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Register Guard Letters

by Joe Escobar - Saturday, November 5, 2016, 3:49 PM

This thread is for discussions on the Register Guard Letters topic.
To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post, something that describes which question(s) you are addressing . Do NOT simply leave it RE: Register Guard Letters

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Not facts but feelings

by Andrew Kilmer - Tuesday, November 8, 2016, 12:37 PM

I have no idea if the letters from veterans are valid or not. Many people claim to be veterans to qualify their point, but there is still relevant information in these letters. Qualified or not the letters tell a story.

Appy's title says "remembering from all sides." Taking his intentions into account I would include all the letters. The article and Letters to the editor are not a historical account of events. They don't have any references that I would take as fact without my own research. They do, however; offer some value in reading. My note to the reader would include the following:

What these writings do is give us a sense of the mindset that people have today and what they felt historically. It would be easy to omit certain letters and give the editorials a slant, but that would be no better than PBS or AIM's one sided approach. Even if no historical facts can be derived from the personal accounts, they still provide valuable insight into our history.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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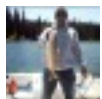
Re: Not facts but feelings

by Amber Gaboriault - Friday, November 11, 2016, 10:14 AM

Hi Andrew, I disagree to some point, I believe of telling both sides of the story, but allowing anyone to include their opinion without actual experience shouldn't be allowed to form historical facts. An example would be Bob Thompson of Eugene stating "Unless Preuss can provide references to proven instances of such behavior, I will be steadfast in my understanding that exhaustive research on that very topic has shown no examples of such behavior, period." I feel his comments have no facts other than he couldn't find a source on the internet. He doesn't offer any facts just an opinion of what he experienced, possibly just read. If Thompson could recall an experience of an encounter of a Vet being treated with dignity and respect, I think would have more "factual" information showing a mindset.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Not facts but feelings

by Andrew Kilmer - Saturday, November 12, 2016, 1:46 PM

Thanks for the reply Amber-

I agree that experience is important. My point to allow all views to be included is from the stand of censorship. I think that if you only account for Veterans or political options, you lose out on those that lived during the time. While Bob Thompson may not have experience he does have feelings on the matter. Not to get political, but I feel like that is happening right now in our country. Many

media sources have said how much they have lost touch with a large part of America, even if we don't credit Bob Thompson's views we are still better off knowing his perspective.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Not facts but feelings

by Scott Woods - Friday, November 11, 2016, 12:01 PM

Sometimes you just have to take a person's word at face value. I agree Andrew that it's hard to tell if these veterans are actually veterans. However, we have to assume that they are. Why would anyone intelligently reply to someone's letter in the paper without firsthand knowledge or proof that they are right?

The letters do tell a story and slanting that story when it comes to history is really easy to do. Look at any documentary about the second Gulf War and you'll see my point. Personally myself I think I'd add those stories as well, but counter them with the view point of the other side to try and balance out and give definite look at the history.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Not facts but feelings

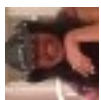
by Andrew Kilmer - Saturday, November 12, 2016, 1:50 PM

Thanks for the reply Scott-

I know this won't earn points, but I myself am a twenty year vet, and you would be shocked at how many people make the false claim that they served. It usually comes up during political disagreements and bar room patriotism.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Not facts but feelings

by Sohni Maan-Davie - Sunday, November 13, 2016, 7:23 PM

Hey Andrew,

I agree with you about not knowing if the letters from the veterans, in the Register Guard were valid, and Bob Thompson of Eugene didn't really seem to know what he was talking about, so if I did a story using those letters I would definitely find more information on its, make sure its facts are true. I also agree that reading those letters do give some value, if the soldiers were actually spat on when

returning home, then it would give us some insight that not all Americans didn't protest the war, and that they believed those soldiers should have stayed and fight.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Not facts but feelings

by Mason Fisher - Sunday, November 13, 2016, 9:04 PM

"I have no idea if the letters from veterans are valid or not"

This is a perfect example why I love the idea of forums with our online class and sometimes I wish some traditional classes, depending on the course, also had forums that students used. I say this because I really forgot to think about this critical idea when conducting my review of the material and when constructing my responses in the forums. Realistically who knows who these people really are responding in the letters? It could all be extremely dishonest and false or they could all be true and accurate. It is a tough situation because we really do not know as readers and students of the subject.

