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90/100

Assignment 2- by: Emlee Martin

As I read chapter 3 in Christian Appy's "Patriots", I found myself flooded with many thoughts as to where I want to take this paper. I saw many themes as I read through "Escalations." The one I chose to write about is 'Deception During Wartime.' There were many instances of deception throughout the Vietnam War, but in my opinion the ones during the "escalation" period were crucial. I believe the war started, well really escalated, because of the deception in the Gulf of Tonkin incident. The result of which was the passing of the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, which gave President Johnson the legal ability to deploy troops and engage in warfare against North Vietnam. This was all based on a lie; a lie that initiated Operation Rolling Thunder and the deployment of many American troops. I will illustrate three more instances of "Deception during Wartime" from stories in the Appy book.

good intro

As I read the story of James Thomson (115-17) I was dismayed to find out he had signed off on so many "armed recce" missions without truly knowing what he was authorizing. This is a deception of omission; the colonel who presented the maps for authorization was vague in his description of what they were for. Thomson was authorizing armed reconnaissance, in which anything that looked suspicious was being fired upon. I also question why he did not further investigate what he was signing off on. I believe it is because he was the "new kid" in the office and did not want to "make waves." He also speaks of the "so-called Gulf of Tonkin incident" and the policy planning meeting he attended about it. He reports Walt Rostow, the Special Assistant for National Security Affairs, stated in this meeting, it was unclear if the attack happened, but it gave the US the opportunity to "really go broke on the bombing" (116). This was deceitful policy making. Thomson was shocked to see after Johnson's election of 1964, the administration was "going for a slow-motion, but systematic escalation and the aerial bombardment of enemy positions north and south" (117). It was as if negotiations or withdrawal were not even options; escalation to war was the only way the Johnson administration saw fit to approach Vietnam. The attack was fabricated but because of it Johnson was given the green light to start a war.

past tense

careful here

In the story of Jim Soular (156-61) I was moved to tears by the deception. The death of his best friend David was not at the hands