front line for a story and Bowden gives a better insight into the character of a man who did.

One Crowded Hour doesn't glorify war or make Neil Davis into some golden hero. It's entirely credible, unputdownable, and I happily recommend it.

After reading I recommend you watch interviews and samples of his footage on YouTube.

Jordan says

one of the best biographies i've read.