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Re: Register Guard Letters

by Scott Woods - Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 11:45 AM

We have to take history at people's words. The idea of "history is written by the victors," is partially true. Most times the losers don't wish to talk about their failures. However, there are the rare occasions that the losers face an aftermath such as those in the Vietnam War. The argument this week, if I have it right, is, 'Did discrimination happen?' We again are looking at the breakdown of information we are given. Therefore, my analysis is very much in the area of who should I believe.

The Register-Guard clips that we are given this week tell two sides of a story. In the first we are given the impossibility that Vietnam vets where ever spit upon. My father was a post-World War II private serving in Germany. His tour was in-between the world war and the ramp up to Korea/Vietnam wars. He told me during the war in Vietnam he had to stop telling people that he had served for just the reasons of being discriminated upon. Yet there are people out there that don't believe people like my father that they were accosted, spit on, even discriminated against.

I am led to believe every account of the vets recalling of their experiences after they returned from Vietnam. Namely those who returned via the port of San Francisco. Most of the contradicting Bob Thompson's account that this never occurred. Furthermore, one article, which I liked because of its look at the argument is the last

one from Robert L. Shaw. He claims that he was never spit on, however, another type of disgrace was handed to him in the form of disrespect via not being able to get a job or a conversation suddenly stopping because he had mentioned he was involved in the Vietnam War. It's sad that we had a period in our time that this would happen, but I am led to believe it did.

The damning thing though is in Thompson's argument. One of the biggest things I ever learned from high school debate was our teacher telling us that we should never insult the opposition. The reason behind this is because it makes the argument void as it hurts your credibility. That's one of the most important things about sources of history is determining someone's credibility.



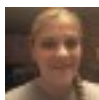
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I think that if I were to write a book like *Patriots* I would include the stories of the people who experienced it. Not only the Men and Women who fought over there, but also the Vietnamese that lived during that time. Granted, I would have to pair it down, but I would do so to gain the most accuracy I could with the help of other sources that matched up. From the letters to the editor to the description from Soldiers Speaks about how on his way away from Oakland air force base, where his bus was hit with rotten tomatoes.



Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Register Guard Letters

by Leslie Stockton - Friday, November 11, 2016, 8:08 PM

I too found Robert L. Shaws letter to be very credible as I did with many of the others. While like you said he was never spat on but faced other types of discrimination, eventually leaving him in not even acknowledging he was ever in the war. While everyone was not going to see the same type of discrimination it shows a pattern of behavior by the American people on the return of our veterans. Even that your father had to hide his service to his country even in non war time is a disgrace. I tend to believe the stories of our ancestors and those who were there to be a first hand witness.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Historical concerns

by Andrew Kilmer - Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 3:18 PM

I think as a student one of my biggest concerns with historical accuracy is the past down to future generations. If I take in information as factual, and past that information on to future generations then I could contribute to destroying our history. The biggest difference to me in the editorials and the POW and a Solider Speaks recording is legitimacy. There are resources and documentation that can verify the validity of the POW's and the Solider speaks pieces. The article (while they do give a

sense of the time) could be writing by anyone whose statements may be false or they might not have had the experiences that they claim. I think it is our responsibility as students to verify, question and examine information before we commit to its worth. We need to be able to distinguish between facts and opinions. While facts are quantifiable and must be recorded, opinions are still important to document peoples feeling during historical events.

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Re: Historical concerns

by Leslie Stockton - Thursday, November 10, 2016, 9:05 PM

I will be completely honest with you, it never crossed my mind that these letters could have been written by someone other than a veteran. I guess that makes me a little naive in my own self. Maybe it never crossed my mind is because while so many different accounts come from these letters they are very dear to my heart.

