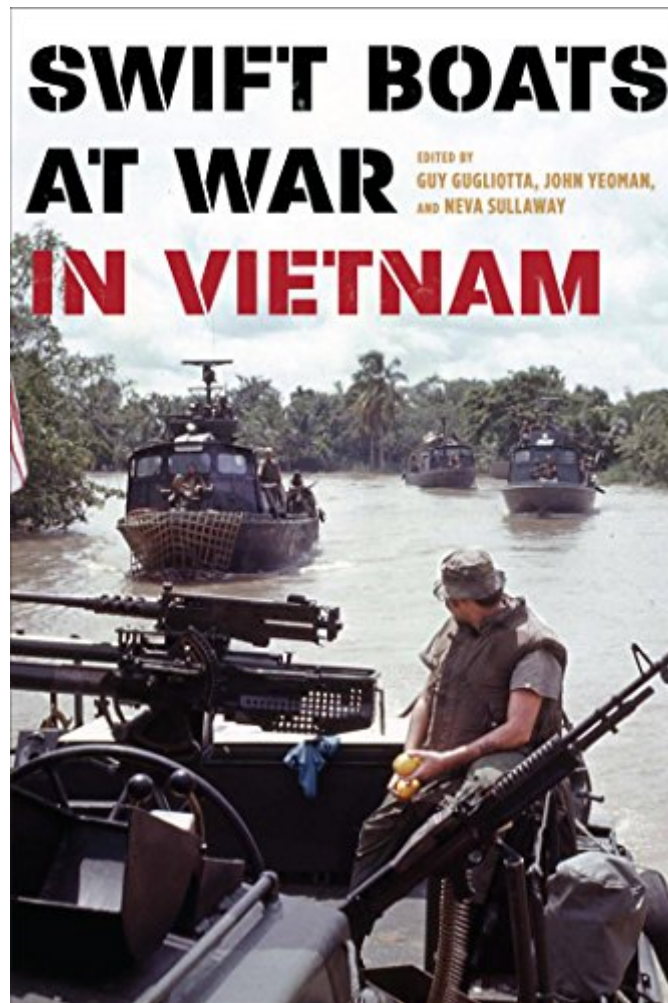




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Swift Boats At War In Vietnam



Synopsis

You-are-there stories of ambushes and patrols on the Mekong in the Vietnam War. Developed specifically for the Vietnam War (and made famous by the 2004 presidential campaign), Swift Boats were versatile craft – “big enough to outrun anything they couldn’t outfight” – but too small to handle even a moderate ocean chop, too loud to sneak up on anyone, and too flimsy to withstand the mildest of rocket attacks. This made more difficult an already tough mission: navigating coastal waters for ships and sampans smuggling contraband to the Viet Cong, disrupting enemy supply lines on the rivers and canals of the Mekong Delta, and inserting SEALs behind enemy lines. The stories in this book cover the Swift Boats’ early years, which saw search-and-inspect operations in Vietnam’s coastal waters, and their later years, when the Swift Boats’ mission shifted to the Mekong Delta’s labyrinth of 3,000 miles of rivers, streams, and canals. This is an intimate, exciting oral history of Swift Boats at war in Vietnam.

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Customer Reviews

I served on Swiftboats in 1969 and 1970. This is the best all around telling of our story that I have

read thus far. The attention to facts is superb. The mix of stories covering the Swiftboat history from a number of perspectives by persons in different locations at different times really covers a lot. Thank you guys for such a great job of telling our story. Charles Hunt, EN3 - aft gunner - PCF 63 PCF 40 PCF 9 Coastal Division 13 Cat Lo and Coastal Division 11 An Thoi

Having served on Swifts in 1970 as an OinC, the book brought back a flood of memories. Some good, some not so good, but all part of my tour. I recognized most of the places (Seafloat, Ha Tien, Coastal Divisions 11 and 13) and was there at most of them. John & Guy did a great job putting together these incidents as told by the guys who lived them. If you want to know what it was like for us "Swifites", this is the book!

An outstanding read! I served on these boats in Vietnam. This collection of personal stories and experiences in a very dangerous combat environment does an excellent job of describing what a tour of duty was really like on these boats. I think the individual contributors and editors have done an excellent job in telling the story with facts and personal, first hand experience. I highly recommend reading this book.

I found this book because a buddy of mine mentioned his step dad was in it. Turns out he is chapter one about trying to take a crap off the back of a 50' boat in deep, rolling seas. Each chapter is written by somebody that served on the Swift Boats and you get a great feeling from multiple angles what it was like to serve in Vietnam in a Swift Boat.

This is real life stuff written by the officers and sailors who served aboard the U.S. Navy's 50-foot Swift Boats in Vietnam's rivers and canals. This is not a piece of historical fiction. These are personal short stories of what war and life was like for any one of the six crewmembers of these thin aluminum-skinned, high-speed war machines. Guy Gugliotta and John Yeoman, each of whom earned three Bronze Stars as Officer-in-Charge of their own "Swift" based out of An Thoi Vietnam, have collected a terrific assortment of wartime accounts that make up this book. Open the book on any page and it will immediately grab you and keep you reading. I served with Guy and John over there in 1970 and applaud their efforts, along with Neva Sullaway of San Diego's Maritime Museum, to pull together this book of heroism, humor, and heartbreak. Bill Hill (PCF 3)

“Ask what you can do for your country” As a historian, David McCullough recently advised, “you’ve got to wait 50 years before rendering judgment of a period of history. Perhaps now is the time to come to terms with the Vietnam War the most divisive foreign war in U.S. history (1964-1975). “Swift Boats at War in Vietnam” has helped begin the healing process. Swiftboat service was supposed to be voluntary, but as one “Swiftie” relates, “in part they took the job because nobody else wanted it. In some cases, they had no choice. The 38 stories in this book written by those who served remind us that our Vietnam troops were really no different from U.S. troops in other foreign wars. They, too, risked their lives for each other, trusted one another with their own lives, all the while serving our country honorably and fulfilling their duty nobly. Yet many, for whom they served, did shamefully treat them differently. For Americans at home, much of the media’s nightly war coverage focused on widely spread anti-war sentiment, uncivil discourse and domestic protests. Returning vets were often rancorously reviled. “Swift Boats at War in Vietnam” is a satisfying salve offering readers a full measure of well deserved gratitude and respect for Swifties and for all who served in this unpopular war. My hope is that next month’s film, “The Vietnam War” by Ken Burns will further the healing. William Keogh

This is an excellent book about a harrowing part of the ‘Vietnam experience’. A high lottery number exempted me from military service but I so admire those who served and risked their lives in service to the country. Seems so much history of the Vietnam War has focused on infantry operations, boots on the ground ‘in country’. These personal accounts of Swift Boat forces and dangerous river patrol are inspiring, moving and thought provoking - so many served in varying capacities to protect and defend. For those of us who were not there - a hearty thank you to Yeoman and Gugliotta for bringing to life the courage and bravery of Swift Boat veterans.

This book fills in a lot of blanks in my mind! I was an original crew member on "Operation Seafloat" from May to Sept. 1969 and returned to the fleet and never knew what happened to her for many, many years. Now I know and very happy it was successful! The stories are incredible...read "trawlers", "Hearts and Mind", and "S.E.R.E. and many other well written stories that will take you on a crazy trip back to the "Sixties", on Swift Boats halfway around the world!.....and see what you

were lucky to miss.....!

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