

97/100

Just exalt
your enthusiasm for
the topic shines
through.

Jesse Rowe

History 195

Assignment 2

28 April, 2011

Sense of Purpose:

A Soldiers Motivation

One theme that stuck out to me throughout the sections "Morale Boosters", "Prisoners of War", and "Central Highlands", was the soldiers' sense of purpose. Whether it was a sense of obligation to use personal talents in service of their country, to tend to another man's wounds, or feeling duty bound to keep the men in their platoon alive, these soldiers felt a sense of purpose that helped positively motivate them enough to get through the extraordinary experiences they had to endure. During the Vietnam War, morale was extremely important on both sides, but there are not very many reasons a soldier has to be upbeat when he is in combat. For most people, when they think of a morale booster for soldiers, they think of a USO show, or special food being served before they are sent into the field. In reality, a soldier has to find motivation in what some would think are very simplistic aspects, especially in extremely difficult situations. Something as simple as a leaf being taken as a sign from God, or as important as having a sense of purpose, can provide positive motivation and a boost to a soldier's morale. However trivial this may seem to some, it is not. It is a selfless, and non-materialistic trait. Sometimes having a sense of purpose when the situation is extremely bleak, is enough motivation to stay the course, or survive against remarkable odds..

A sense of purpose may be the only light in an otherwise pitch black tunnel, so to speak. While these stories are all from Section 3: Escalations, they are not in sequence. This sequence is essential to the explanation of the theme.

• **Morale Boosters:**

Vu Hy Thieu's Story