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While reading part one of the "Patriots" book, the story that was most memorable to me was that of Bernard Trainor. He seemed to be able to remember specific situations like they had just happened. He did not make himself the hero and seemed very honest of all the situations that occurred while he was in Vietnam. I think that he was a very credible source. In no way does he act as though he was better than anyone there or has arrogance in his tone. He seems to feel remorse for his actions while also staying proud and confident. He seemed to be able to fully put himself back in that time, that place and remember vividly everything that happened. He continued to stay true to the events that had happened even if it made him out to be somewhat of a "bad guy" and also told of mistakes that had happened while they were over there such as not listening to the Vietnamese officer about the leper hospital and instead going with other "intelligence" that stated that the hospital was a R & R center for communists and ended up attacking innocent people because of their lack of intelligence. I felt he was true to his memories and in no way tried to embellish on things that happened while he was there. Instead he seemed very sad and ashamed of many things that happened while over there for 2 tours. He was the most memorable to me because of his ability to talk about the way things happened in general rather than sticking to the way things were as far as what he could remember.

One of the most disappointing stories I read in part two of the book was about Malcolm Brown, a reporter in Vietnam. I was disappointed by the events that happened throughout his story. He told of an older monk burning himself alive in the middle of a street because he had to protest their beliefs. The thought of someone as holy and peaceful as a Buddhist monk having to put on such a disturbing display to defend their beliefs in such a morbid and sad display really began to make me feel disgusted with the whole situation. The fact that Malcolm Brown was called to this protest and could take pictures was beyond me. I could never imagine myself doing something like that. I would have felt like an awful human being and instead tried to save the person, even if they were doing it to support their beliefs. I found this story to be very interesting as time went on but still could not forget what the monk had done so unselfishly for his people.

A positive or more of a hopeful message that came from this story

was the fact that the people were shown that one of their elder monks loved them and believed in peace and hope so much that he would give his own life for his people. When I read that they had taken his heart out and kept it in the Xa-Loi pagoda to become a "kind of icon of the Buddhist insurrection." I thought that was one piece of hope that their culture had and something that would live on within them and live on for the rest of their lives. It would always instill the promise of hope and a better future to the Buddhist culture as well as someone to look up to and allow them to have the courage to be who they are and believe in what they believe in no matter what type of violence or acts of cruelty are brought against them. I thought that was really inspirational and it showed even hope can come from true tragedy.

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It is difficult to use the same story for both the negative, than the positive.

I am not convinced in part two that you have clearly described or explained the historical situation very well.

The monk's suicide was in protest against the US supported Diem government.

Part one was the stronger half of the paper.