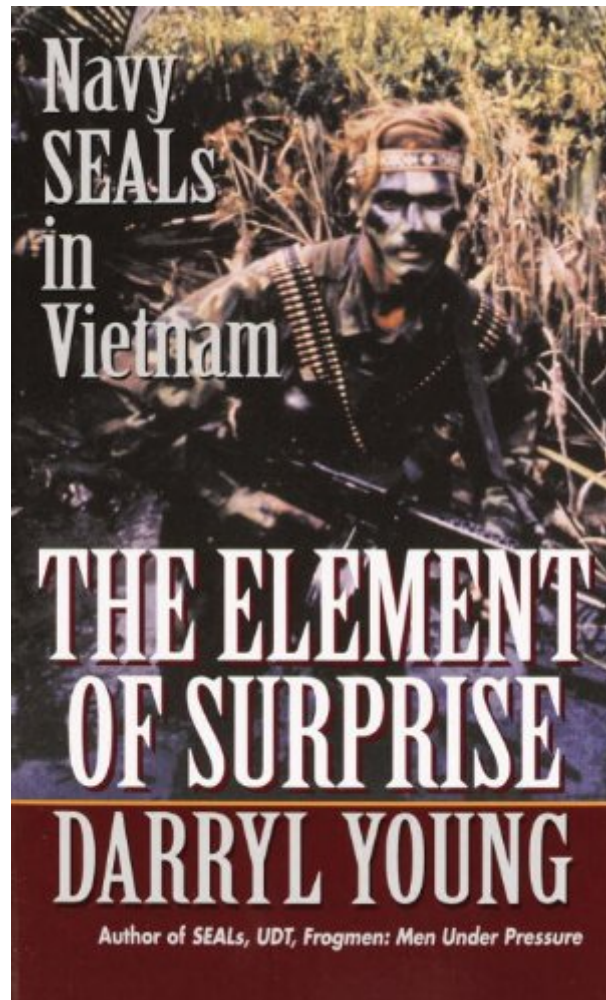




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The Element Of Surprise: Navy SEALs In Vietnam



Synopsis

It used to be said that the night belonged to Charlie. But that wasn't true where SEALs patrolled. For six months in 1970, fourteen men in Juliett Platoon of the Navy's SEAL Team One--including the author--carried out over a hundred missions in the Mekong Delta without a single platoon fatality. Their primary mission: kidnap enemy soldiers--alive--for interrogation. From the Paperback edition.

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Vietnam War

Customer Reviews

Young does a good job of describing his experience in the area of South Vietnam where he worked. What bothered me most was, as the writer points out, there were a lot of F. Ups on the part of upper level "Planners"! After my late brother returned home after three 13 month tours, and since I've read so much as well as talked to many Nam veterans, I now have a pretty good understanding of why my brother was so very bitter about his experience in Vietnam. Sadly, he slowly drank himself to death and never really got over his experience there!!

Very disappointed with this book overall, felt like it was mostly the author writing about the guns he shot vs. the experience, the people and the stories. They highlight key features of "blowing away" a Vietnamese cemetery, stealing hats from villagers and using every racist name in the book over and over. I've read many Vietnam war books, and this one is probably the worst. Total waste of time, not truly a good view of most of who the Navy SEALs, the what and the why they wanted to be a SEAL. Felt like someone was just trying to brag what a bully they could be.

Both accounts of training as well as in country accounts were good. Great account of war in delta areas. good, interesting read

Mr. Young does a wonderful job describing everyday activities in the life of a Vietnam-Era SEAL. I found myself regularly thinking of what if anything I might have done different if in his position. Mr. Young enables the reader to easily transform themselves back to that time and place and go out in patrol in his boots - albeit with no socks and moldy footwear.

I think that because it is related to Vietnam, that has great personal meaning to me. I lost many brothers over there and some of them have still not been accounted for. I wear my Vietnam ball hat and my POW/MIA hat proudly. I am glad that those in the service now and getting greeted happily because we sure didn't.

A well written documentary about a very intense time for himself and his service to his country. We all need heroes in our lives to look up to to guide ourselves in our lives. The Seal may not consider themselves as heroes, but will have to live with the fact that a lot of us do !

I wish it had better maps to play it out in head (for me anyways). It had a lot of info plus a lot of stories mixed in. He describes weapons/gear/characters well. You can feel like you're there because the way it's written. It starts with training and flashes back from time to time showing how his training prepared him for Nam. I would recommend but language is harsh plus some details are not for everyone so I would only recommend to certain crowds

I have read quite a bit of books on the Vietnam conflict and this was a good read. However I found this particular book quite a bit more monotonous than most of the others I've read. Every single mission Mr. Young went on seemed to more or less be a repeat of the one he just got back from.

Interestingly a few of the SEAL-specific books I've owned have been this way. Perhaps it's due to the fact that they were contained to a smaller operating area? Either way it was a well-written book it just became very boring about half way through after each mission was a repeat of the last.

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