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Part 1

which single story, other than that of Jo Collins, in Part 1 of the Patriots book caught your attention? Why? How reliable, trustworthy, believable do you believe that speaker to be? After all, unlike you or me, THEY WERE THERE, at that specific point in time. Does that give them more or less credibility? Are they objective and factual or do they suffer from too much subjectivity, too much time having passed, too much forgotten?

It is so hard to just choose one story. I really like the story of Tran Thi Gung "I was stuck in a tunnel for seven days" on pg 15. There are several reasons that this story caught my attention. First it is a story from the Viet Cong, which I don't know much about. The second is it's from a girl. Of course the first time I read the story I believe it start to finish, there is no reason for me not to believe it, after rereading it I notice that the way the author opens the story is with a description of a picture the woman pulls out of her purse from the war and she is laying holding a gun. This could be a posed picture. Another thing that I don't quite understand is how an Asian culture would let a woman be a part of the guerrillas war fare. Her back story about why she joined is believable, because the Americans killed her dad. I want to believe this story because of all the interesting tactics that she has on the way the guerrillas worked and how she helped them out so much. But I wasn't there and this

could have been common knowledge for the people of the north after the war ended. She mentioned that she had forgotten lots. But the way she told the stories were very straight forward and factual, which leads me to believe her. She does not seem to be mad about what happened just that she was there and lived through it.

Part 2 of the 15 stories you've read, you will comment on the following questions.

Which story or stories (definitely one, but not more than two) were the most disappointing for you to read and why? You may have been disappointed with the speaker him/herself (with their attitude, for example) or disappointed by the events in their story (with the frustrating way in which they were treated or in the negative situations in which they had to interact with others). Start your answer to Part 2 with this negative, critical point of view first.

I can see how you can interpret some of the stories as boring. But when I read the story I feel the disappointment in the way the people were acting even before the war started. I have very little knowledge of the events of this war and the way it affected the people or even why it really started or what we gained from all the deaths of the Americans dying over there. The story I choose is from pg 54, NGO VINH LONG. It is about a Vietnamese boy who believes in America and wants to learn our ways and help our government until he sees the way it is really affecting his people. I was not disappointed with the speaker but the events that took place in his story. He believed in the American his way of life and

he thought that we were there to help his country. Because Long spoke English he helped with map making. He thought that he was doing right and helping to map around the villages save people's lives. What really got to me and to him is that they were destroying the villages and moving people around and that the Americans were destroying the field where they got their food. And by doing this they the villagers lives were destroyed and most of them died from starvation. Another part of this story that was really disturbing is when they act of cutting off people's heads and posting them on polls outside the walls of the outposts. Long said that this reminds him of the mid-ages and I agree how barbaric. I guess it is war but the war hadn't even started yet and the villagers were so naive of the fact of what was going on in the world.

In the second half of Part 2, address any positive lesson(s) you may have learned from one or more of these accounts. Is there any "hope", "compassion", "goodness" or the "potential for good" that comes out of any of these stories?

I think Long gained knowledge through compassion of his people and the world. It's too bad that there are not more people like this in the world because I bet there would be a lot less war and famine. Before coming to America long fed his people and kept them from starving and then tried to tell the government what they were doing but this did not help. Long took his knowledge of what was really happening in his country and went to the United States to Harvard no less. His power of compassion for his people brought to important people like Henry Kissinger, and Samuel Huntington.

He become an anti war activist at Harvard and had a role in the U.S policy's in Vietnam.

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