My father spent a tour in Vietnam and would never discuss it with me. Still to this day, 40 plus year later, he doesn't discuss it. Almost as if its a taboo subject. He did however talk about the treatment he received coming home. He talked about the spitting, the anti-war protesters and being called "baby killer" and was disgusted with the state of our country. So I allowed my personal experience to overwhelm my common sense to think they could be false. Good job pointing that out.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Historical concerns

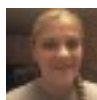
by Andrew Kilmer - Saturday, November 12, 2016, 1:58 PM

I appreciate your reply Leslie and I can relate. I'm a veteran also and have talked to many Vietnam era vets who usually don't like discussing the war. Sometimes they do and it is typically very emotional. I'm sure just like the stories we read in class, there are many different accounts of the war. I use to assist sailors on there transition out of the Navy and everyone had a different view. I would say roughly 20 percent hated their time in the service while 20 percent said it was wonderful. I'm sure just like the guys in Vietnam it mattered where, when and who they served with. That's why I think it is so important to hear and absorb as much information as we can, so that way we can try and average it out and get a balanced perspective of our own.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Historical concerns



by Leslie Stockton - Saturday, November 12, 2016, 9:06 PM

I have to agree that who, when and where you spent your time. While my father served in 68-69, my stepfather served 70-71. These two men both have a completely different take on the war. While my father doesn't talk about his time my mom tells me of the awful nightmares he had when he returned and for years to come yet my stepfather talks about it like it was summer camp. So I am sure that has a lot also to do with when soldiers were returning. Were these people that felt the most injustices coming home at the height of the anti war protest? Something to think about while listening to them different tales of discrimination.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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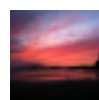
Re: Historical concerns

by Amber Gaboriault - Saturday, November 12, 2016, 11:16 PM

Hi Leslie, after watching the POW video and the POW's were marched down the street having the crowd scream, spit and threaten them. I can only imagine returning home and encountering the same actions would be confusing for the soldiers. It probably slowed the healing process and felt like they were still in Vietnam.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Historical concerns

by Jennifer Wilson - Sunday, November 13, 2016, 11:07 AM

I can almost guarantee that this horrible treatment of these many soldiers, most of whom had no choice but to report for duty, had a great impact of their mental health and wellness. Psychologically, it had to be quite a blow coming home to anti-war sentiment, that carried over into its treatment of soldiers.

The attitude that some that wrote the letters believe that the veterans didn't receive this treatment, and almost arrogantly scoff at the idea, is unfair. Unless they were there, at that moment, when the veteran experienced these things, they should not nay-say the stories of others. No one truly knows the plight of others, and should respect that.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Historical concerns

by Scott Woods - Sunday, November 13, 2016, 4:21 PM

It is easy to discredit someone with little information, but why do that? I think one of the major factors here is that, yes people lie and can give false testimony. However, when more and more people report the same things happening; even people who have never met before saying the exact same thing happened to them. Then we have to look at it as possibly plausible. I guess the bigger question is where is the line between fake and real? Where would you draw it?

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Poor Information and Discrimination of Veterans

by Timothy Lucas - Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 3:43 PM

The stories that I would like to see in *Patriots* would be from Herman Isaacs and Robert L. Shaw. These both stood out as a powerful account that focuses on their experience and how they felt. They are also different experiences compared to each other which paints a broader picture of what soldiers went through after returning from the war. These two accounts would probably have to be set up by the Bob Thompson comment titled, 'No one spat on Vietnam vets.' While I have never personally seen that, nor can recall veterans in my family specifically referencing an incident of spitting, I found his 'exhaustive research' seemed to be based around google searches for images and studies, along with a book that comes to what is in my mind a questionable conclusion ("no reports of spitting or even negative taunting.")

Isaacs and Shaw both claim to be veterans of the Vietnam war that did in fact experience negativity upon returning home. Isaacs not only references a specific event outside of the San Francisco airport of being spat on, but violence related to verbal encounters. While Shaw says he was never spat on, he does speak of employment discrimination that would eventually lead him to hide 3 years of his work experience from his resume. Even if he could hide his service at first, Shaw's employers would either find ways to get rid of him, or insist he stay out of sight of others.

