C7220 LE CRABE-TAMBOUR (FRANCE, 1977)
(Other titles: The crab drum)

Credits: director, Pierre Schoendoerffer; writers, J. F. Chauvel, Pierre Schoendoerffer.


Summary: Naval melodrama set in Indochina in the 1950s and various places in the 1960s. Shows French naval officers torn by conflicts of friendship, honor, loyalty and a nostalgia for France's colonial past. Centers on the career of an officer named Willsdorf (Perrin) nicknamed Le Crabe Tambour, who served in the French Indochina War and has become a solitary character due to his faith in ideals and convictions at a time when his best friends are succumbing to outside political influences. The film's stunning photography at locations in Thailand, Africa, France and the North Atlantic won a French César award for photographer Raoul Coutard.

“Bela Films, a French co., to lens ‘Crab,’ based on Vietnam war best seller” Variety 286 (Mar 23, 1977), p. 3+
____________. “Film view: a great cameraman weaves an epic spell” New York times 133 (Feb 19, 1984), sec. 2, p. 15+ [2 p.]


Dembrow, Michael. “Le crabe-tambour” Vietnam war feature filmmography (1992 draft) [GB] (p. 93-4) and Vietnam war films [GB] (Entry 126)
Thomas, Kevin. [Crabe tambour] *Los Angeles times* (May 2, 1984), Calendar, p. 5.