From the Rivers to the Sea

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The U.S. Navy in Vietnam

Filled with authoritative detail and firsthand immediacy, this book is the only single-volume history available of the U.S. Navy's twenty-five-year involvement in Vietnam. It examines naval air, surface, coastal, riverine, and special forces operations at every level.

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Unmatched in balance, scope, and readability, this concise yet thorough reference will prove useful to everyone seeking information on U.S. naval operations in Vietnam.



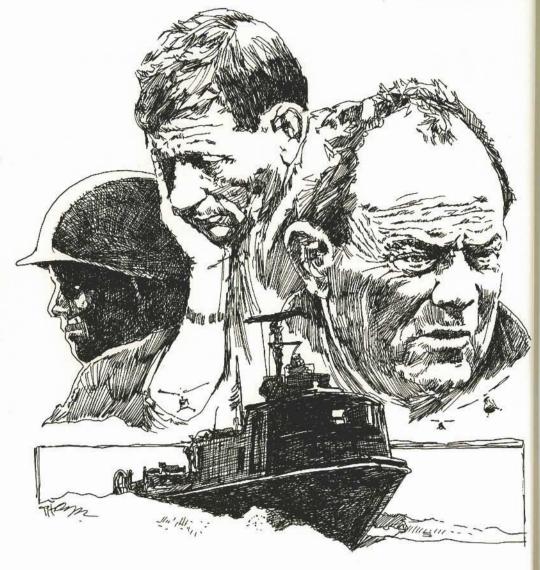
CDR R. L. Schreadley, USN (Ret.), enlisted in the navy in 1949 and saw service during the Korean War. In 1955 he graduated from Dickinson College and was commissioned as an ensign in the naval reserve. Augmenting into the regular navy, he was promoted through the ranks and achieved the grade of commander in 1969 while serving as director of a special history project on the staff of Commander Naval Forces Vietnam. His naval assignments included three commands at sea.

Under navy sponsorship, he attended the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, receiving a master of arts degree in 1968, a master of arts, law, and diplomacy degree in 1969, and the degree of doctor of philosophy in 1972.

In 1974 Schreadley joined *The News and Courier* in Charleston, South Carolina, as a reporter, and the following year became an editorial writer for *The Evening Post* in that city. By 1981 he was executive editor of both the *Post* and *News and Courier*. In June 1989, he retired from the newspapers to pursue other interests as a writer.

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The United States Navy in Vietnam

Commander R. L. Schreadley, USN (Ret.)

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There were nights on the river, away from the cities and the towns, when the stars seemed close enough to touch. In a Swift boat or a PBR, drifting with the current or with engines barely idling, it was easy to forget the war and the enemy who waited for you at the next bend of the river.

Sometimes your reverie was broken by the flash and rumble of artillery—or was it simply heat lightning?—miles away. Sometimes a Cobra gunship appeared from nowhere to lash a village, or the environs of a village, with twin tongues of fire. At other times, it was the sudden chatter of automatic weapons or the whoosh of a rocket directed at your boat that ended the dreaming.

And then you wondered, what the hell am I doing here? What the hell is the navy doing here?