

Due date: Saturday, 9 October 2010, 09:10 PM

Last edited: Saturday, 9 October 2010, 07:34 PM (870 words)

Jesse Long

Assignment 1

The single story that caught my attention was War Heroes. It was a story that really made an impact on me throughout each page. When you hear about a man losing his legs from being shot and continuing to run on his nubs, and then to hear of a man who had just lost his life shortly after hearing he was going to be a father of twins. These are the kind of things that nobody can read and not take a minute and be grateful of the sacrifice many have made on our behalf. I think the speakers in War Heroes are Very Reliable, trustworthy, and believable. Who are we to second guess what they have to say when as said before, we were not there they were. I have veterans in my family and veterans are not ones to lie and make up things about what they experienced in order to sound heroic. I have heard my grandpa say, "It was not heroic to be over there it was hell." So yes I believe what is being said. I am sure there are things that become forgotten over time but many of the things described in detail are things one does not forget. Just like any traumatic situation someone goes through, it is not easily forgotten if at all. As I have grown up I have realized it is the bad or tough times you remember and never forget so I think the things these men experienced will never be forgotten no matter how hard they try.

For part 2 of this assignment it was difficult as I enjoyed all the stories. I like history but mainly that of the United States of America. In these stories we have been reading I remember things here and there that were disappointing for me rather than a complete story being disappointing. I remember in particular something from "History is not made with IFS". I remember reading how the Vietnamese best weapon was the will and strength to not surrender and to win at any cost. However our soldiers were there training them in the art of combat, teaching them to shoot, use mortars, and bazookas etcetera but specifically grenades, you name it they were taught for there resistance against French troops. It was said however these things were not what won the war for the Vietnamese. Ho Chi Minh and his leaders began by rallying the people and getting them behind his movement. They would not give up no matter what happened and they were ready and willing to accept whatever consequences came with that in order to gain independence. I agree and believe all that I have just said but what I have been getting to is the actual reason for why this story was disappointing. After the war was all said and done, long after all the great and horrible experiences were over with there was a reunion that was held in Vietnam. I don't know how soldiers could go through a reliving of events like that but they did. But at this reunion

Henry Prunier noticed Giap staring at him. He couldn't tell why, he thought he was possibly trying to see if he recognized him? Giap then grabbed an orange from a bowl and went on to act like he was tossing a grenade in Prunier's direction. This could be taken many ways but I can't help but think that we may have trained the very one who killed American soldiers and taught them the way in which they used against us. I realize we may have had no way of knowing we would ever be fighting them in the near future but it is still disappointing for me.

For part 2 of 2 I could not stop recalling how the Vietnamese were so relentless in their fight against a much stronger world power. I find that amazing how they were able to continue in that with such determination and drive. It makes me look at our country and see how there are so many who if we had a war come to our shores in our own country so many would roll over and cower down. I see so many with peace stickers in Eugene everywhere. Nobody will disagree and not want peace but the only way you get peace is by fighting for it because there is always someone or something out there who will try to kill or disrupt our peace, for example 9/11. I think the real reason behind the peace crowd is that they are cowards and would never fight for this country and they hide behind the peace sign but that is just my opinion. They are scared to fight for there way of life. If the Vietnamese were scared to fight for their way of life things would be much different, and a good chance they would be run by another country and possibly speaking a different language. That is what has stuck in my mind about the Vietnamese so far. Their determination that allowed them to win this war without the technology and advances we had at the time.

Close this window

 [Moodle Docs for this page](#)