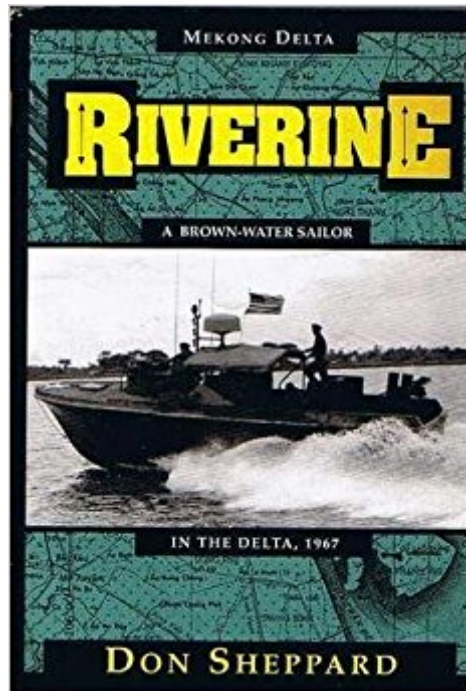




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Riverine: A Brown-Water Sailor In The Delta, 1967



Synopsis

One of the Navy's brown-water sailors--the soldiers who patrolled the Mekong Delta's Bassac River in hot-rodded cabin cruisers--describes his experiences during the Vietnam War. Reprint. PW.

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

During the Vietnam War the U.S. Navy established a river force code-named Operation Game Warden whose mission was to deny Mekong Delta waterways to the Viet Cong. For the four-man crews in their 31-foot fiberglass boats powered with twin diesels and armed with 50-caliber machine guns, the action was almost continuous. Sheppard, who commanded one of the gunboats in 1967, here paints a picture of riverine warfare heavy in blood, prisoner torture and grotesque corpses. He refers to "our slum-clearance efforts," for instance, and describes a burning village as "a frighteningly beautiful display of orgasmic flaming destruction." He has the grace, however, to note that he found killing "a depressing business." Photos. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Commander Sheppard actually did command a unit of the U.S. Navy's River Patrol Force in the Mekong Delta in 1967, but apparently the current breathless and melodramatic style of military memoirs has influenced him heavily and turned many of his recollections into hard-to-accept gory excess by turns embarrassing and mawkish. Though the book has interest when describing the

activities of the PBR (patrol boat, river) force charged with the mission of denying the Delta waterways to the Viet Cong and halting their supplies, three serious faults make it ineffective history: a melodramatic style, a flood of dialog (much aimed at informing the reader), and an absence of dates. Thomas Cutler's *Brown Water, Black Berets* (LJ 5/15/88) would be instructive for a broader view of the subject.- Mel D. Lane, Sacramento, Cal.Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

The information presented is accurate and interesting. Parts of the book are a very good read, but the author can get too esoteric in his description of a very dangerous job and war.

Must have for the Library

Self serving. didn't finish it.

This is one of the greatest stories ever to come from the Vietnam War. I have read it several times and always enjoyed it! Well written and full of real life adventures!...

Good important story. The only downside is that the author is sometimes full of himself but he does admit this.

Great book on the subject. I reread it every few months and find something new.

After reading *Bluewater Sailor* I had to get and read *Riverine*. Having lived a lot of what this story was about I found reading it exciting.

Outstanding Book! Drama In Real Life, many awesome details!Truley felt that I was by his side in combat.Glad I was a Blue Water, Tin Can Sailor.

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