These two examples expose the negative feelings the American people had for the war, and how some chose to direct their feelings. This can be considered misdirected anger to the participants of the war, and was one way that soldiers continue to be affected by Vietnam long after they had left the country. While Thompson's assertion that the spitting may have in fact been directed at war protesters is not addressed by Isaacs or Shaw, Thompson's attempt to prove a negative quickly falls apart by the account of just two individuals. It was bold for Isaacs and Shaw to speak up, even if it meant they have to once again experience those events by remembering and sharing.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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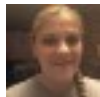
Re: Poor Information and Discrimination of Veterans

by Scott Woods - Friday, November 11, 2016, 12:06 PM

Timothy, good points. I liked the fact that you pointed out the negative feelings the American people hand on the war. I ask though, how would you feel if you'd just seen what the Veterans of the Vietnam War saw while the served and then come home to this negativity. You had just sacrificed your own life to protect the ideals of the American Democratic System and yet you are being yelled at by your fellow American with derogatory words such as, "Baby Killer." I'd be pretty upset and depressed because I went through one hell and came home to another.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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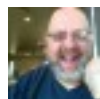
Re: Poor Information and Discrimination of Veterans

by Leslie Stockton - Friday, November 11, 2016, 8:19 PM

Agreed. I find it sad that so many of our soldiers went to war willingly. Their country called upon them in a time of need and they came. The came with the intentions of protecting others freedoms. They did as they were told. Vietcong snipers would sit on the lines of the the river bank, close to villages with innocent people, knowing that we would fire back upon if fired at. Thus killing innocent villagers. Men, women and children. This is a horrific act to live through and coming home to such volatile hostile protest much have been awful to add to the already guilty feelings you harbor.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Poor Information and Discrimination of Veterans

by Scott Woods - Sunday, November 13, 2016, 4:25 PM

What's worse is that a lot of them where not going along willingly. A lot of them where drafted and then forced to stay over there date of release. What's worse is that they either new what they were getting into or had no clue. Then to come home and face that hate speech. I can't even imagine what that feeling was like.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Veteran's experience at home



by Amber Gaboriault - Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 4:23 PM

If I were the author of the book "Patriots" I would use the articles by Herman Isaacs from Springfield and Rodney Gordon from Eugene, my reasons for choosing them would mostly stem from the personal experience the Veterans experienced firsthand. Isaacs can recall specific dates and places. Isaac states "when he returned from Vietnam in January 1967, he was told at Oakland Army Terminal that it would be better to travel in civilian clothes and not in our uniforms". Gordon also states "When I got off the plane in San Francisco, I experienced being spat at and was the subject of verbal abuse." I feel with the two stories from completely different people with similar incidents validates the truthfulness of the situation.

The incidents from Gordon and Isaacs also relate in similarity to the story "Samuel Huntington" in the book "Patriots" by Christian Appy. Huntington generated anger among antiwar activist with his role as a consultant to the Johnson administration. In the life story, Huntington recalls someone painting on his door in big black letters "A War Criminal Lives Here" which his children found. I would conclude after three stories of veterans facing harassment and abuse in the United States it would validate the truthfulness of the veteran's stories.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: Veteran's experience at home

by Leslie Stockton - Thursday, November 10, 2016, 9:22 PM

It really was amazing to hear the different degree's to which our veterans were subjected to. Being spat on, discriminated against, fearing of wearing the uniform although the haircut gave it away, and hiding the fact that they were even in the military. All these stories have similar traits and lend credence to each other. I find them sad and I too find validity in numbers.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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What stories get told

by Jimmy O'Neal - Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 8:41 PM

I believe that stories from both sides of the war should be told. We should have a detailed account of how the war happened through the eyes of multiple sources, by doing this we will get a much more accurate image of how the war was actually fought. I would try and leave out stories that were very similar however. As we see in the POW video there are multiple stories that are exactly the same in nature. It would be hard to pick one over the other but this is something that I believe to be

necessary. I would also make sure to clarify that all of the accounts come from either soldiers of the US or NV army or reporters and civilians that were in Vietnam. I know that this doesn't exactly ensure that the story is 100% accurate, but I think that this is still the best way to get the most accurate detailing of the war.

