

clearly contradictory to what our bodies tell us, so Larry relied on orders and training to get through it. Despite his best efforts, Larry lost a lot of friends and has to live with that fact.

The mentality of Larry to bear down and get it done, is the natural one when faced with life and death. You do what you have to do, you get it done and hope for the best. Unfortunately each of these soldiers had to live with their choices for the rest of their lives. They can be proud of their valor and their ability to follow meticulous orders, but the fact that so many lives were lost weighs heavily on all of their minds.

When Jim Soular thought about the toll that was paid in Vietnam, he said, "'I've always considered myself a good soldier, whatever that means. I did what I was told to do. But everything I'd been raised to believe in was contrary to what I saw in Vietnam. All kinds of questions went through my head and there were no answers... All I have is this deep, deep sense of sorrow that this whole thing happened" (Appy, 161). In the moment, each moment of adversity, he had to rely on authority and courage to guide him. Regardless of the reason, taking life is inherently traumatic. Ideology can only get us so far, at some point the question of whether or not the right to take someone else's life for ideals must be addressed by each individual.

Pilot Luu Huy Chao articulated a very similar feeling of loss with his experience in the war. As Luu pointed out, the men he killed did not suffer alone, "The suffering caused by war is immeasurable. The dead are only a small part of the whole. A dead soldier causes suffering to so many other people...As a fighter pilot I'm not sorry to have shot down American jets, and American pilots shouldn't be sorry if they shot down Vietnamese aircraft. That's what we were supposed to do. Now my only wish is that there be no war" (Appy, 215). Luu followed his orders and followed them well, unfortunately there is so much pain and loss that comes from war.

Larry Heineman expressed an even deeper sorrow about the war, "The war was devastatingly brutal...After living in this wallow, how do you come out and reconnect with your own humanity? Is it possible to love someone knowing that you have done all these things, and are capable of all these things, and have seen all these things... It becomes like a bruise and turns dark. The dark places on my heart are not going away" (Appy, 247). Larry looked back on his experiences almost as if they cost him his humanity. The actions that he did for his country and its ideals went against all of the things that he held dear to his heart.

Regardless of the motivations, war takes us out of our natural state

okay
strange organization
return
to
Soular
story?

Conclusion