

Due date:	Sunday, October 7, 2012, 11:55 PM
Last edited:	Sunday, October 7, 2012, 03:19 PM (712 words)

Matthew Menigoz

10/6/12

Assignment 1

Part 1

I think the story that was most exciting and grabbed my attention was Roger Donlon's story called "War Heroes". It caught my attention because this story was referring to the first American awarded the Medal of Honor. This medal is the highest medal that the American military can confer. He talks about an ambush that the Northern Vietnamese placed on a Strike Force camp. They were sent there to train and teach the southern Vietnamese to be proud of their country and how to protect their land. When it occurred it was early morning on 4th of July weekend. They were getting hit by mortars and gun fire from everywhere. They called for reinforcements before they destroyed their communication building. He was in charge and had to protect this base as long as he could before reinforcements helped. The story talks about he was carrying men from point A to point B, calling orders to the mortars, telling them where to fire. He would run through gunfire to get to mortar holes to help, and then he would run to wounded soldiers and give them first aid. This story just seems like a action movie and I wish I could watch it as a movie like he experienced it. After reading this I believe Roger has a large amount of credibility because of the situation he was put under and he still came out victorious. I believe he did what he and other people said, and I'm sure his as well as their experiences were factual and made sense otherwise they would all be dead.

Part 2

I think an inspirational or more exciting then depressing or sad would be the story of Vo Nguyen Giap. He called his story "The Most Atrocious Conflict in Human History". I think it's interesting because of how he went from a young, promising leader fighting for his land. By the end of the war he was working with us military officers and trying to help rebuild the land and the government as a whole. Vo said in the story that he still keeps in touch with the OCC commander Major Allison Thomas who he worked with. He read part of a letter sent to him by Thomas who says, "Yesterday you were in the jungle, and today you are running an independent country". He wants Americans and Vietnamese to have good relations and for the American people to really understand the history and culture of his people. He never wanted to fight the Americans he says; they gave us no choice to defend our lands and culture. Something that's cool about this story is that it makes you look at something so devastating and a big part of history through the other side's eyes.

The story that made me a little bit upset would be Ngo Vinh Long's story of his life. As he grew up he watched the French murder Vietnamese people and through them in ponds or creeks. His father was brutally beaten and almost killed by the French as well. As he grew up him and his father both looked at the USA as being a place of independence and democracy and wanted to learn everything about it. He made his way to the U.S. and found a job as a military map maker for the government. As he went on his journeys he began to see how the American soldiers and army were treating the Vietnamese people. After seeing this, the slaughter of many Vietnamese and grouping them as if they were slaves he resigned in disgust of the American military. He then turned to join protests against the US involvement in the Vietnamese government. He then was informed by his American friends to leave their otherwise he would get arrested. He then went back to America enrolling into Harvard and being involved in the anti-war movement. It's sad to me that someone as a young child can look at our country in such excitement to later be disgusted with it because of what we were doing to human beings. That's not

something I would like to hear about my own country.

Close this window