As for the letters I believe that this shows that there will always be multiple sides of the same story. It will take a lot of studying to find out which story is the most accurate, but when you can't find a lot of information then you will just have to go with your gut instinct. I would say that the biggest concern I would have for historical accuracy would have to be whether the stories I am hearing or reading are fabricated or not. Since we were not there we don't really know. We do have footage and pictures to help clear things up, like what we see in the POW video. As for the sources that we have received I don't recall hearing or seeing any big differing opinions, so I would have to say that they all point to the same conclusion.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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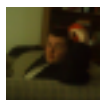
Re: What stories get told

by Andrew Kilmer - Thursday, November 10, 2016, 9:37 AM

Thanks for the post Jimmy I enjoyed it. Something you wrote (that I agreed with) made me think. When we heard all the stories from the POW's that were very similar it could seem redundant. The same could be said for the Newspaper stories also. I then started to think about the credibility of the sources. Even though I didn't particular enjoy reading or hearing the same thing over and over is does add to the validity of the stories when they share similar characteristics.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: What stories get told

by Jimmy O'Neal - Saturday, November 12, 2016, 1:24 PM

Yes, I do find that the use of the same types of story leads to a bland feeling. While I think that it is hard to find out which stories get to be told and which ones have to wait for a later date it is something that is necessary in this line of work. If we tell to many of these stories in one go then the meaning will seem less significant than what it really should be. As for the credibility, I think that they are all 100% credible. This doesn't seem like your run of the mill propaganda. Instead it feels like these men didn't get the proper respect and attention that they deserved, even after being tortured by the Vietcong.

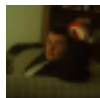
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**Re: What stories get told**

by Amber Gaboriault - Friday, November 11, 2016, 10:25 AM

Hi jimmy, my opinion would be, the more stories that are similar from different sources would validate the accuracy of an account. In the POW video many mention the Vietnamese rope trick, each POW had encountered the same torturous procedure. I feel coming from all POW's I can feel confident it happened. I think if only one had mentioned it I might have not believed the accuracy of the POW's memory. While I think first hand information is the most accurate someone enduring a horrible encounter would also have an intensified view and rightfully so. With more evidence and validation it takes the personal view out of the equation.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: What stories get told**

by Jimmy O'Neal - Friday, November 11, 2016, 1:15 PM

Hi Amber, while I do agree that multiple stories can lead to the validation of an account I still find it redundant. We all know that this happened to our soldiers, so I don't really see a reason to include more than one or two stories on the matter. While it is hard to pick and choose which stories would be deemed more important I think that this is something we should do in order to find the ones that raise the best points.

Sum of ratings: (1) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: What stories get told**

by Mason Fisher - Sunday, November 13, 2016, 10:33 PM

To start my reply I want to state That I am playing devils advocate here.... Jimmy, how can we, as people who were not there, 100% believe what we are being told when we really do not know what happened with any physical proof (concerning the mistreatment). One thing all of these videos and testimonial lack is any video or audio proof of people mistreating our soldiers. I say this when I personally believe that Vietnam vets were mistreated when they returned home but just like every other facet of the Vietnam war we are thrown in so many directions as student studying this topic how can we be sure anything is right? Investigating the Vietnam war is extremely difficult.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Protest the war, not the soldiers**

by Jennifer Wilson - Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 10:07 PM

The stories I would use are the stories from the veterans who were speaking from experience, not the ones who were expressing their opinions. If I were Appy, I would know to leave out the opinions that quite frankly came from those who didn't serve. The opinion pieces by Rooke-Ley, Preuss, and Thompson, were given in a snide manner that scoffed at the retelling of these instances by veterans. Citing that they use Google as their source for information, they basically have no credibility. Postelle, Gordon, and Isaacs gave personal account of what they endured post Vietnam. Gastfriend gives good advice: talk to a vet or two, and quit relying on Google. As for Shaw, he is fortunate that he was never spat upon. But just because he wasn't, doesn't mean that others weren't.

