

"Quester, A Story of the River Warriors"

By Robert C. Powers

It was a dirty little war..... but it was the only war he had.

Lieutenant Harry Quester had not planned to go to Viet Nam. Then his buddy was captured by the Viet Cong... and he went! There he met Mr. Ho, The Mud Fox, the beautiful Lai, and the mysterious Catty. Through a tangled web of combat, love and intrigue, he emerged a hardened River Warrior!

Lieutenant Harry Quester is a Naval Officer on a destroyer off the coast of Viet Nam when his best friend, Tony Zee, volunteers for River Patrol Boat duty in the Mekong Delta. Tony is captured by the notorious Viet Cong leader, Mr. Ho. Harry volunteers for River Patrol Boat duty in Viet Nam, and begins a quest to rescue Tony from a jungle camp in Cambodia, with the help of his SEAL friends, Al Cattaligni and Allman Buddinger.

This is a romantic story filled with action, mystery and colorful characters, based in part on the experiences of the author.

Quester is a fast-paced, realistic adventure story that captures the dedication of the men in the Riverine Forces.....**a constant stream of action** that makes it addictive to readers!

Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Viet Nam:

A terrific story of valiant combat heroics 'Quester' is a terrific story that accurately portrays the life and times of U.S. Navy River Patrol Forces during the unglamorous conflict on the waterways of Viet Nam. The plot is superb, well developed, and well paced. All **characters are certainly true to life**. As a SEAL Team veteran of the river wars of Viet Nam myself, I can say with full confidence that the book paints the picture with exceptional detail. The twisting and turning story is compelling and accurately and portrays the unforgiving horrors and valiant heroics of combat. 'Quester,' however, goes the distance and provides a badly needed retrospective about the men who fought and died with dedication and courage, while individually and collectively committing themselves to assist the people of the Republic of Viet Nam. Robert C. Powers is to be commended for his exceptional first novel, and we should all hope it is not his last. He is a gifted storyteller.

Tom Hawkins, Navy SEAL veteran of Viet Nam, April 19, 2000,

River warfare comes to life. Bob Powers has lived it, and now he writes about it so we can better appreciate the fears and frustrations of river warfare in Vietnam. It's one of those books that keep you turning the pages quickly until it's finished. You'll love his characters (the 'Mud Fox'!) and the great dialog. The action is fast and furious. It's all believable and highly recommended, and it deals with some of the unique aspects of fighting a war where the enemy is not readily identifiable. A terrific first novel.

A reviewer, a librarian who loves war stories., August 14, 2000

WOW! As a Vietnam river vet I picked up **QUESTER** with some trepidation. However I found myself entranced by the vividness and detail of Powers' account and was actually transformed back 30 years to Hiep Hoa, Tay Ninh and the My Qui Canal. The last time I couldn't put a book down was a **Tom Clancy novel--QUESTER falls in this category--** a great read! Highly recommended. **What's next?**

Captain Hal Amerau, Coastal Division 13

'Doc' Powers is more than a retired Navy Captain, War College Professor, Spec Ops boat builder, or Government Consultant and this book is **PROOF!** He's a warrior who's faced the only two kinds of **REAL** combat; Pentagon Office politics and kill-the-enemy before he kills you! Doc's real life experiences are in this exceptional **BOOK!** **We can only hope that Hollywood makes a movie of this STORY soon!!** You will not be able set this book down until it is fully read! I, for one, cannot wait for its sequel - 'The Mud Fox' to be published!

Monty Oakes, LCDR USN (Ret) (Vermane@ Aol.com), a 23 year veteran of the Navy, June 19, 2000,

A river warfare adventure that's hard to put down

This is an exciting action/adventure by a talented writer who knows his warfare, and he knows how to make it interesting for the reader. The dialog rings true; the characters are interesting. One of the guys is a Rambo-esque warrior who will really get your attention. I stayed up too late in order to finish this, and it's an extraordinary first novel. I hope there are more coming.

