

I can't imagine how awful his experience as a prisoner of the NVA was like, but he had an inner courage that was his saving grace. When we describe our servicemen as America's best that is true, and I would say that Porter Halyburton was one of our best.

Luu Huy Chao was a pilot for the North Vietnamese Air Force during the war. He had an unfathomable courage, and is one of only three to attain Ace status. He flew the Mig 17 which was an aircraft that came out of the Korean War. It was slower and did not carry missiles or rockets for armament, and didn't have as sophisticated electronics. He is credited with 6 American aircraft kills.

On one occasion he had to fight four F-105s. He shot down one and the wingman went to low and crashed into a mountain. "I did not hesitate for a moment because I realized I was in a very serious situation." Later he was in a fight with an F-4 and he shot it down. "Once I shot down an F-4 I was no longer scared of any type of American plane." He gained confidence from the fact that if he was shot down it was in his own country unlike the American pilots.

What I liked best about Luu Huy Chao is that he had moral courage. When other pilots from his squadron would try to shoot American pilots that had parachuted he would stop them. He would say, "He won't attack us again. Let him alone." When the other pilots argued he would tell them, "Well we're different." It is easy to kill someone when the adrenaline is pumping, it takes courage not to.

Each one of these men had courage that was tested to the extreme. They also had moral courage which helped them to avoid becoming savages. (That is the big difference between professional soldiers and a terrorist.)

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