

Sadistic Yeoman Chief

Friends:

I'm going to tell you a story and then refer to an opinion piece found in this morning's Military Times update.

First, the story: We had a sadistic Yeoman Chief in our river section who was a John Wayne wannabe. He was a patrol officer and carried a Smith & Wesson .357 with a six- or seven-inch barrel as his personal sidearm. He would occasionally savage ordinary people on the river by pistol whipping them in what he claimed was an interrogation. One day we got a new Vietnamese White Mouse (a maritime cop) to accompany us on patrols, and the first patrol he drew was with that YNC. When the patrol was about two hours old, the YNC started one of his usual unwarranted and savage beatings of an old man on the river. This time, though, our new Mouse pulled his own .45 and shot the Chief in the thigh. The story from the crew was that the despised YNC had shot himself while drawing his revolver. No Purple Heart, no Bronze Star, an immediate transfer stateside. The command knew what the Chief was doing, but did nothing to stop it. That cop did the right thing, ending the Chief's reign of terror and putting the command on notice that from that day on, mistreatment of the average Nguyen would not be tolerated. Our two other regular cops, Trieu and Phong, let everyone know they would adopt that same operational policy. As word got around on the river that Chief was gone, the quality of our intelligence improved.

The moral of the story is simple: there's a reason rules of combat exist and a reason the UCMJ deals with criminal acts of war.

There is a link to a Defense One article titled *The Leading Narratives on War-Crimes Pardons are Wrong* on the page where you clicked to get this story.