Reviewer: Margaret O. Mitchell from Chesapeake, VA United States, August 13, 2000

QUESTER is a great book. It is accurate, realistic, and will take you back to your days on the rivers of Vietnam. I served as a SEAL Team Boat Officer in the 'Giant Slingshot' area of operations where the story is set. The author has **the environment, the feelings, and the atmosphere exactly right**. Set in a real place and time, the fictional story line is enthralling. Fast paced, moving, and full of surprises. You'll have trouble putting this book down as the story develops. **QUESTER would make a fabulous movie**. This book is highly entertaining and tells the story from the perspective of one who was there. I highly recommend it.

RADM Steve Smith USN (BSU ONE/MST TWO Vietnam)

Quester is a gripping action adventure novel! Dedicated to the memory of my recently deceased brother who became C.N.O. in 1970 after having served as U.S. Commander of Naval Forces in Viet Nam, 1968-1970, Quester is a gripping novel dealing with the brutality of war in the jungles of Viet Nam. It offers a **fascinating account of the anger and frustration felt by American military personnel who resent the constraints placed on them by the nation's political leaders**. I was particularly fascinated by the similarities between one of the main characters in the book, Admiral Zee, and my brother, Admiral Zumwalt. I enthusiastically recommend the book.

Jim Zumwalt, Admiral Zumwalt's brother, May 2, 2000,

Action from page 1! The little told story of the 'brown water Navy' on the rivers of Viet Nam. Powers writes with the obvious authority of one who has 'been there, done that' and the **combat scenes are fast, furious and thoroughly realistic**. Explores a segment of the Navy's role in Viet Nam which hasn't received much publicity. A terrific read and I recommend it highly.

Captain Bill Doud, a career Naval Officer, April 18, 2000,

I just finished reading Bob Powers book, 'Quester', and found myself meeting many of the 'Heroes' and 'DEVILS' I met during the war in Vietnam. Powers truly brought out the Good, the Bad and the Ugly with a great story to back it up...It's about time someone put the some of the atrocities of warfare in a story as well as remind us that not all the 'enemies' were in North Vietnam. **The heroes and warriors were indeed believable.**

Vice Admiral Michael Kalleres, A 32 YEAR NAVY VET IN FLORIDA, June 5, 2000,

A Hot Book!!!!!! That's the only way to describe "Quester". As an "old warrior" I could not put it down. It was real, unlike most books/movies involving Vietnam. **It's as good as anything that Tom Clancy has written, even better than some.**

I enjoyed meeting Robert C. Powers at the MacArthur Center and look forward to his next book.

**JACK DAVIS, CMSgt, USAF
Chief, Reserve Affairs
HQ ACC/CRM**

Book Review Virginian Pilot Newspaper, September 1, 2000

Riverine Warfare provides the underpinning for a novel about the Vietnam War in "Quester" by Robert C. Powers.

Powers, a retired destroyer captain who served in Vietnam and now lives in Virginia beach, has crafted a battlefield tale about Lt. Harry Quester who transfers from destroyer duty to riverine patrol with his buddy Lt(jg). Tony Zee.

The perilous duty and daily stresses from serving in combat with, at times, unseen enemies is at the heart of this novel. This is one of those "warts and all" books, for incompetents and slackers are matched with gung-ho types of warriors. The difficulties of fighting a war with two different cultures attempting to work together, the espionage and uncertainties of not knowing an ally from a spy are all brought into play, along with jungle warfare and capture of the enemy.

For a first book, it has good plotting, interesting characters and plenty of a action!

Bill Roach

Article: The Pentagon Book Store Magazine, May/June 2000 QUESTER

Author Robert C. Powers served with Naval Forces in Viet Nam during the years of Riverine Warfare in the Mekong Delta. Those experiences in part inspired his novel. "Quester". Lieutenant Harry Quester is a destroyer officer who volunteers for River patrol Boat duty in order to rescue his friend from a jungle camp in Cambodia. Quester's adventures turn him into the ultimate river warrior in this past paced and realistic adventure tale.

Article: The Virginia Beach Beacon, July 30, 2000
Author Took Inspiration From His Own Life Adventures

Excerpts:

When Robert C. Powers decided to become a writer, he took the advice "write what you know" literally. For his first published book, "Quester", released in March, powers drew on his experiences as a Vietnam War combat veteran to set the scene, capture the dialogue and express some of the energy and tension prevalent at that time.

Set in the Mekong Delta during the Vietnam War, "Quester" is the story of Harry Quester. A man who faces enemies, encounters adventure and displays courage in order to rescue his best friend from the Viet Cong.