These letters to the editor convey that when faced with first-hand accounts of an event, versus finding your information on the internet, whether it be a source that is completely unreliable, or a source that may have accurate information, you can learn so much from those who had lived through it. Instead of accusing those who give an account you don't agree with, be open-minded and try to realize that you need to consider your sources.

At one point, while watching the POW video, I noticed a parallel in the treatment of the American soldiers. Of course, it was not as extreme on American soil, but when being marched through the crowd, the soldiers were stoned, spit on, poked and pieced with sticks by children. I can imagine that being treated the way some were when they arrived home from the war, could have been more hurtful and confusing in a way. Coming home, when you felt you did the honorable thing, fighting to liberate Vietnam, and being spat on and treated horribly by some. I imagine that had to cut deep. I understand free speech, but in my opinion, you can protest the war, not the soldier. That kind of behavior is disgusting to me.

The difference between the letters and video and the recording, are the source of information. I know I am more inclined to believe the portrayal coming from someone who speaks of experience instead of boasting of searching the internet. Sure, the internet does contain sites that contain information that is based on actual truth. But knowing the actual source, gives more credence to the story,

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Re: Protest the war, not the soldiers

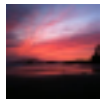
by Leslie Stockton - Thursday, November 10, 2016, 9:15 PM

Wow you hit that on the head. I think protesting the war was acceptable but not protesting the soldier, whom may have not have had a choice to go but was drafted, is an amazing point. While I don't agree with war, I believe it to inevitable. I hope that if I was called to duty to defend our rights and freedoms I would be treated with respect and honor when I returned. If I was lucky to return. I know we get a lot of informative information from the internet and most of it is very useful, but fully agree that I am more inclined to believe the personal testimony of a

soldier over that of the press with regards to treatment and injustices placed upon them. While the press tend to lean to one side, be it sided with politics or financial gain, the veteran only has himself and his fellow country men to show honor to.

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Re: Protest the war, not the soldiers

by Jennifer Wilson - Friday, November 11, 2016, 12:07 PM

Absolutely, protestors of the war had a right to protest. That is part of our freedom. Having a seriously huge soft spot in my heart for veterans, knowing what some endured when returning home, I am disgusted. As you mentioned, there were SO many men who were just following orders, they did not have a choice. They expected treatment like that from the enemy, not their homeland. It may have been easy for some to sit and judge actions from their nice, safe, and warm homes. But they don't know what it was like, and the things they had to do to survive. What would they have done if the roles reversed? This is why people should not judge others.

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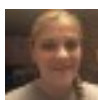
Re: Protest the war, not the soldiers

by Mason Fisher - Sunday, November 13, 2016, 10:37 PM

Jennifer, I agree with a lot of what you said. A big piece I pulled from your post is "protest the war not the soldier". Without a doubt we have learned that our soldiers had to go to extremes while at war but that happens when you are at war. I think people treating the veterans poorly was the wrong route to go. In the end these brave men should be able to fall back on the idea that they did what they were told to do and served their country to the best of their abilities.

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Both sides of the story but same outcome

by Leslie Stockton - Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 10:50 PM

If I were writing the Appy Book the two letters that I found interesting and probably would have used in my book were from two authors. One from Eugene one from Veneta.

What I found so interesting about these two letters were the different accounts of treatment but almost identical outcomes.

In the letter published on 2-25-2007 written by Thomas W. Postelle from Veneta, titled Spiting incidence did occur, he states "As am army private flying on Delta Airlines to visit family on leave I was spat upon" he goes on to state upon being spat on the second time "I paid full fare and flew in civilian clothes to keep it from happening again".

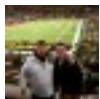
And again on 2-26-2007, Robert Shaw of Eugene writes that "On re-entering society and applying for an entry level position, I was slandered, degraded, cursed, trivialized and shown the door whenever I mentioned being a veteran". This man resorted to cutting out a three year hole in his resume and pretended to not have any experience. Like he states "Just another draftee doing his civil duty. But nobody spat on me."

