

Due date: Sunday, 10 April 2011, 11:55 PM

Last edited: Sunday, 10 April 2011, 04:14 PM (532 words)

70 / 100

Rachel Regelbrugge 1st Assignment

PART 1

Tran Thi Gungs story caught my attention **right off the bat**, mostly due to the fact that she was a female guerilla. She re-lives her father's death and her need for revenge leading her into the life of a war. I was intrigued in how she shows the same unattachment to killing as many of the other stories I read from both sides of the war, having no difference even though she is a woman. I don't believe that she added to the story to glorify her killings to make herself seem more heroic. **match up** story is credible to me because her memories of war **match up** with all the other recollections of what it was like to be fighting in the trenches and underground tunnels. As for forgetting over time I cannot imagine anyone being able to forget the things she saw and did in those years.

PART 2

It was very disappointing to read Ngo Vinh Long's story about his time in Vietnam and America, for two different reasons. He **talks** about the French randomly killing the Vietnamese and throwing their bodies in the river. As a child he would find the corpse of the dead in ponds at the end of the rivers. This paints a terrible picture of the French and would alter your childhood and train of thoughts about death. Never seeing any dead bodies besides those on stretchers or in coffins I sympathized with him for having to see this on what sounds like a monthly basis. Once he moved to America he spoke against the war at Harvard, he had molotovs thrown onto stage at him luckily he was not harmed. He even had to move eight times during his years in the US to stay safe after only speaking his mind about the war. Freedom of speech is what is supposed to be so great about our country but like most things it has its consequences.

Richard Olsen had survived Vietnam but nearly drowned while getting caught in a riptide in the ocean. A young Vietnamese lifeguard swam out and saved him, even though it probably went against his morals. Luyen Nguyen was in a prison for 21 years shackled to wall with his entire family thinking he was dead. His wife remarried after his "death" and had a child with her new husband while the entire time her first husband was rotting in a

cell. A US commando got out of the prison and was kind enough to find Luyens wife and tell her that her husband was still alive. She divorced her second husband and awaited for her first to come home. It was nice to read that even in the worst of situations some form of beauty can come prevail.

I learned that from reading peoples stories from the war you can actually put yourself in their shoes. I had never really heard the communist side of things and I was very intrigued in the hardships they went through. It made it clear that it was not only the Americans who had massive losses in the war but the Viet Minh too.



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It sure felt as if you were rushing this paper.
You clearly had more "room" (words) with which
you could have more thoroughly expressed
yourself.