

“Gratifying”

I was a river boat (pbr) patrol officer on the back rivers of Vietnam for 12 months. We were part of the Brown Water Navy. I kept a daily journal so I have a story for most every day of my tour. My favorite is the first day of a 7 day operation on the Upper Saigon River. The US Army rigged slings on each of our boats and airlifted them and our sailors from our base on the Vam Co Dong River base to our new, unexplored outpost. We received all support from Army helicopters. Our mission was to interdict NVA by ambushing at night and patrolling during the day. After 7 days, the surprise element was gone and we set sail as a convoy moved ourselves to a new operating area.

—*Jack, Hurley*