

This is Latch

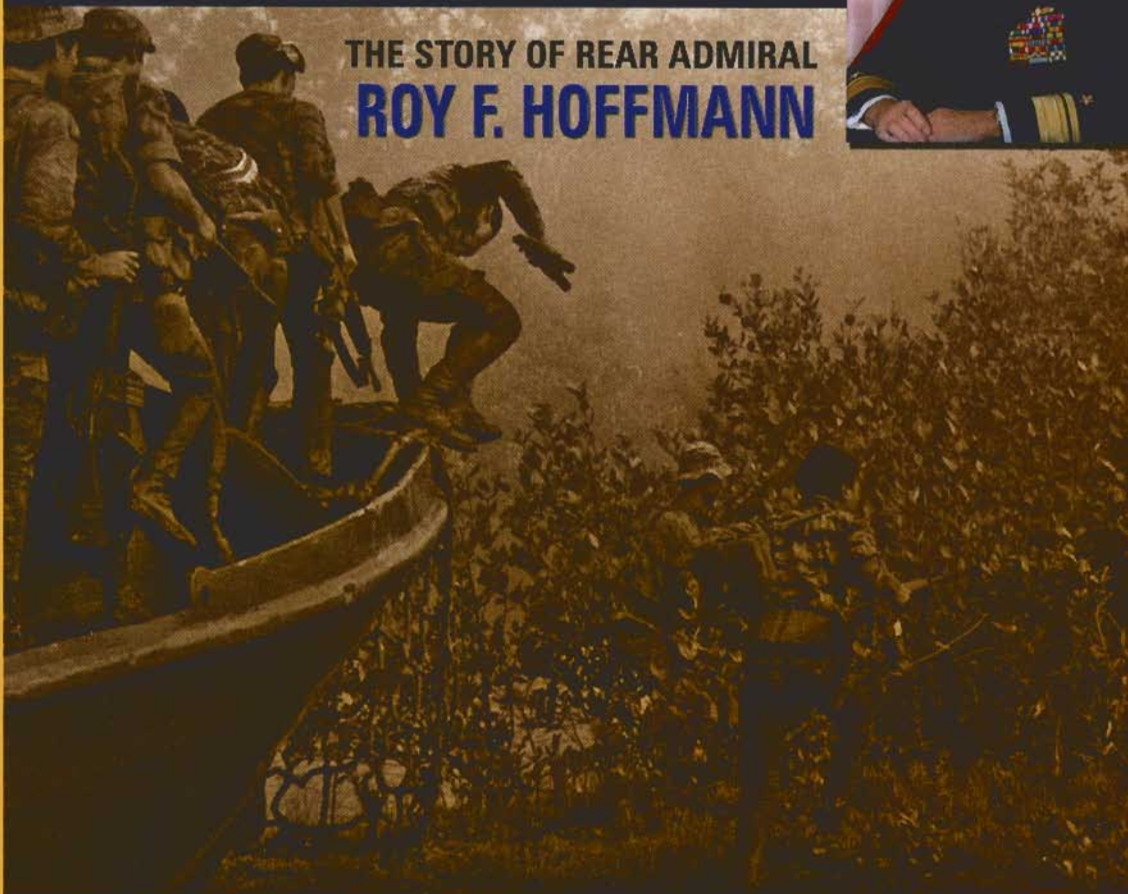
THE STORY OF REAR ADMIRAL
ROY F. HOFFMANN

SYMMES



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THE STORY OF REAR ADMIRAL
ROY F. HOFFMANN



BY WEYMOUTH D. SYMMES



\$29.95 History, Biography



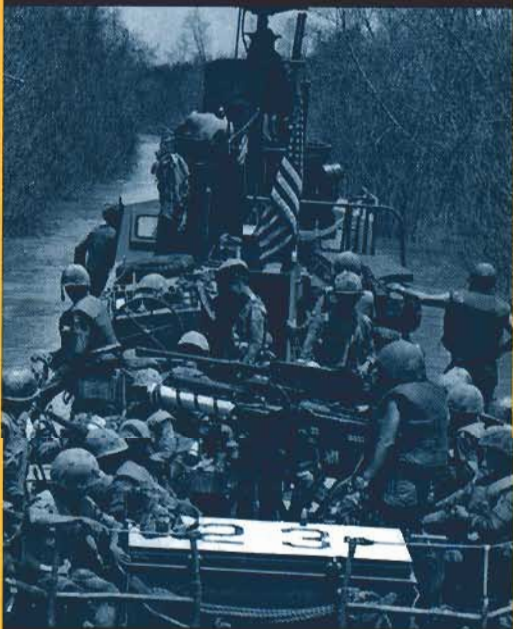
Lieutenant Commander Roy F. Hoffmann, commanding officer USS *Cromwell*, on the open bridge in 1961



Roy F. Hoffmann at enlistment in 1943



Rear Admiral Roy F. Hoffmann



The stern of PCF 23 packed with RSV troops for insertion.

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"Roy Hoffmann is a man of character, integrity, courage, boldness. He is a tough taskmaster who demands a lot of others and himself. He is the kind of guy you'd want to go to war with."