The reason these two are significant to me are not the conflicting stories but rather that they were different yet the outcome was the same. Both have appeared to have hidden the fact that they were both veterans for similar reasons. While Mr. Postelle hid his identity to keep from being spat on, Mr. Shaw hid his to keep from being discriminated and considered un-hirable .

Every man and woman could be interviewed and each may have similar stories but no two will be the same. Everyone must experience some degree of difference in a situation or treatment but I believe these two stories are completely different situations and still show the similarity of having to hide being a veteran. It also shows that discrimination and humiliation to the veterans were far ranging.

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Bob from the Register Guard articles has it wrong

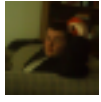
by Mason Fisher - Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 10:56 PM

The first hand accounts from captured Vietnam veterans in both the video and the audio clip had me shaken up. Listening to these brave men tell these terrible stories was extremely hard and sad. The things these veterans had to endure while POW's in North Vietnam were gruesome and disgusting. If I was the author of "Patriots" I would include all of the letters from the register guard that were in the file presented to us as it shows a good contrast between different views and experiences among Americans and veterans. It is obvious that some veterans experienced protests from the American public upon return but people's experiences varied.

I would include the story from the audio clip that one Vietnam veteran recounts, he explains how the bus he was riding on once back in America was bombarded with rotten tomatoes and eggs (6:58). This is a huge story when it comes to Americans treating their own veterans when returning home. Personally, I would include a "Note to the reader" that explains how although there are not any "official" media accounts of disrespect towards Vietnam veterans does not mean they did not happen.

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Re: Bob from the Register Guard articles has it wrong

by Jimmy O'Neal - Sunday, November 13, 2016, 12:57 AM

Hi Mason, while I do agree that there stories are important don't you think that it would be redundant to include all of there stories? I think that it would be dragging on the same point, these soldiers were mistreated both in Vietnam and at home, but would it really be beneficial to include all of there stories? Again I do think that everything they had to endure should be brought to public notice, but I just think that it would kind of kill the impact of what they went through if we included every single story, kind of like desensitizing us to the overall scheme of things.

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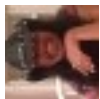
Re: Bob from the Register Guard articles has it wrong

by Mason Fisher - Sunday, November 13, 2016, 8:59 PM

True, I can agree that maybe including all of the letters would be a little extra I do think that they display a strong message. Including multiple different accounts provides different views and opinions even though they concern the same subject, just my opinion. I feel like picking and choosing would also be difficult to do, how do you determine one story to be more credible or more important than another. This is a very sensitive subject and I feel as though it takes a lot to be careful when "picking and choosing".

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The scorn of POWs here in America as well as Vietnam

by Sohni Maan-Davie - Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 11:39 PM

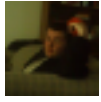
If I was the author of Patriots, I would use the stories about the POWs getting their shoulders rotated, and tortured, the reason is to get people to understand what the soldiers went through when they got captured. I wouldn't use a "note to the reader". If the soldier gave me his permission, I would most likely use pictures of what the torture looked like in those prison camps. One picture I might use would be the one shown in the POW video that is seven minutes and 48 seconds into the video.

The compilation of stories from the Vietnam War veterans is that their life was never made easy, in Vietnam, of course, but also when they came back home. The major issues that concern me on historical accuracy are there other stories that can back up the soldier's stories, mainly when they got home to the U.S., but also when they

were in Vietnam. The Register-Guard letters compare to the POW video and the Soldier's Speak audio file, is that our soldiers suffered hardships being in Vietnam, but also here in America, by the citizens.

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Re: The scorn of POWs here in America as well as Vietnam

by Jimmy O'Neal - Sunday, November 13, 2016, 2:21 PM

Hi Sohni, I completely agree that our soldiers suffered on both fronts. I was a grave injustice that they had to face when they returned home. I also find the idea of only using the torture stories interesting. It can really drive home the fact that these men had to endure an excruciating amount of physical and psychological pain in Vietnam just to be slandered by the anti-war protesters when they returned home. These stories would be an excellent addition to the Appy book, or any other Vietnam War history book for that matter.

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