Much of the action in "Quester" is based on an actual event called Operation Giant Slingshot, which involved Riverine Forces and troops that worked on and supported the River Patrol Boats.

"I took little vignettes that I went through and expanded them (for the fictional novel).It was such a distinctly different environment and atmosphere than anyone over here (in the states) has ever experienced," Powers said. "I tried to make the dialogue as realistic as possible."

Article: Soundings Magazine, May 3, 2000
Retired Captain Writes Powerful Vietnam Novel

Excerpts:

Robert C. Powers' new fiction book "Quester" hit bookshelves in March. An action packed adventure story about Riverine Warfare in the Mekong Delta and the men who fought the grueling, menacing battle, the book will be a welcome addition to any war novel collection.

"Many of the things in the book are based on true happenings, but juiced up a bit!" he said. The geography and the operations are real. The terrain is real.

Powers found a way to reveal the atrocities and confusion that sailors were plagued with during the Vietnam era, and manages to add some risqué flavor to the books pages as well. Every chapter moves with force and patriotism with subtle hints of skepticism about the upper echelon decision making process during the battles.

Powers is currently on a book signing tour. "Quester" can be found on amazon.com. The book will appear in Navy and Military Exchanges soon.

Television Interview

WCOX (one hour program), MULTIPLE SHOWINGS June 2000

Robert C. Powers, Author of "Quester"

Conducted By Irvine Hill

Irvine Hill conducted an interview of Author Robert C. Powers to discuss his new book "Quester - A Story of the River Warriors".

Excerpts (Summary):

General discussion about background and family.

Mr. Hill: Tell us about "Quester

"Quester" is a story of the River Warriors in Vietnam. I published in U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings and other publications, becoming fairly well known during my Naval career as an author of professional articles. I always wanted to write fiction, and when I retired, I told myself "I'm going to do it!" I got some help and used my notes from my time in Vietnam. In the process, I found that I had a knack for developing a story and writing realistic dialogue. I decided I was going to write adventure stories that had "action on every page", with characters that were more than interesting. The reviews I've gotten on "Quester" indicate that I have had great success in my first novel.

Mr. Hill: Tell us a little of what happens in the book.

Cambodia was a sanctuary for the Viet Cong. A piece of Cambodia, called "The Parrot's Beak" stuck down into Vietnam near Saigon. The North Vietnamese used this sanctuary to filter supplies into Vietnam to be stashed for an eventual assault on Saigon. The area between the parrot's Beak and Saigon was laced with rivers and small canals. This is where the Riverine Forces operated in "Operation Giant Slingshot". Their mission was to interdict the supplies going to the Viet Cong. This situation is woven into the story in "Quester". The hero is Harry Quester, a destroyerman with a bluewater and technical orientation. His best friend is in the Riverine Force and is captured by the Viet Cong and taken to a secret base inside the Parrot's Beak. Harry volunteers for Vietnam duty. He goes through a web of intrigue, multiple combat actions and several romances in the story. He emerges as a hardened river warrior. Though the story is set in Vietnam, I don't consider it a story "about" Vietnam. Rather, it is a rousing action adventure story that everyone can enjoy.

Amazon.com

Quester, By Robert C. Powers

Nine Book Reviews

Five Star Rating



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QUESTER is available to book stores through:

The Publisher:

Four Seasons Publishers
Post Office Box 51
Titusville, FL 32781

Telephone: 321 267 9800
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Distributors:

Ingram Books
Telephone: 615 287 5350

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Hudson
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News Group
Telephone: 803 548 2297

Koen
Telephone: 1 800 257 8481

QUESTER is currently carried by most book stores and book web sites, including:

Barnes and Noble
B. Dalton
Borders
Waldenbooks
Booksamillion

Navy and Military Exchanges
Many local book stores

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Robert C. Powers is a Destroyer Captain who served with Naval Forces, Viet Nam during the years of Riverine Warfare in the Mekong Delta. He holds a Doctorate in World Politics as well as a Master's Degree in electrical engineering. He started his own company in defense research, modeling and simulation, and contributes to planning for future defense initiatives. He has written for numerous professional publications. This is his first novel.

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*Plan to read the sequel to Quester...
The Mud Fox
Coming out later this year*