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Reading through several stories and picking three stories that have a common topic was not easy. There were so many good stories with great underlying topics. The stories I picked were, Jim Soular's from the free-fire zone Pg, 156, Luu Huy Chao a Vietnamese from Air War section, Pg, 212 and Porter Halyburton from the prisoners of war on Pg, 222. There are several common themes of these stories the devastating affects witch I thought to be too broad of a subject because war is hard on every one. But I also found it to be interesting that they all were pilots and this was a different kind of war that what was fought on the battle field running into the jungle with a gun. Their stories are slightly different in their own ways but all is the effects of being in a war and being a pilot.

First let's talk about Jim Soular. His story starts out with a positive note as do all the other stories I will be discussing today. The small town boy who goes war and becomes a pilot is a huge accomplishment to a teenager that might even drove a car before. Jim was a helicopter pilot and took pride in his job and he even says that he loved war and the other stories also have this in common. I thing that back in the sixties that there was not much of a chance for a man to make something out of himself or just to have an adventure I think this is how a lot of the men who joined the war seen this. I have also noticed that in all I my stories that

there is killing going on by the same side. Like with Jim he talks about one of the helicopters got shot down and every one died but later in life he finds out that the gun bent and the helicopter shot itself down. Then in these same stories there are two Americans and Jim in a room and one of the guys shoots Jims best friend in the face. The best part is when Jim looked up this boy's family after returning home. He finds out the military lies about what really happened so they don't look bad I guess. But after someone dies there should be no reason to lie to their mother about the way they died just to save your own ass.

My next story is that of Luu Huy Chao a Vietnamese pilot. I really liked this story because the first quote that the guy says is "Before I trained as a pilot I had never been in an airplane". This also seems to be a common trait for my three stories and for most of the people in this war on both sides. The person doing the interview describes over a dozen metals on Luu's uniform. This story had a lot more details of what really happened when you were up in the air flying for the Vietnamese. The description of how much better the American planes were then there's and that when the American gets shot down that the people on the ground will take care of him at the end of his story he mentions that he got to talk to a American pilot and he told him "we were only soldiers, we didn't cause the war" I think that this is a noble thing to say to another pilot. Luu did not affect him as much as my first story but the guy in my next story was affected more that both of the two stories put together.

My next story comes from a man that lived through so much

during the war and was there for so long. He too started life out in the war the same as the other stories. The events of this Porters life left him in a POW camp from 1965 to 1973. He started out as a pilot and said that he never really seen much action. There is mention of the free fire zone in this story as well. Porter tells us that you are not allowed to return home without dropping of your bombs first, so he would drop them in the free fire zone known as Tiger Island. One day porter was shot down and picked up by the Viet Cong where he is tortured. This is what happens to pilots that don't crash and die this is what happens to who crash and live. I wonder if they tell all the pilots of that time that was what's going to happen to f you crash and live.

The three stories that I just discussed have to do with the theme of pilots in the war. The run doing was from different sides of the story and American that becomes a pilot and Viet cong that becomes a pilot and what happened if you don't make it back to base every time you go out. There were a lot of similarities in these stories about the enjoyment it gave them to fly and do something for there country. And the tragedies of war Is something that will stay with you for the rest of your life no matter what you lived through or how bad it really was.

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