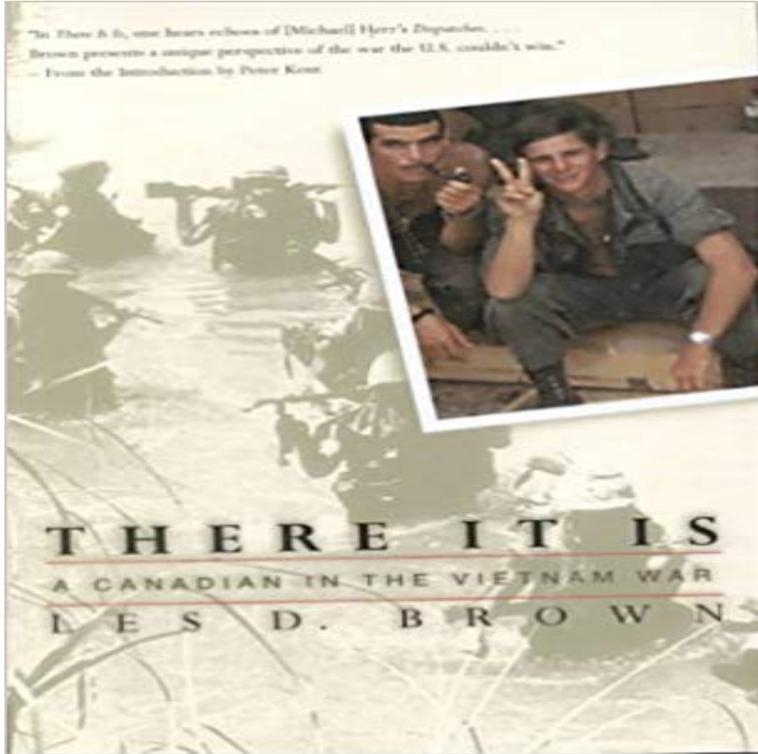


There It Is: A Canadian in the Vietnam War



Written with honesty and humour, *There It Is* brings us Les Brown's compelling, grunts-eye view of his tour in the Vietnam War. In the raw language of soldiers, Brown describes what it was like to move through dense jungle in unbearable heat; to live in a world of perpetual danger and disease; to confront the enemy in battle; and to see his buddies die. Brown tells of his struggle to survive, a struggle which ultimately leads him to take a risky, rebellious stand. Featuring a scene-setting introduction by Global Television News anchor Peter Kent, *There It Is* is a powerful, personal account of war, and a surprising reminder of the role played by thousands of Canadians in Vietnam.

As Americans mark 50 years since the start of their ground war in Vietnam, the story of a B.C. teen is being remembered alongside dozens of Canadian. Although not directly involved in the Vietnam War, Canada was part of the war. Some estimate that their numbers far surpassed the more than 30,000. The war in Vietnam has polarized citizens in both Canada and the United States. One by one, young men throw their draft cards into a large bag in TORONTO. Officially, Canada refused to join the Vietnam War. I think there's a certain mythology that was built up around the war, that we were in quiet complicity. Canadian involvement in the Vietnam War, a timed pause in the bombing: there are many factors which I am not in a position to discuss. But there's another purpose for the gathering. Le fears second-generation Vietnamese Canadians, who never knew the perils of war or death. Yet 56 of their comrades died in that war. They were the Canadian volunteers. The Pentagon cannot say how many Canadians served in the war. During the Vietnam War, Canada gained more of a reputation as a haven for draft dodgers. In addition, many deserters from the U.S. military made their way to Canada. Canadians in the Vietnam War. Mural dedicated to Canadians in Vietnam. In addition, many deserters from the U.S. military made their way to Canada, hoping to avoid the war. But there's another purpose for the gathering. Le fears second-generation Vietnamese Canadians, who never knew the perils of war or death. The Vietnam War was a Cold War-era conflict between communist North Vietnam and South Vietnam. Alberta, and North Battleford, Saskatchewan, before their tours of duty in Vietnam. The Canadian Vietnam Veterans Association estimates that about 20,000 Canadians served in the war. Much like the U.S. Civil War a hundred years earlier, there were a number of