—ADM. THOMAS B. HAYWARD, former Chief of Naval Operations and former member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"I first heard of Adm. Roy Hoffmann while I was in Swift Boat Training School . . . [He] was then the Task Force 115 Commander, which included all Swift Boats in Vietnam. Hoffmann's courage was legendary . . . he had seen the deadly face of war before . . . in the frigid waters off the Sea of Japan, after the sinking of his ship."

—JOHN E. O'NEILL, co-author of *Unfit for Command*, and Officer in Charge of PCF 94 in Vietnam

"[Roy Hoffmann] . . . is bold, imaginative, fearless and in complete control at all times. His reputation among the general officers in this theater is that he is one of the really great naval wartime leaders produced by the in-country Navy. He is a brilliant tactician and combat commander. He has personally led many of these missions and thus exposed himself many times to the enemy . . ."

—VICE ADMIRAL ELMO ZUMWALT, JR., Commander Naval Forces, Vietnam, Sept. 1968–May 1970

"As Commander U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, I have been exceptionally impressed with Captain Hoffmann's brilliant combat leadership. Under Captain Hoffmann's leadership his forces displayed a boldness and courage that has become the hallmark of the Swift Raiders. A great tactician, an intelligent, articulate and forceful military officer, a man who conducted his campaign boldly, and who led his men brilliantly. . ."

—GENERAL CREIGHTON W. ABRAMS, Commander, U.S. Forces, Vietnam, 1968–1972

"I was instantly taken with Admiral Hoffmann. He has the ability all good leaders have—he is courageous, genuinely concerned for the troops, and is a truthful and honest man."

—Medal of Honor recipient and former POW COLONEL GEORGE "BUD" DAY, USAF, Ret., on the alliance between the Swift boat veterans and POWs in 2004

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ROY F. HOFFMANN enlisted in the U.S. Navy in World War II, was called back to serve when the Korean War broke out, and was aboard the USS *Pirate* (AM 275) when it struck a mine and sank in less than four minutes in Wonsan Harbor.

In his long career Hoffmann commanded four ships. In May of 1968 then Navy Captain Hoffmann became the commander of Task Force 115 in Vietnam, leading his command in pursuit of the enemy on the coast and inland waterways of South Vietnam. In retirement he became the driving force behind Swift Boat Veterans and POWs for Truth during the 2004 presidential election.

You will also read about Mary Linn Hoffmann and the remarkable Hoffmann family and the sacrifices required on the home front as career military people defend our great nation. This is a story of what it takes to make flag rank and how the Navy operates. It is a story of courage, sacrifice, discipline, responsibility, leadership, and being the very best you can be. It is the quintessential American story.

ON THE COVER

TOP: Vietnamese troops disembark from a Swift boat, Ca Mau peninsula, Vietnam, 1969. The Market Time forces were under the command of then Captain Roy F. Hoffmann.

BOTTOM: Anti-submarine rocket (ASROC) firing from Roy F. Hoffmann's command, the USS *Charles F. Adams* (DDG 2), 1967.

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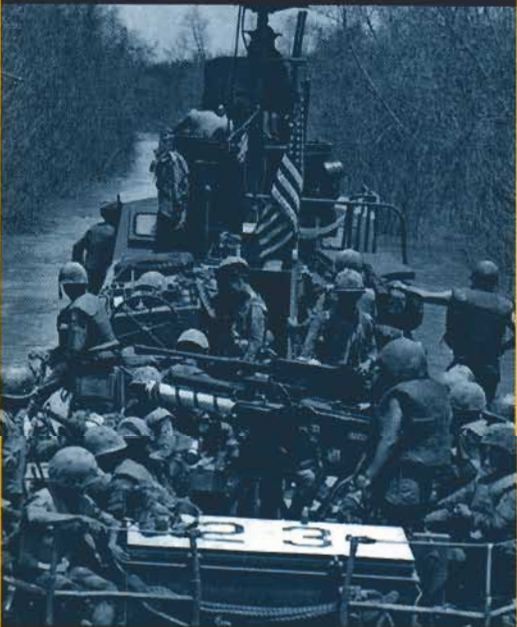
Lieutenant Commander Roy F. Hoffmann, commanding officer USS *Cromwell*, on the open bridge in 1961



Roy F. Hoffmann at enlistment in 1943



Rear Admiral Roy F. Hoffmann



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Weymouth D. Symmes was raised in Lewistown and Billings, Montana. In 1966 he enlisted in the United States Navy. During his service he spent two years aboard the USS *Ticonderoga* and one year on Swift boats in Vietnam.

Honorably discharged in 1970, he was awarded the Purple Heart Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation for Extraordinary Heroism, two Navy Unit Commendations, the Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation (Gallantry Cross) and other awards.

He married Terry (Persson) in 1970. He received a bachelor's degree in 1973 and a master's degree in 1975 in Political Science from the University of Montana. He retired from First Security Bank as Senior Vice President in 1999.

He was the treasurer for the Montana State Vietnam Veteran's Memorial, one of the founders and first treasurer of the Swift Boat Sailors Association (the fraternal organization for Swift boat sailors), is the national treasurer for Swift Boat Veterans & POWs for Truth and is on the Board of the Admiral Roy F. Hoffmann Foundation.

He and his wife split their time between their home in Missoula, Montana, and traveling in the Southwest in the winter.

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The Rear Admiral Roy F. Hoffmann Story

by WEYMOUTH D. SYMMES



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