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## Part One

George Watkins account really had an impact on me because it sounded very honest. Watkins related about how they destroyed everything they came across in the Que Son Valley, people, animals even burning camps and villages. He didn't try and make the war sound better for the Americans or justified, he just related his experience how it was. Watkins doesn't sound bitter towards the people he fought against he even states how the vietnamese had to be good people to go back to their destroyed villages and start again from nothing. He does blame politicians for the war having to happen in the first place. Also, Watkins was drafted into the military and served his time without question. I like how he opened the story with the story of his dad not wanting any of his children working in the coal mines. I think this is meant to be **ironic**, since working in the mines would've been favorable rather than fighting in this bloody war. I'm glad the author put Watkins story in his own words instead of making it grammatically correct. It gives the story a distinct voice which makes it more personal to me. I believe George Watkins to be a reliable source since he was there and has nothing to lie about. I think that he wouldn't be so honest about the destruction **him** and fellow americans caused if he was trying to hide anything. He was straight forward and didn't **sugar** at anything right up to losing his sight and legs.

## Part Two

One of the most disappointing stories for me was the account by Henry Prunier. It was frustrating to hear that he at one time was helping the vietnamese and Ho Chi Minh against the japanese but when America was in war against the same people that he didn't speak up enough for what he believed in. Prunier says that he was anti-war but because he was **afraid** of what persecution his daughters would face in school he stayed silent. I think that everything comes at a price and that standing up for what you truly believe in is important. **Would you put your family at risk?** Reading Vo Nguyen Giap's account was powerful to me **because** it presented the fight of people and their culture. Giap **talks** about how the vietnamese people were not going to give up that they would rather die than live in slavery. I thought that was a positive lesson because these people were very determined and were not

going to give up without their best fight. It didn't matter that America had more and better weapons b  use the vietnamese people had something much deeper they had courage and a fierce self-determination. It is much like the Americans fight for independence.

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