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FEAR

Trails To War- Helen Tennant Hegelheimer

Central Highlands- Dennis Deal

Air War- Nguyen Quang Sang

In each of these stories I've found that each writer shares a common fear stemming from the war. In Air War Sang talks about the first time he ever saw an American. It was during an air attack when an American helicopter came down so close to the ground that he saw the door gunners face. To this day he still has nightmares that terrify him. He was fighting in an area where there was no jungle to protect him from the air raids, he was surrounded by water. This fed into his fear he had to hope that the Americans in the helicopters would think that they were just common peasants, or when they were firing they would dive as deep as they could in the water until the firing stopped then come up to get another breath. He uses the words nightmarish experience.

Central Highlands, Dennis Deal. He said that he thought of himself as a bad ass and thought that a five foot one hundred pound Asian punk wouldn't be able to hurt him, but he soon found out otherwise. He was a Lieutenant and in 1965 was in the middle of the largest battle that Vietnam had yet produced. He was terrified but felt that he had to show just a millimeter more courage than that of his men for them to be okay. He thought that if he showed how terrified he was that his men would fail. He saw a lot of death but through it all managed to stay courageous for his men and his Country.

Trails To War, Helen Tennant Hegelheimer. She was a Stewardess that brought troops in and out of Vietnam. She landed right there in the middle of gunfire and all to transport our troops back and forth. She also could not show her fear. She had to be strong for the men that were getting ready to risk their lives some ready to die for our Country. She would talk with them and even in the most intimate of conversations could not show the raw emotions that she felt as these men showed their. She comforted them the whole way there and did the hardest thing that the other stewardesses didn't want to do. She ushered the men off of the plane as they descended into the war zone. She said that the other women would cry in the bathroom as she did this, but she was good at it. She never said goodbye but instead goodbye, good luck, see you later and things along those lines. She felt as at that moment she was whoever that soldier needed her to be whether it be his mother, sister, wife, or girlfriend, she resembled home and the end of the ramp was the war. She was scared for these men wondering if they would ever come home, and sometimes they would go home with an empty plane which she thought to mean that there weren't any to bring home. When they would fly in Vietnam air space everyone on the plane was scared. It was a sigh of relief when they were clear.

Although war is a scary thing for anyone that is involved it is a fear that is personal and felt for different reasons and in different ways for each and every person. In this case it's a Soldier from each side and a stewardess who may not be actively fighting in the war but expresses fear for many other reasons.

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