S9670  SWORD OF HONOUR  (AUSTRALIA, 2/1986)  [TV]

Credits:  directors, Pino Amenta, Catherine Millar  ; writers, Roger Simpson, Kathy Mueller, Peter Kinloch, Tom Hegarty.

Cast:  Tracy Mann, Andrew Clarke, Alan Fletcher, Nikki Coghill.

Summary:  Mini-series set in Australia and Vietnam in the 1960s and 1970s. Opens in 1964. Tony Lawrence (Clarke), top graduate and winner of the Sword of Honour at Duntroon Military College, meets Esse Rogers (Mann) at the wedding of his sister Viv (Coghill) and his best friend Frank Vittorio (Fletcher). Esse and Tony continue their relationship though Esse goes off to Melbourne University where she becomes involved in the anti-war movement and Tony and Frank are sent to Vietnam. Frank is wounded in combat and although saved by Tony, he loses both his legs. Frank cannot adjust to civilian life and remains obsessed with the war. Tony and Esse reunite briefly but clash over the morality of the war. Tony returns to Vietnam. Esse discovers she is pregnant, cannot locate Tony to consult him, and decides to have an abortion. When this news arrives by letter, Tony is deeply hurt but does not reply and has an affair with a Vietnamese teacher Tam (Chan). When the war ends in 1975 Frank commits suicide for he has come to believe that his sacrifice was for nothing. Tony becomes a mercenary and disappears into Southeast Asia. He re-encounters Tam among a group of Vietnamese “boat-people,” rescues her and settles down with her in Thailand where they have a son. Esse has become a successful television journalist but has never given up hope of reuniting with Tony. She embarks on a project to write a book about Australian Vietnam veterans and tracks Tony down in Thailand. Tam has died of TB and Esse at last convinces Tony to put the war behind him and return to his family in Australia.


__________. “Sword of honour” Vietnam war feature filmography (1992 draft) [GB] (p. 385-6) and Vietnam war films [GB] (Entry 583)


Doyle, Jeff. “Dismembering the ANZAC legend: Australian popular culture and the Vietnam war” [GB]


c2005 J.K.M. Enterprises